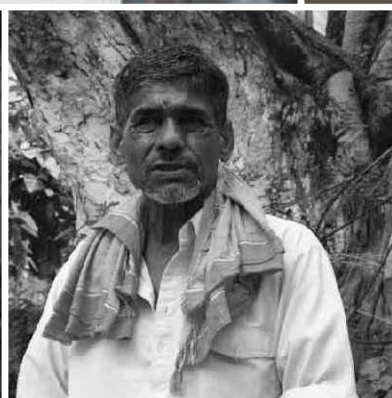




the unheard voices
Uttarakhand flash floods 2013



Ensuring Informed Decisions for Aid

The Uttarakhand Floods of 2013 have been an immense challenge for aid agencies. Even weeks after the calamity, problems of accessibility and lack of information from the worst hit areas continue.

In order to ensure more informed aid decision making, we have tried to tap information through the Sphere India NGO network, government and UN sources, local NGOs, CBOs and volunteers. While we were able to create an overall idea with the available data gathered with much difficulty; the resolution can be improved manifold. Information is still not complete in most spheres and efforts are needed at various levels and through different channels to create a complete picture. In the coming days, pooling resources and data can help improve the resolution to an extent that it can be very useful in detailing planned programmes.

In such contexts, tools including assessment data sets, crowdsourced information, infographics and human stories are invaluable. Infoconnect is an initiative to help fulfil this information need. In fact, while on the ground, the criticality of finding these hidden stories was seen firsthand. The stories in the public are usually dictated by the mainstream media...and aid and attention often follow. Such tools also help information sharing among aid agencies themselves. These information needs could vary significantly. A map of aid distribution that helps avoid duplication. A story that highlights a completely ignored village. Tips for communities on accessing relief or compensation claims. It is all about getting the right information to the right people at the right time. Information needs to flow both ways - from the ground up through assessments; and from the aid system to the people through local media such as community radio.

The findings that emerge point very clearly to specific concerns and needs. The extrapolated critical issues include five priority areas: Humanitarian crisis, shelter, schools, livelihoods and WASH. The report also attempts to look at cross-cutting issues of marginalised groups, people with disabilities and children's protection. These have to be highlighted, verified, detailed and addressed through early recovery and long-term rehabilitation measures.

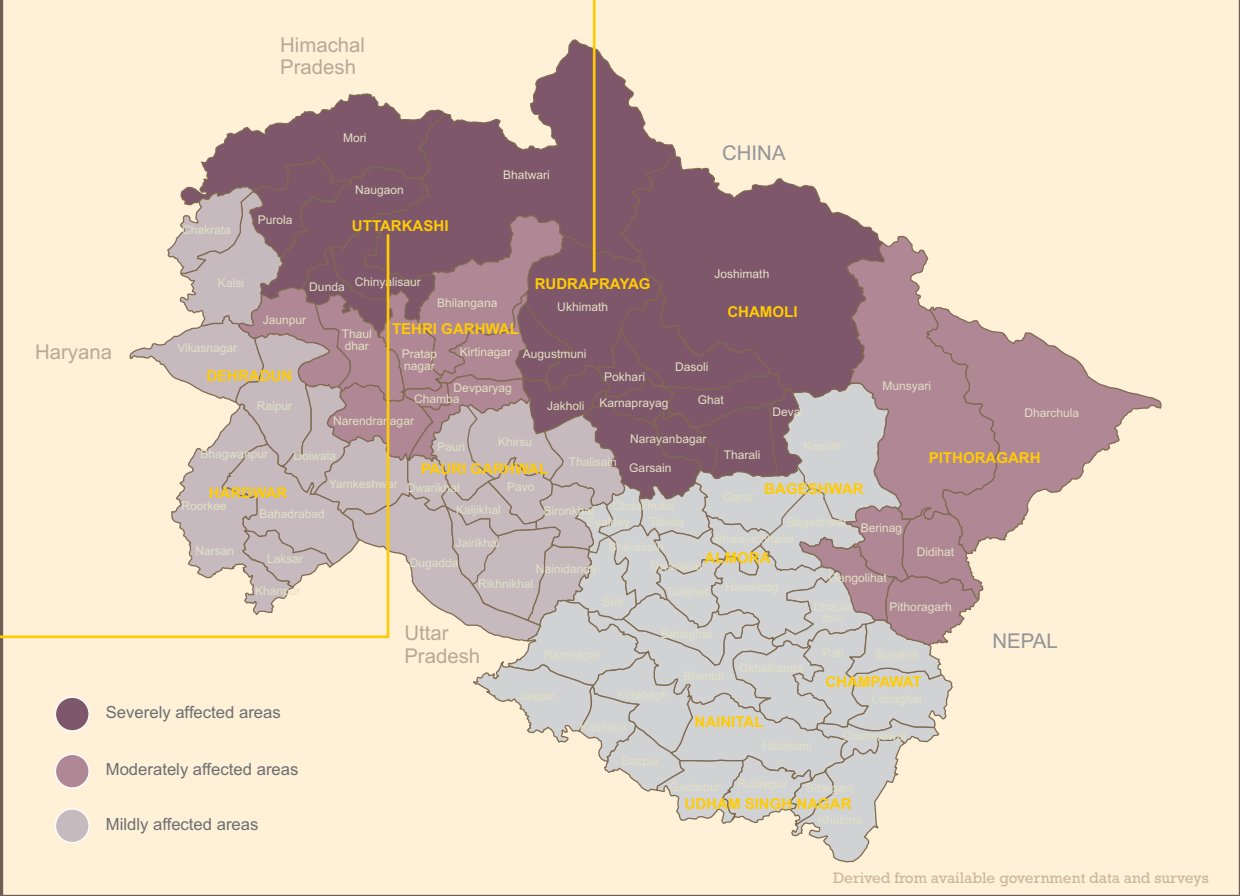
We take this opportunity to thank all those who have extended their support. This report would not have been possible without the local facilitation of Sri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA) and Gyomti Prayag Jan Kalyan Parishad. Our thanks to the Uttarakhand State Government, District Administrations, Sphere and Uttarakhand Today for their support in sourcing data. A huge thank you to photographers Sharbendu De and Sarika Gulati; and to Gayathri Sreedharan and Sunny Kumar for their story contributions. Thanks also to volunteers Vineet Kataria, Wribhu Tyagi, Swayam Tripathy, Sristi Tripathy, Shashwati and friends at Macaction for their invaluable support.

The team at Saferworld, including Anshu Sharma, Meghna Chawla, Vijayalakshmi Viswanathan and Siddharth Behl is continuing work on this initiative and hopes to see infoconnect help improve the delivery of aid in Uttarakhand.

