Flash floods and Land Slides in Uttarakhand State, India

**Highlights**
- Heavy rains started on 14 June 2013 causing flash flood and landslides in Rudraparyag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli districts on way to Himalayan shrines Badrinath, Kedarnath and Yamunotri in mountainous Indian state of Uttarakhand, damaging buildings, houses, bridges, roads.
- News media quoted the disaster as ‘Himalayan Tsunami’.
- Death toll has reached up to 1,000. Estimated numbers of people affected are 105,000 persons and most of them are pilgrims and tourist.
- So far there are 419 injured cases treated. 73,000 persons have been evacuated and 32,000 persons still stranded in various places.
- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh surveyed the flood-ravaged areas by helicopter and announced a Rs.1,000 crore (USD 170 Million) relief package for the state.
- Military was called in and operation Rahat was imposed. 90 soldiers were air dropped and 8,500 soldiers to carry relief items, equipment and help evacuation on site.
- 40 Military and civilian helicopters were used to deliver 150,000 kg of relief goods and for evacuation of stranded persons.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has called a coordination meeting with partners to discuss emergency operation actions and support needed.
- MoH through SHD had organized mobile clinics and treating injured and ill cases in the referral relief camps and hospitals. WHO is closely monitoring the situation and are on stand-by position to provide support if needed.

**Incident Site Mapping**

Caption: Map of India indicating affected region Uttarakhand in red.

Caption: The flooded Alaknanda River following heavy rains in Rudraprayag on Monday. (Source: PTI)

Caption: A vehicle submerged in flood in Uttarkashi on Monday following incessant rains. (Source: PTI)
Situation Analysis

- This time of year is when Hindu devotees visit Uttarakhand in huge numbers for a pilgrimage to the four holy sites of Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamnotri and Badrinath.
- Heavy rains started on 14th June 2013 causing floods and landslides, massive destructions of houses and roads in Rudraparyag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli Districts on way to Himalayan shrines Badrinath, Kedarnath and Yamnotri in Hill State of Uttarakhand.
- Chief minister Vijay Bahuguna described the calamity as a "Himalayan Tsunami"
- Bad weather has prevented military helicopters from landing.
- A senior official at the India Meteorological Department's office in Pune said the weather system that had brought in the rains was diminishing, but he warned that precipitation would increase in eastern and northeastern India and Bangladesh.

Casualties and Damages

Kedarnath, the epicenter of the devastation was covered with 6 feet of sludge and remains nearly impossible to reach. Death toll has reached up to 1,000. Estimated numbers of people affected are 105,000 persons and most of them are pilgrims and tourist. So far there are 419 injured cases treated. 73,000 persons have been evacuated and 32,000 persons still stranded in various places.

The following table shows casualties and damages caused due to the flesh floods and landslides.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Damage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No. of districts affected</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No. of buildings damaged</td>
<td>1,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No. of livestock dead</td>
<td>1,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. of bridges damaged</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No. of people affected</td>
<td>105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No. of deaths confirmed</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No. of people injured</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. of people missing</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No. of people evacuated to safer places</td>
<td>73,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No. of people still stranded</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response

Government and MoH

- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh surveyed the flood-ravaged areas by helicopter yesterday and announced Rs. 1,000-crore relief packages for the state.
- NDMA has called a coordination meeting with partner agencies to discuss emergency operational actions and support needed. Focal person – EHA WCO attended the meeting.
- Local officials said 40 relief camps have been set up to provide food, water and other aid to locals and tourists.
- Military was call in and operation Rahat was imposed. 90 soldiers were air dropped and 8,500 soldiers to carry relief items, equipment and help evacuation on site.
60 Military and civilian helicopters were used to deliver 150,000 kg of relief goods and for evacuation of stranded persons.

90 soldiers were air-dropped to Kedarnath this morning. They are carrying communication equipment, medicines and food.

District administration of all the affected Districts have released alerts and evacuated population living in the banks of river.

DM Uttarkashi claims that pilgrims and local affected people have been shifted to safer locations and food arrangements are being made for them.

IAG member SBMA/Plan deployed 10 staff for search, rescue, and evacuation in Uttarkashi.

IAG members are collecting information regarding situation at ground zero.

State IAG called an emergency meeting of core team members at Plan India Dehradun office on 18th June- the meeting minutes have been circulated.

MoH through SHD had organized mobile clinics and treating injured and ill cases in the relief camps and hospitals. Military and MoH health staffs were mobilize to remote sites to provide medical services.

Govt. has announced the helpline numbers – Uttarkashi -01374226126, 226461, Tehri – 01376-233433, Chamoli – 01372-251437, Rudraprayag – 01364-233727. 1077 is toll free number. There is no information on other districts.

WHO

WHO Country Office for India and SEARO are closely monitoring the situation and are in stand-by positions to provide support to MoH and NDMA as requested and needed.

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**Contact Address**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name and Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WHO India</td>
<td>Dr Reuben Samuel EHA Focal Point, WCO India</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samuelr@who.int">samuelr@who.int</a></td>
<td>00-91-11-26162846/42595600, 00-91-9717694500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources of Information**

Information from the following sources was taken as references. The information provided many not be accurate and could be changed accordingly. It is for internal use and not to be quoted.

1. WHO Country Offices
2. Ministry of Health
3. National Disaster Management Authority
4. International and national media