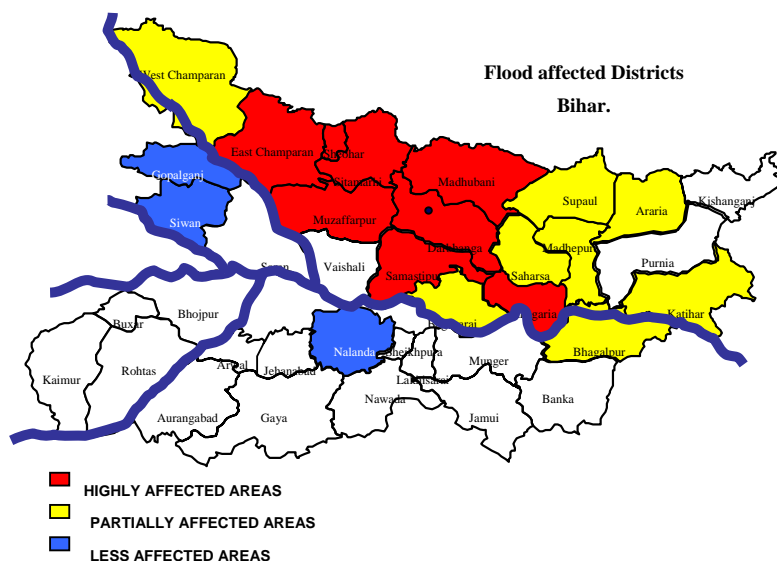


## UNICEF SITUATION REPORT INDIA FLOODS - EXTERNAL 8 AUGUST 2007

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Floods in India have affected 31.19 million people. As per government estimates 1,294 human lives have been lost. As many as 25,539 districts have been affected and 131,754 houses have been fully damaged. Another 458,390 houses have suffered partial damage.
- Bihar state is the worst hit and the flood situation continues to be grim. In the last 3 days there have been negligible rains in the Bihar or the catchment areas of the rivers causing the floods. However, the stagnant water poses a serious threat to about 12 million people in these states.
- In Uttar Pradesh, though there has been no rainfall in catchment areas of flooded rivers, over 2.1 million people are still affected. Orissa had heavy rains in the last three days but the flood situation is not severe.
- The flood situation in Assam in north east India is under control. Brahmaputra and its nine tributaries continue to flow above the danger level in some parts of the state in spite of the reduction in rainfall activity.
- UNICEF staff members have done rapid assessments of the affected areas. Apart from items already pre-positioned which have been provided to the flood affected people, UNICEF is scaling-up the humanitarian response.
- Requests for UNICEF assistance have been received from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. UNICEF is providing tarpaulin sheets, ORS, PUR, Halazone tablets, bleaching powder and other supplies.
- The inter-agency meetings are taking place in the affected states on a regular basis. UNICEF is playing a lead role in coordination with NGOs, INGOs and government agencies.

### BIHAR



## SITUATION

- The flood situation in Bihar has improved with major rivers maintaining a receding trend. There was no significant rain in the catchment area of the northern districts of Bihar in the last few days.
- However, the death toll has increased to 105. The number of people affected is about 12.3 million people (including 1.5 million children of below 5 years) in 19 districts in North Bihar. These districts are Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Katihar, Samastipur, Sheohar, Nalanda, Khagaria, Madhepura, Araria, Begusrai, Patna, Gopalganj, West
- The worst affected among those are: Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Sheohar, Khagaria.
- Due to active community effort, embankment near Pusa in Samastipur district was saved from suffering breaches. A UNICEF NGO partner assisted the villagers in plugging the gaps the night of August 6.



Food packets are dropped by helicopter in East Champaran district

## UNICEF RESPONSE

- Yesterday, UNICEF rushed three more trucks with relief materials to flood-affected districts based on the request of the district administration. Supplies have been despatched for 4 districts namely Khagaria, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi & Madhubani. The supply includes polythene sheets, PUR sachets for purification of water, bleaching powder, ORS, Jerry Cans, Candles, Matchboxes and IFA tablets. This will benefit about 20,000 affected people, mostly women and children.
- NGO network has been expanded to 11 districts namely Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Sheohar, Khagaria, and West Champaran. The NGO partnership has extended with Mahila Samakhya in 4 districts.
- Additional rapid assessment has been conducted in Madhubani and Muzaffarpur district.
- Today, the Chief Minister of Bihar will flag off 50 Medical Teams consisting of two doctors each and medicines to the flood-affected districts supported jointly by Government of Bihar and UNICEF. These teams will be involved in providing medical relief through health camps and will also conduct mass measles immunization drives for most vulnerable children up to 10 years of age.
- UNICEF is supporting the Government in setting up a surveillance system for early detection and management of outbreak of diseases. UNICEF has placed medical focal teams in 10 districts.