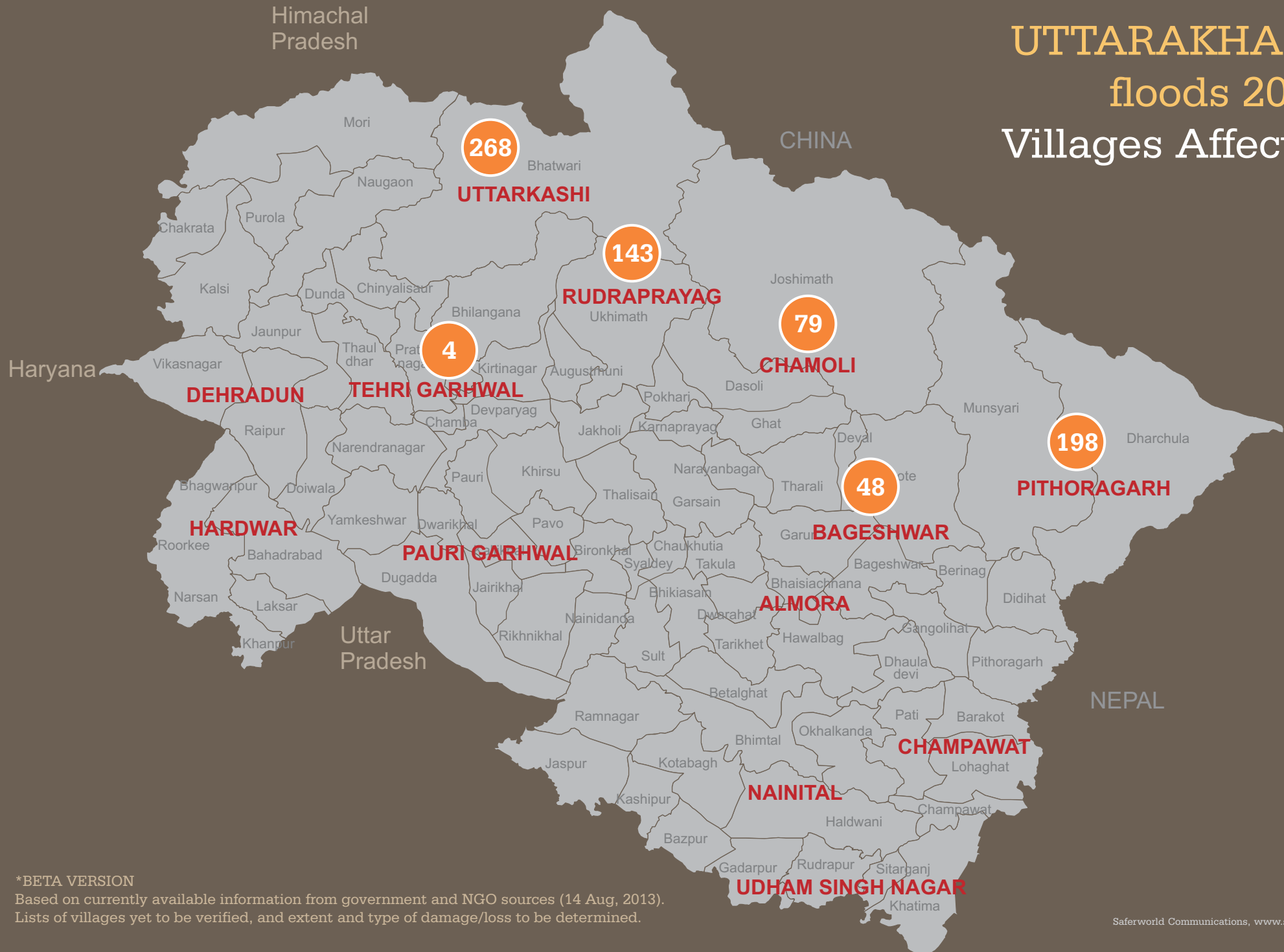
Saferworld Communications
September, 2013



UTTARAKHAND floods 2013: Affected Areas



UTTARAKHAND floods 2013: Villages Affected



*BETA VERSION

Based on currently available information from government and NGO sources (14 Aug, 2013).

Lists of villages yet to be verified, and extent and type of damage/loss to be determined.

BAGESHWAR

BAGESHWAR
1. Bahali
2. Chaura
3. Matyoli
4. Papoli

GARUR

1. Baneshwar
2. Dhonpa
3. Dudila
4. Jinkhola
5. Lohari Talli
6. Mathron
7. Ritha

KANDA

1. Basti
2. Dwari
3. Sara

KAPKOT

1. Badiyakot
2. Baghar
3. Baret
4. Dobar
5. Gasi
6. Gogina
7. Gunthi
8. Harkot
9. Jainti
10. Jhuni
11. Kaflani
12. Kalapair Kappri
13. Kaphali Kamera
14. Karmi
15. Kilpara
16. Kimu (Talгада)
17. Kuwari
18. Lamaghar
19. Liti
20. Lothere Gaon
21. Mikila Khalpata
22. Mobheri Talla
23. Munar
24. Nakuri
25. Pothin
26. Raung
27. Rikhari
28. Saling
29. Sama

30. Suding
31. Sumgarh
32. Syuli Dalari
33. Toli
34. Wachham

CHAMOLI

JOSHIMATH
1. Arurhi Paturi
2. Bampa
3. Benakull
4. Bharki
5. Bheta
6. Bhyondar
7. Bhyudar
8. Devgram
9. Dinari, Pulna
10. Dumak
11. Dundhar
12. Gamsali
13. Govind Ghat
14. Hanuman Chatti
15. Jakhola
16. Kailashpur
17. Kalgoth
18. Khiron
19. Kimana
20. Lam Bagar
21. Lyari Thana
22. Mahargaon
23. Mana
24. Niti
25. Onth
26. Padgasi
27. Paiyan
28. Palla
29. Pandukaswar
30. Pandukeswar
31. Pharkaya
32. Pinnola
33. Pulna
34. Salna Chak Urgam
35. Tirona Thapa
36. Uchougaur
37. Urgam

NARAYANBAGAR

1. Narayanbagar
2. Puneda
3. Seeri

THARALI
1. Bainoli Talli
2. Balan
3. Bhenta
4. Bhyadi
5. Chepadon
6. Chhapali
7. Chidinga Talla
8. Choting
9. Deorada
10. Dewal Gwar
11. Dungri
12. Ghes
13. Gwaldam State
14. Harmal
15. Harmani Malli
16. Jhalia
17. Kevar Talla
18. Kheta Manmati
19. Kota
20. Kothi
21. Kulsari
22. Lingadi
23. Mopata
24. Narayan Bagar
25. Oder
26. Paingadh
27. Partha
28. Pinau Laga Balan
29. Rampur
30. Ratgaon goonth
31. Ruisan
32. Sahu Gaon Laga Junidhar
33. Sera Vijaypur
34. Silodi
35. Suna
36. Tharali
37. Torati
38. Tyula
39. Upathar Chack Harmal

PUTHOCAGARH

DHARCHULA
1. Baling
2. Baluwakot
3. Bangapani
4. Baram
5. Bauling
6. Baun

7. Bundi
8. Bung Bung
9. Chal
10. Charchum
11. Chhalmachhilason
12. Chhipekedar
13. Dar
14. Datu
15. Dhar Pangu
16. Dharchula Dehat
17. Dhunga Toli
18. Dughtu
19. Duti Bagad
20. Film
21. Galagar
22. Galati
23. Garbyang
24. Garguwa
25. Go
26. Gunji
27. Himkhola
28. Jamku
29. Jaujivi
30. Jarajibli
31. Jaykot
32. Jipti
33. Jumma
34. Jyoti Pangu
35. Kalika
36. Kanar
37. Khela
38. Khet
39. Khumati
40. Kimkhola
41. Kuti
42. Lum
43. Lumati
44. Marchha
45. Metali
46. Nagling
47. Napalachchu
48. Navi
49. New
50. Pangla
51. Pangla
52. Paya Pauri
53. Ramtoli
54. Ranthi
55. Raung Kong
56. Rung
57. Sangadi Dhakdone

58. Sela
59. Sipu
60. Sirdang
61. Sirkha
62. Sobla
63. Sosa
64. Suwa
65. Syankuri
66. Tankul
67. Tanta Gaon Roto
68. Tejam
69. Tham
70. Tidang
71. Toli
72. Umachiya
73. Watan

MUNSYARI

1. Alam
2. Bajeta
3. Baragaon
4. Basantkot
5. Basbagar
6. Bata
7. Baun
8. Benga
9. Bhadeli
10. Bhandari Gaon
11. Bhatkura
12. Bhurting
13. Bilju
14. Bindi
15. Birthi
16. Boragaon
17. Bothi
18. Bunie
19. Burphu
20. Chauna
21. Chhija
22. Chulkot
23. Dakhim
24. Darati
25. Darkot
26. Darma
27. Dekuna
28. Dhami Gaon
29. Dhapa
30. Dhauliua Dunga
31. Dheelam
32. Dhunamani
33. Dhuratoli
34. Diya Palla

35. Diya Walla
36. Dobar Narki
37. Dolma
38. Dugari
39. Dumar Malla
40. Dumar Talla
41. Gaila Malla
42. Gaila Tala
43. Ganghar
44. Ginni
45. Girgaon
46. Gola
47. Golfa
48. Gopal Bara
49. Guthi
50. Hokra
51. Imala
52. Jaiti
53. Jalath
54. Jimiya
55. Jogura
56. Josha
57. Kaithi
58. Kanalka
59. Khartoli
60. Khata
61. Khet Bharar
62. Khetali
63. Khilach
64. Khoyam
65. Kota
66. Kotal Gaon
67. Kultham
68. Kwiti
69. Laa
70. Laspa
71. Latkot
72. Leelum
73. Load
74. Lodi
75. Lwa
76. Madarma
77. Madkot
78. Malaun
79. Mani Dhami
80. Mapa
81. Martoli
82. Mawani Dawani
83. Milam
84. Morpatta
85. Namik
86. Nirtoli
87. Pachhu Gunth

88. Pato
89. Pattharkot
90. Payya Pinari
91. Phalyati
92. Phapha
93. Pharwakot
94. Porthi
95. Poting
96. Purdam
97. Ralam
98. Rapti
99. Rato
100. Raya
101. Rilkot
102. Ringu
103. Ropar
104. Saimat
105. Sain Polo
106. Sainar
107. Samkot
108. Sana
109. Selmali
110. Sera
111. Siling
112. Simalthar
113. Sirtoli
114. Sumtu
115. Tanga
116. Tejam
117. TImtiya
118. Tola
119. Tomik
120. Uchhaiti
121. Ugrali
122. Umadada
123. Umali
124. Wadni Dhar
125. Walthi

RUDRAPRAYAG**AUGUSTMUNI**

1. Agastmuni
2. Amotha
3. Baniyari
4. Dan Kot
5. Darmoli
6. Gabani, Chaderpuri
7. Ganganagar- town
8. Gaoni Gaon
9. Jawari
10. Karndhar
11. Nakot

12. Nagrasu
13. Nawasu
14. Rampur
15. Ratura
16. Rudraprayag
17. Sandar Belni
18. Saury
19. Silli Sera
20. Sodi
21. Syari
22. Syupuri
23. Tilani
24. Tilwara

UKHIMATH

1. Akardhar
2. Arkhund
3. Asondadian
4. Badasu
5. Barasu
6. Baraw Malla
7. Bareth
8. Barsu
9. Bedubagad
10. Bedulaban
11. Bhatwari
12. Bhatwari Sonar
13. Bhetsem
14. Bhingi
15. Bhiri
16. Brambari
17. Burua
18. Butol Gaon
19. Byung
20. Chandrapuri
21. Chaumasi
22. Chaundi
23. Chillod
24. Chilond
25. Chunni
26. Damar
27. Dewali Bhanigram
28. Dewar
29. Dhani
30. Dilmi
31. Fanphaj
32. Gadi
33. Gair
34. Ganesh nagar
35. Gaugu
36. Gaundar
37. Gawni Gaon

38. Gawni Gaon Bajwar
39. Ginwala
40. Giriya
41. Huddu
42. Jaggi Bagwan
43. Jagpura
44. Jal malla
45. Jalai Sursal
46. Jalmalla
47. Jalsa
48. Jaltalla
49. Jmau
50. Kabiltha
51. Kail
52. Kalimath
53. Kandara
54. Kandi
55. Karokhi
56. Khariya
57. Khat
58. Kheuwa
59. Khumera
60. Khunnu
61. Kimana
62. Kotma
63. Kunjethi
64. Lamgondi
65. Lawada/ lamgaudi
66. Lawara
67. Maikhanda
68. Makku
69. Mansuna
70. Mansura
71. Marghat
72. Nag Jagayi
73. Nala
74. Nalagaon Koti
75. Nyalsu
76. Painj
77. Pali
78. Parkandi
79. Pathali
80. Phalai
81. Phali Phasalat
82. Phegu
83. Rail
84. Ransi Tarsali
85. Raulek
86. Rudrprur
87. Salya
88. Sari
89. Semar

91. Silgoth
92. Silla Bersari
93. Singoli
94. Sonprayag
95. Syansu
96. Tankila
97. Tinsoli
98. Toshi
99. Trijuginarayan
100. Tulanga
101. Tyuri
102. Ukhimath
103. Uniyara
104. Ushara
105. Vijaynagar

JAKHOLI

1. Bajira
2. Budna
3. Chaka
4. Dewal
5. Ghegar
6. Jakholi
7. Kapaniya
8. Kaphna
9. Koti
10. Laluri
11. Mayali
12. Phalati
13. Subhani Sumari
14. Uroli

TEHRI**GARHWAL****JAUNPUR**

1. Dunda
2. Nalikala
3. Parodi
4. Sinjal

UTTARKASHI**BHATWARI**

1. Joshiyara
2. Aleth
3. Athali
4. Aungee
5. Bagori
6. Bagyal Gaon
7. Bandrani
8. Barsu
9. Bhailuda
10. Bhangeli
11. Bhatwari