Health Camp organized at East Champaran district

## UTTAR PRADESH (U.P.)

### SITUATION

- No rainfall in catchment areas of flooded rivers, therefore the water level is falling or is static. Sanitation and health issues are emerging as priority.
- In Uttar Pradesh, 20 of the 70 districts have been affected by floods. In all 2,665 villages are flood affected of which 1,338 villages are completely marooned. Over 2.1 million populations are still affected and 153 deaths have been officially confirmed.
- 195 relief camps have been opened in the state in which 176,000 have been accommodated. More than 30,000 children are in the camps.



### UNICEF RESPONSE

- On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August a fresh assessment of the marooned villages and the relief camps has been conducted by the UNICEF team to determine water, sanitation and health priorities in the changing situations.
- UNICEF is preparing to supply Tarpaulin, Bleaching Powder and Halogen Tabs worth US\$ 100,000. The supply will start reaching in a couple of days.
- UNICEF is collaborating with the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) and the Art of Living Society to send medical teams to the flood-affected districts. These teams will work with the district medical teams in providing special attention to ailing children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- In the Inter-Agency working group meeting, INGOs have given UNICEF the responsibility to lead the NGOs response and align it with the Government response.
- UNICEF staff are closely monitoring health and sanitation situation to get early signals of outbreak of vector-borne diseases.



## ASSAM

### SITUATION

- Almost 6.67 million people have been affected by the floods in Assam. 26 out of 27 districts have been affected by floods in Assam. There have been 34 human casualties and 1,285 houses have been damaged. At present 128,606 people are living in 625 relief camps. Majority of the inmates in relief camps are women and children.
- A Central Government Team headed by the Union Home Minister (Minister in-charge of Disaster Management in Government of India) visited Assam yesterday to assess the Flood situation.
- All over Assam, the flood water is receding but Brahmaputra still flowing slightly above the danger level both in Upper Assam and in Lower Assam.
- There has been no rainfall since the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. As per the weather forecast, rainfall is expected after the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and may continue for the next 10 days. The water levels in the rivers could therefore rise again.
- Inundated areas still have stagnant water, which puts the population at risk of waterborne diseases. Moreover, given the concentration of population in the camps and temporary shelters, there is also a risk of a measles epidemic.

### UNICEF RESPONSE

- Coordination with State administration and partner NGOs on rapid response
- UNICEF has arranged for supplies of items worth \$ 79,000 so far in Assam. These include mosquito nets, PUR sachets, ORS, water testing kits, jerry cans, sanitary pans, water distribution kits and recreation kits.

#### Health

- Advocacy and follow-up with the Health Department on measles immunization for all children (9 months to 14 years) in camps has resulted in the Government agreeing to conduct measles immunization with Vitamin A supplementation in 6 badly affected districts.
- In two districts (Dibrugarh & Barpeta), UNICEF is monitoring disease incidence in the relief camps.

#### Sanitation

- Advocacy with PHED on improving sanitation & hygiene conditions in camps and affected villages.
- In Dibrugarh district, 10 toilets constructed in two large camps through Rural Sanitary Mart (RSM) network
- Assessment of sanitation and hygiene situation in camps (in collaboration with NGO networks working in 4 flood-affected districts). Interaction with camp residents on sanitation and hygiene practices
- There could additional need for shelter material, ORS and water purifying tablets.

## ORISSA

### SITUATION

- Heavy rainfall occurred in Orissa during 4-6 August. Rivers in South Orissa are flowing above danger levels in some places. The water level in Mahanadi river is rising.
- The main city in the state, Cuttack was badly affected. 50,000 people were marooned temporarily and 3146 people were evacuated to safe places. Water has now receded in Cuttack. However post receding complications expected especially in the slum settlements.
- A total of six south Orissa districts are affected. Though the intensity is not severe, further rains could aggravate the situation.

### UNICEF RESPONSE

- ORS packets are being distributed to the affected community.
- Closely monitoring the situation with UNDP, government and NGO counterparts.

**The situation in other states is normal.**