12.Bhukki
13.Bonga
14.Bongari
15.Chamkot
16.Dang
17.Dharali
18.Didsari
19.Dilsaur
20.Dwari
21.Gamdid Gaon
22.Gangori
23.Gangotri
24.Gawana
25.Gorsali
26.Gyanja
27.Gyansu
28.Harshil
29.Hurri
30.Jadao
31.Jakhol
32.Jamak
33.Jaspur
34.Jhala
35.Kamar
36.Kaneth
37.Kansen
38.Kisanpur
39.Kotiyal Gaon
40.Kumalti
41.Kunjan
42.Kuroli
43.Kyark
44.Ladari
45.Lata
46.Malla
47.Mando
48.Maneri
49.Manpur
50.Mukhawa
51.Natin
52.Netala
53.Nismor
54.Pahi
55.Pala Maradi
56.Pata
57.Pilang
58.Purali
59.Raithal
60.Sainj
61.Sald
62.Salu
63.Sangrali
64.Sara
65.Sari

66.Saura
67.Silla
68.Siror
69.Sukki
70.Sungar
71.Syawa
72.Thalan
73.Tihar
74.Tiloth
75.Tipri
76.Vasuga
77.Wayra May
Lunthu

BARKOT

1. Bagasu
2. Banas
3. Bariya
4. Barkot
5. Beef
6. Bhatiya
7. Dakhyat Gaon
8. Darogi
9. Diyari
10.Durbil
11.Gulari
12.Kafanaul
13.Kanda
14.Kewalgaon
15.Khanera
16.Kharsali
17.Kunshala
18.Kupra
19.Kuthar
20.Kuthnaur
21.Kwal Gaon
22.Lodan
23.Naugaon
24.Pindki Madesh
25.Rana
26.Singuni
27.Syalab
28.Than
29.Tinya
30.Trikhali

PUROLA

1. Bestiwalli
2. Chhiwala
3. Dwerika
4. Ghundala
5. Khalari
6. Koti
7. Kumola

8. Mahargaon
9. Moltari
10.Netri
11.Purola
12.Silala
13.Sukdala
14.sunali
15.Sweel
16.Syaluka
17.Thakrari

MORI

1. Bamsu
2. Dangaon
3. Dhritri
4. Doni
5. Fitari
6. Gainchwan
Gaon
7. Gurari
8. Haltari
9. Jakhol
10.Kalap
11.Kasla
12.Kotgaon
13.Kunara
14.Ludrala
15.Masra
16.Mora otada
17.Nanai
18.Pagnara
19.Paisar
20.Panw Talla
21.Pasa
22.Pokhri
23.Rala
24.Rekchya
25.Salra
26.Sankari
27.Satta
28.Saund
29.Sauni
30.Sewa
31.Sidri
32.Suchan Gaon

DUNDA

1. Udri
2. Astal
3. Badethi
4. Bagi
5. Bagsari
6. Bagyal gaon
7. Bagyal khet

8. Bali Gaon
9. Bamangaon
10.Bareth
11.Barsali
12.Baun
13.Bhaintgaon
14.Bharkot
15.Bhatwari
16.Bhetiyara
17.Bichangaon
18.chakon
19.Chaundiyat
Gaon

20.Chhamroli
21.Chilmud Gaon
22.Dandagaon
23.Dang
24.Dhareti
25.Dharkot
26.Dhikbajpur
27.Dhungi
28.Dikthol
29.Dugal Gaon
30.Dunda
31.Dungal Dhar
32.Fold
33.Gaini gaon
34.Genwala
35.Gorsara
36.Gwana
37.Hitaru
38.Huldiyana
39.Ieer
40.Jugaldi
41.Kharwan
42.Khattu Khal
43.Kirun
44.Koti Bhat Gaon
45.Kuleth
46.Kumarkot
47.Kunsi
48.Lodara
49.Madhthati
50.Manglisera
51.Manjkot
52.Matali
53.Matti
54.Musargaon
55.Naipar
56.New Gaon
57.Panchan Gaon
58.Paturi
59.Pujargaon
60.Ranari

61.Raturisera
62.Sartali
63.Saur
64.Singot
65.Singoti
66.Singuni
67.Siri Gaon
68.Thandi
69.Thati
70.Uprikot
71.Veerpur

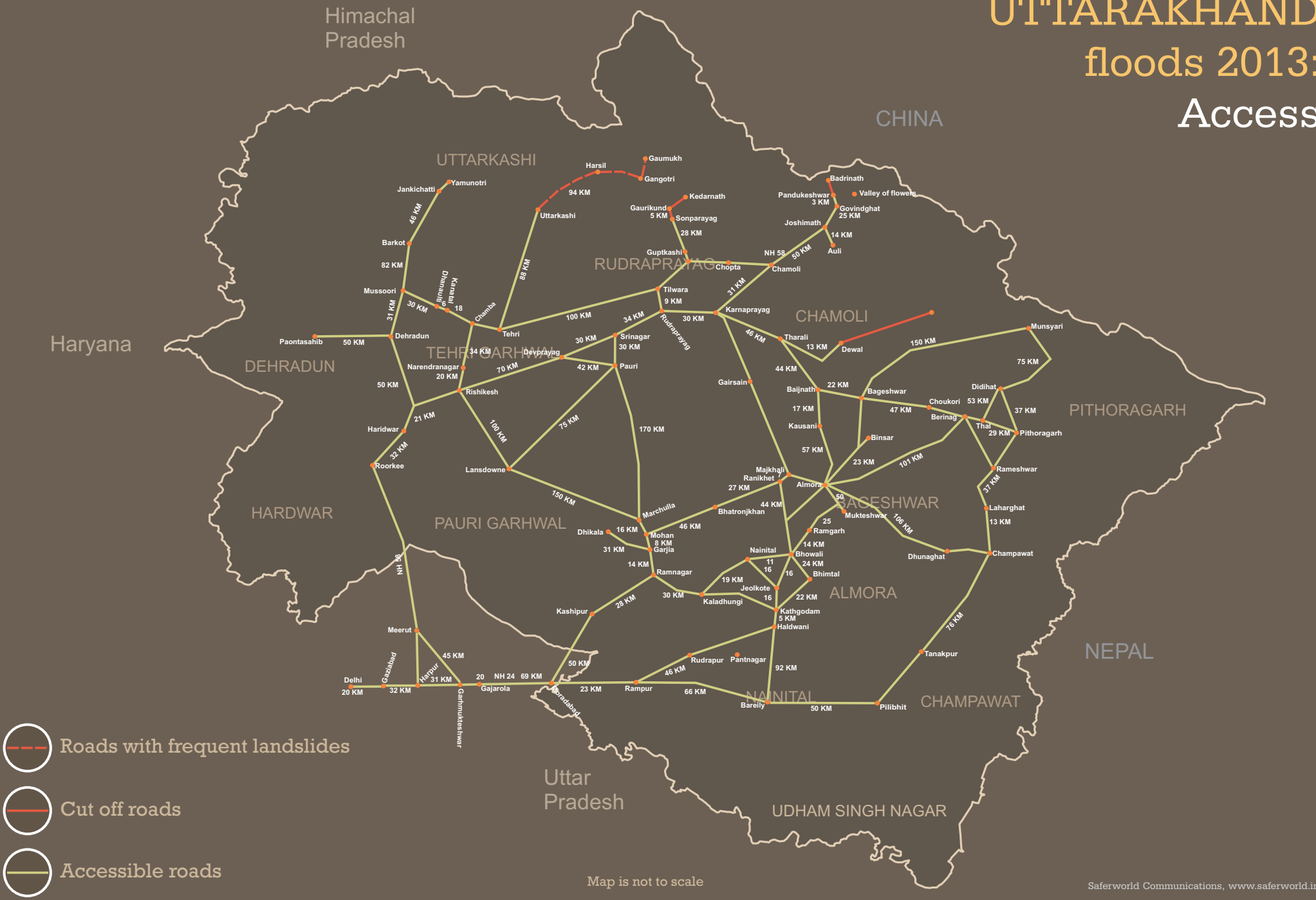
CHINYALISAUR

1. Kumrada
2. Adni
3. Badhar Gaon
4. Badli
5. Badsu
6. Bagori
7. Baldogi
8. Ban Gaon
9. Bankot
10.Barethi
11.Barimandi
12.Barol
13.Bhald Gaon
14.Bharkot
15.Bhengwal
Gaon
16.Chamiyari
17.Chankhat
18.Chiloth
19.Chinyali
20.Chotimani
21.Dharasu
22.Gadoli
23.Gamari
24.Garat
25.Jaspur
26.Jogat Bichlla
27.Jogat Talla
28.Kandla
29.Khalsi
30.Kotgari
31.Kyari
32.Mar Gaon
33.Neri
34.Pipal Khanda
35.Pujyar Gaon
36.Rautal
37.Sarph
38.Shrikot
39.Sunargaon
40.Thati Dichli
41.Tipri

UTTARAKHAND

floods 2013:

Access



- Roads with frequent landslides
- Cut off roads
- Accessible roads

Map is not to scale

UTTARKASHI

1. Caritas India
2. CASA
3. Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)
4. Catholic Relief Services
5. Centre for Environment Education, Himalaya Initiative
6. Christian Aid
7. DCA
8. Disha
9. Doctors For You
10. Eficor
11. Emmanuel Hospital Association (CHD Mussorie)
12. HelpAge India
13. LWSIT
14. Oxfam
15. PCI
16. Plan India
17. Pragya
18. Save the Children
19. Tear Fund
20. United Way of India
21. World Vision
22. WSPA

TEHRI GARHWAL

1. ActionAid India
2. Aquaplus DM
3. Catholic Relief Services
4. Emmanuel Hospital Association (CHD Mussorie)
5. Habitat for Humanity India
6. PCI
7. Save the Children
8. United Way of India

PAURI GARHWAL

1. Caritas India
2. Catholic Relief Services

PITHORAGARH

1. ActionAid India
2. Care India
3. Manav Seva Sansthan SEVA
4. Pragya
5. United Way of India

UTTARAKHAND floods 2013: NGOs Responding



CHAMOLI

1. ActionAid India
2. ADRA
3. Alaknanda Ghaati Shilpi Federation (AAGAAS Federation)
4. Care India
5. CASA
6. Catholic Relief Services
7. DC
8. DCA
9. Doctors For You
10. Eficor
11. Gramin Sudhar and Shramik Sewa Sansthan (GRASS)
12. Himalayee Paryavaran Aarakshi Mahila Samiti
13. Jai Nandadevi Swarojgar Shikshan Sansthan (Jandesh)
14. LWSIT
15. PCI
16. Plan India
17. Pragya
18. Save the Children
19. SEEDS
20. Tear Fund
21. United Way of India
22. World Vision

RUDRAPRAYAG

1. ActionAid India
2. ADRA
3. Aquaplus
4. Care India
5. Caritas India
6. CASA
7. Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)
8. Catholic Relief Services
9. Christian Aid
10. DCA
11. Eficor
12. Habitat for Humanity India
13. Help a Child of India
14. HelpAge India
15. HIMAD
16. IGSSS
17. Jeevan Nirman Education Society
18. OXFAM
19. PCI
20. PFA Dehradun
21. Plan India
22. Prakriti Society
23. Save the Children
24. SEEDS
25. SHARD Society
26. Swaraj Swayatt Shakari Samiti
27. Tear Fund
28. United Way of India
29. World Vision
30. WSPA



A humanitarian crisis continues to unfold

CRITICAL ISSUES

- Displaced families in relief camps (mainly schools) and some camping in ad-hoc open sites are extremely vulnerable. Pressure was put on them to vacate schools as quickly as possible in order to restart classes properly and much anxiety resulted on where to go.
- Overall there has been no shortage of food. However, distribution systems have been affected in areas cut off due to landslides and roads being washed away; leading to acute hardship in these remote communities.
- In a number of locations, very limited food items reached during the relief phase. The degenerated condition of these packaged foods reportedly caused gastrointestinal problems and concerns around aid food.
- Basic commodities like salt went into short supply in remote areas after the disaster. Efforts to normalise overall supply channels for all commodities and services were urgently required in the early relief phases.



“

Right now, we don't even get three square meals a day. The children here are falling ill now. And why wouldn't they? There are some 70 odd people living together in this relief centre, under one roof.

– Rajeshi, Didsari Village, Bhatwari Block, Uttarkashi

When a newly-married twenty-year-old Rajeshi arrived in New Didsari village, five years ago, she thought to herself: what a lovely new home I have. Right next to the goddess (Ganga). I'm so lucky. Earlier this year, Rajeshi watched from a height and cursed her bad luck as the river mowed down the walls of her six-room house, before breaking and washing away her family's plot of agricultural land. Her home and source of food were wiped out in one shot, along with that of twenty other families.

A mother of a two-year-old girl, Sakshi, Rajeshi's husband is an Indo-Tibetan Border Police guard. He had to report for duty near the town of Uttarkashi about 20 kilometers away almost immediately. Rajeshi couldn't leave her daughter alone, so she had to wait; while the men from neighbouring families trekked to the villages of Maneri, Harsil or even Uttarkashi in search of food rations and relief supplies.

Didsari, along with nearly 40 other villages and settlements that dot the Bhagirathi flood plains all the way up till Gangotri, have been devastatingly affected. To make matters worse, several landslides along National Highway 108 (connecting Uttarkashi to Gangotri) continue to render the valley's one motorable road useless much of the time. This is the only connection of all these villages to essential services in Uttarkashi and Gangotri and the helipad at the cantonment in Harsil. The residents in these parts have had to walk several kilometers every other day to get to places where relief supplies are being distributed. Plus, not all of the aid brought to Didsari has brought relief.

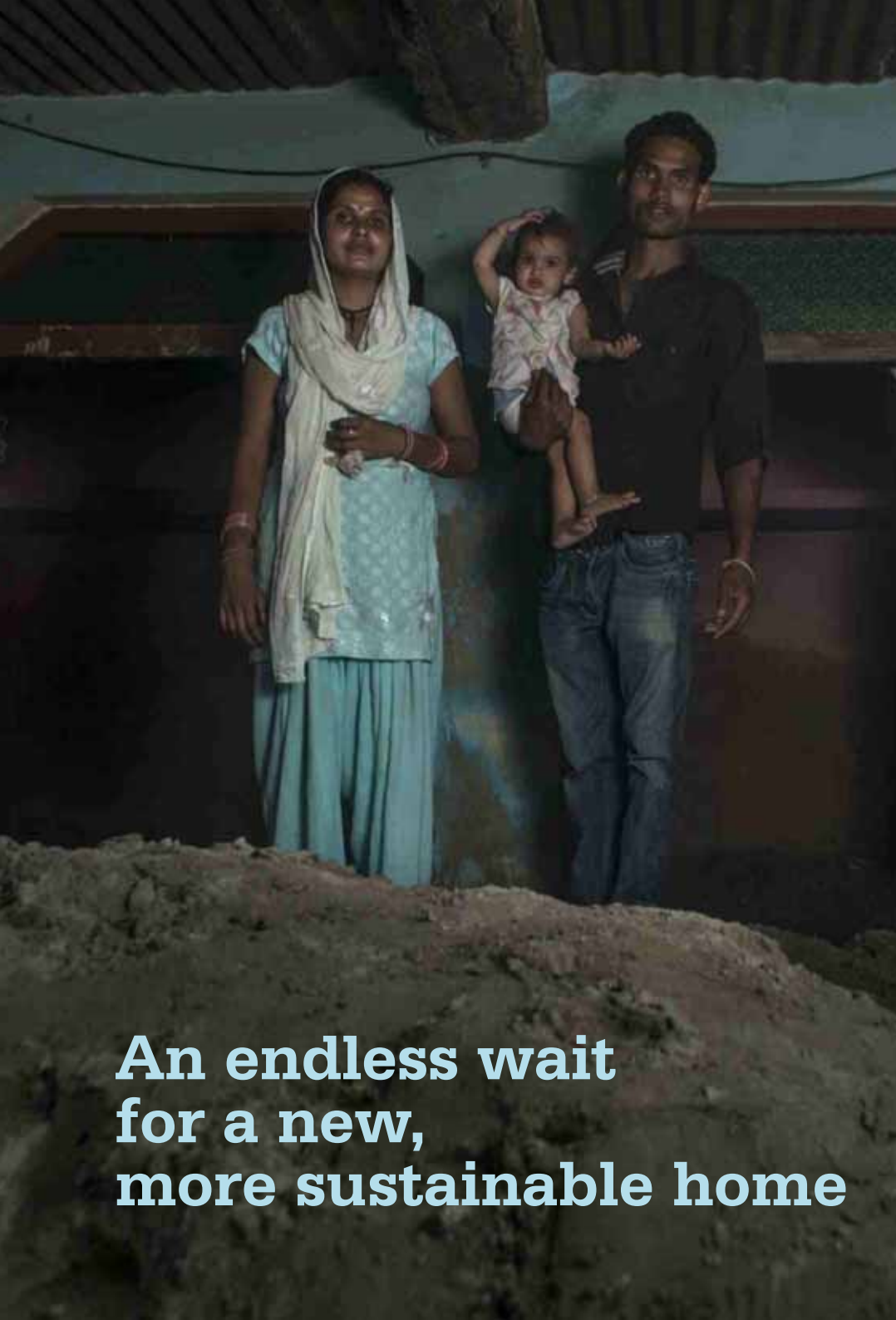
“Most of the items being given to us by the administration and NGOs include biscuits and chocolates,” Rajeshi said. “There is very little rice, lentils and cooking oil to be had. One cannot survive on biscuits alone. Many of the packets are past their expiry date and some of my neighbours don't know to look for these dates. Our children are falling ill with stomach problems and loose motions and it's going to be even tougher to control the spread of disease now, with the monsoon season.” But if there is nothing else to feed them in the coming days, Didsari's children will have no choice but to munch on mulch-like biscuits.

A woman in a dark sari is adjusting a shawl in a makeshift shelter. The shelter is constructed with a grey tarp and a red and blue striped cloth. In the background, other people are visible, including a child carrying a bundle on their head. The setting appears to be a rural, hilly area with lush greenery.

SHELTER

CRITICAL ISSUES

- Families in relief camps, those camping on their own on hillsides and those seeking refuge with their relatives are all under pressure to vacate these accommodations. There is an urgent need to find medium-term shelter solutions for these families.
- The monsoon is still active and periodic rain makes it difficult to survive in tents. An immediate shift to intermediate shelter is needed.
- Considering that harsh winter conditions will begin in just a few weeks, solutions keeping thermal comfort in mind need to be found quickly.
- Homes have been largely lost due to the water flow along the riverside or due to landslides on slopes. In either case, the same site is now not suitable for reconstruction. In many places, even this land has been washed away. The scarcity of suitable land for construction in the mountains presents a huge challenge that will need to be addressed.
- Considering the fragility of the region's ecosystem, alien materials, particularly non-biodegradable industrial materials, need to be avoided. Pre fabricated shelter options using such materials, designs and technologies need to be rethought; as well as those with high energy and carbon footprints.
- The region is rich in indigenous safe and sustainable construction technologies. These can serve as a strong foundation for shelter programmes, along with local materials and culturally appropriate designs. Safety, sustainability and cultural appropriateness should form the basis of shelter strategies.



An endless wait for a new, more sustainable home

“

We need a new home, as soon as possible.
Somewhere far away from the river.

– Amit, GIC relief camp, Bhatwari, Uttarkashi

Amit's family of four (his one-year-old Sonu, his 58-year-old father and his wife, Poonam who was three-months pregnant) ran in the dead of night. They stumbled over the poorly-lit, newly built stairs, onto the roof; then jumped parapets and darted over four ceilings of corrugated tin to get to the road. Standing at a relatively safe distance with thousands of other Valmiki colony residents, they watched the Bhagirathi swell to astonishing levels. A few hours later, the home he'd built just two years earlier sank beneath the river. He'd spent Rs. 25,000 on the land title alone and many more thousands on the construction.

At a loss for ideas, Amit turned to the shelter provided by the local administration at the Girls Intermediate College. Initially, he and his family spent their nights at the shelter and the day scooping out lumps of wet, grey sand from their living-cum-bedroom. Now they wait, tired from scooping endlessly. At the time, the Uttarkashi District Magistrate's office was still deciding where all those displaced by the floods could be moved, so that the college could restart.

The 500-odd houses on the left bank of the Bhagirathi that is called Valmiki colony technically still stands. But it has become unlivable.

The river brought with it accumulated silt and clay, depositing roomfuls and taking away anything that may have mattered in exchange; food grain, important documents, money, bed linen and clothes.

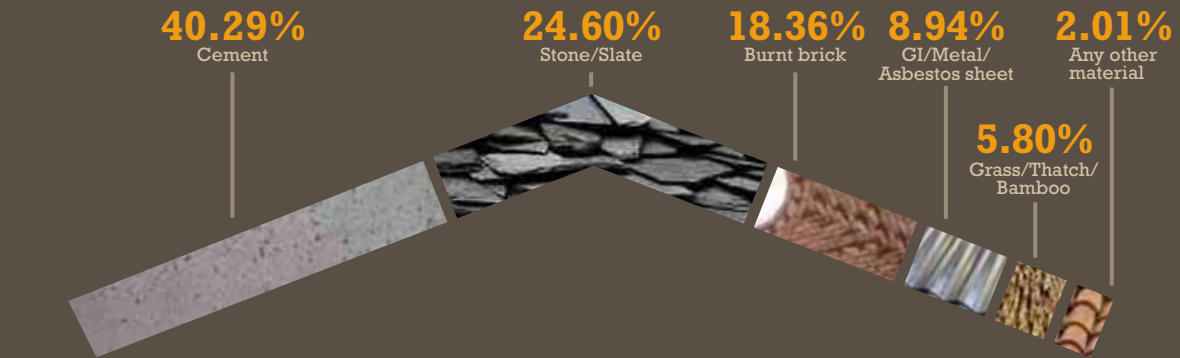
In fact, post these flash floods, the extent of damage seems to have jolted Uttarakhand awake to the dangers of climate change. More and more people across the state are worried about where they can build a house safely now. The flood plains area seems to be widening and increasing rainfall levels will enhance the risk posed by landslides.

The Himalayas are a relatively young mountain range and viscous soil underneath makes for very unstable bedrock. Amit and his friends at Valmiki colony are just a few amongst the many thousands affected across Uttarakhand who are starting to wonder. Without stronger, more weather-proof walls, can the Himalayas in fact be a viable dream home anymore?

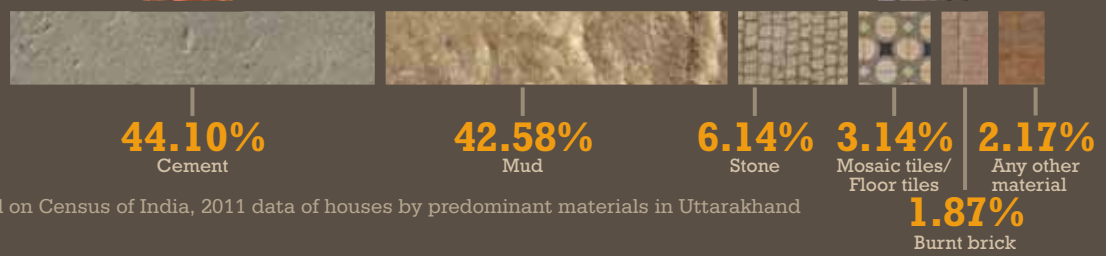
UTTARAKHAND

Shelter building materials

Shelter construction materials and technologies play a key role in determining vulnerability levels. Unfortunately, recent trends have led to increased vulnerability through poor siting and inadequate knowledge and skills.



Traditional construction with earth based materials and indigenous knowledge based technologies was resilient and sustainable. New materials and technologies, through their insensitive application, have tipped the balance. Shelter interventions need to be sensitive to these issues.



Based on Census of India, 2011 data of houses by predominant materials in Uttarakhand

SCHOOLS

CRITICAL ISSUES

- A large number of schools are severely damaged or completely destroyed. Some of the surviving ones are still serving as relief shelters. The reopening of schools got delayed and the annual calendar has already suffered. Education urgently needs to restart in proper settings with adequate support. For this, intermediate school structures and infrastructure needs to be made available.
- Once again, availability of safe land is a challenge. Permanent school reconstruction therefore needs to be taken up as soon as possible, in a safe manner and at safe locations.
- School buildings can have a demonstration effect. There is a special need, therefore, to construct sensitively to promote safety, sustainability and cultural heritage.
- As seen in the aftermath of these floods, schools do serve as relief shelters during emergencies. Reconstruction processes should bear this in mind and build facilities accordingly.





**I feel like...
I'm not a student
anymore**

“

After the floods, I've had this strange feeling, all the time. I feel like I've forgotten what school was about. It feels like I never attended classes. That I'm not a student anymore. Nobody says anything about classes resuming. My teachers used to come from another village and they haven't been coming for a while now. When the floods hit, we were on holiday. School was to start on July 1. But so far, there is no sign of that happening. I look at so many people, so many adults, sleeping on my classroom floor and I tell myself: this isn't a school anymore. This is now your house, your home. Is it supposed to be this way?

– 13-year old Vikas Kumar Jha, New Didsari Village, Bhatwari, Uttarkashi

Across Uttarakhand, the destruction of schools has struck a major blow. The few left standing are doubling as relief centres; and in some of the most cut-off places, teachers are unable to even reach these schools to resume classes. Children like Vikas acutely feel the absence of their structured schedules and their recovery from the trauma is slowed down because of it.

July is also generally the time for senior students to file forms for board examinations. With schools in shambles and papers unavailable, this has been unable to happen. For many schools, there is no sign as yet of how things will return to normal. As R S Bhadauriya, the Principal of the Government Inter College in Tilaknagar, Rudraprayag, comments, “it would actually have been better if it was an earthquake. In that case, we would at least have the land in our hand. Now we do not have anything. Now, GIC Tilaknagar has become history.”

This school had 638 students who came from 17 gram sabhas covering a radius of 10 kms. The 30 classrooms, plus seven that were being newly constructed, have all been destroyed. Consecutive landslides have left the land unfit for rebuilding. In a show of camaraderie, the people of the nearby Somari Bhardar Panchayat collectively offered their primary school to temporarily hold classes. However, the number of classes required cannot be accommodated. “In the open space,” Principal Bhadauriya comments, “we will require at least tin sheds for temporary arrangement. Also we would require some toilets, especially for girls.” So for now, he operates from four rooms in the nearby Sishu Mandir School to issue Transfer Certificates to his students. For with little hope of his school's classes restarting anytime soon, students are growing increasingly anxious about their future!

An aerial photograph showing a village partially submerged in floodwaters. A river flows through the center, with a road crossing it. Several houses are visible, some partially underwater. The surrounding area is lush green with trees and fields.

LIVELIHOODS

CRITICAL ISSUES

- Farming is frugal in the state, on small and fragile terraced farms. Families whose farms have been washed away or heavily silted will find it difficult to recover; that is if they are able to recover their farms at all. Recovery solutions or alternate livelihood options need to be found urgently and supported.
- Tourism is a major livelihood support activity and is at a complete standstill as of now, making it harder for the affected families to recover. Efforts are urgently needed to create a base for reviving tourism in a safe and sustainable manner. Rural and community based tourism options need to be explored.
- Immediate support through cash based schemes can help families left with no alternate sources of income.
- Widespread unemployment is clearly compromising recovery. The ongoing relief work and the recovery activity which is expected in the coming days should make it a priority to work with locals.
- Long-term measures, including alternate skill building programmes, need to be evolved.

Where do we find work?



People were mainly dependent on agriculture. Some has just sown paddy plants when the flood came. Due to the flood all the sprouts were lost. Small farmers do not have the capacity to sow their plants again. They are waiting for the aid to come which can sustain them for the next six months. There is also a major problem of where they will do agriculture as they have lost most of their existing land; and in these mountains, there is very little land available.

– Narendatt Soti, Sarpanch and Pujari, Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Narayanbagad Village, Chamoli

Where do we find work? It's a question that echoes across the whole state. Farmers who have lost their entire fields talk about how they have no option but to look for other forms of work in order to sustain themselves.

Small scale industry has also been wiped out as local shop owners wait for compensation which may or may not arrive. On top of which, there is talk of shutting down tourists and pilgrims on the Char Dham circuit for months (or even years) as infrastructure is restored. This has made locals increasingly fearful of the future. Agriculture and tourism are the two main livelihoods in this region; and both seem to have been swept away with the raging flood waters.

"These days there isn't any work available," 24- year old Anita Devi from Uttarkashi laments. "We really, really need the money. We need to buy food.

My husband will do anything. He has tried everywhere; a cleaner's job, the vegetable vendor's, grocery shops. But nobody has any employment to offer!" The butcher shop where Anita Kumar's husband worked was washed away in the floods and the kindly gentleman who employed Kumar has moved away to Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

The sentiment is echoed in the frustration of all those desperately seeking employment. Take 37-year old Gajeshwar Prasad Kanswal, a farmer and resident of Lothrun village. It lies about 50 metres away from the Bhagirathi, between Uttarkashi and the Harsil cantonment. "The government and NGOs are hiring menial labourers as porters to carry relief packets, or to break stones and carry head loads for reconstruction work," he comments, "but these are not from the locals. Whereas we're the ones who need the work most." With no daily wage work available, Kanswal spends his days trekking long distances, looking for relief packages. The irony isn't hard for him to detect. "Everywhere we go, we're treated not as labour, but as people who need to be rescued by outsiders."

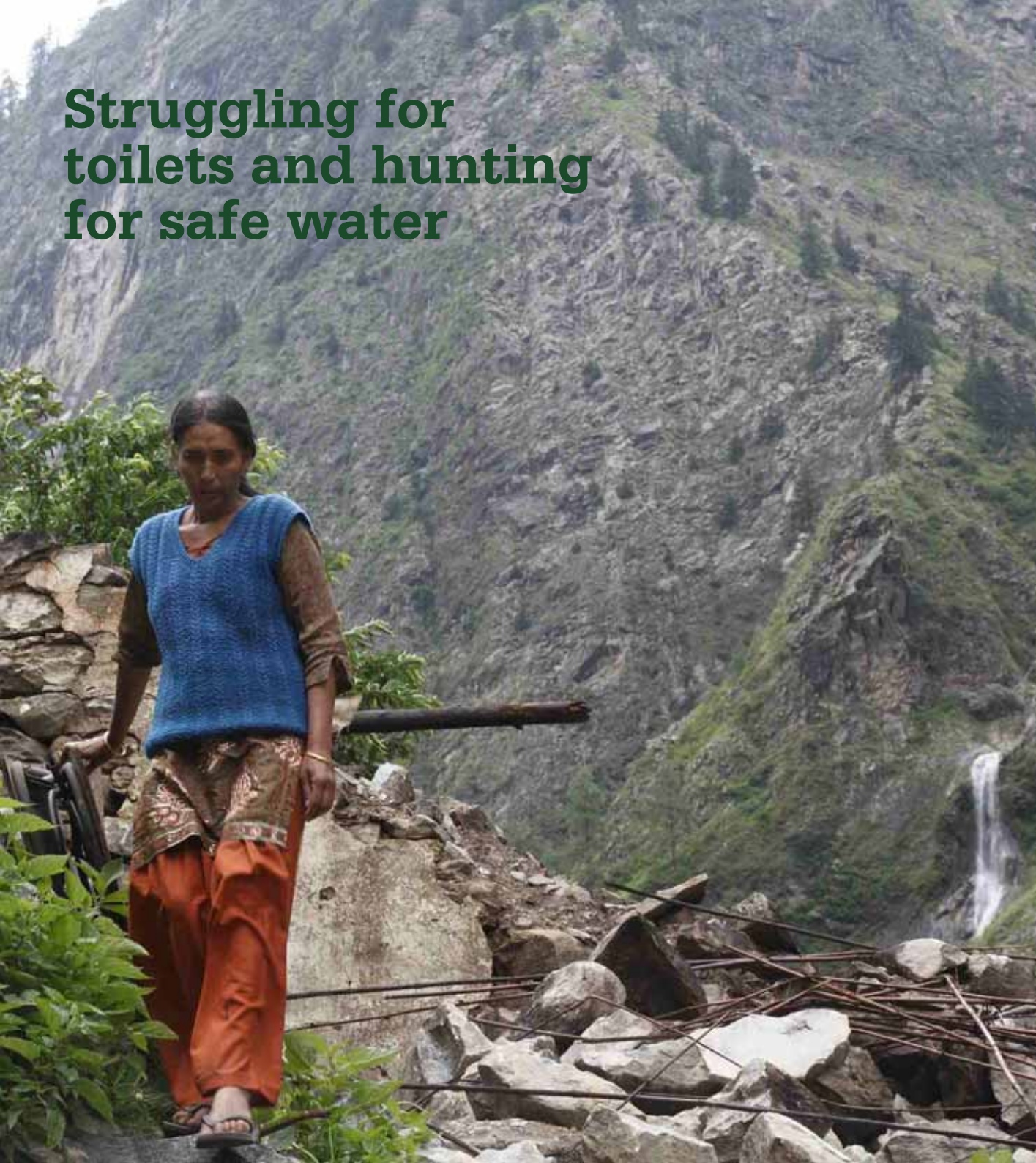
A woman wearing a blue sari and a pink headscarf stands in front of a light blue building. The building has several windows and doors. To the right, there is a damaged stone wall and a dirt path leading up a hillside. The background shows steep mountains and some greenery.

WASH

CRITICAL ISSUES

- Water springs are alive all across the mountains in the rainy season and local populations are usually able to find potable water near the sources. However, where there is a long distance between the spring source and the uptake point and for those in relief camps, there is fear of contamination. In such locations, water purification material or methods need to be provided and promoted.
- Displaced families living in relief camps or ad-hoc tent sites are also facing problems of lack of toilets. Women in particular are adversely affected. Appropriate temporary sanitation facilities are needed in such locations till permanent solutions are found.
- Upgradation of WASH facilities in schools and higher standards for new ones needs to be considered, especially in light of their usage by affected families in such emergencies.
- An intensive public education programme is needed to inform the local population about WASH in emergencies.

Struggling for toilets and hunting for safe water



“

Previously we had a pipe connection which was damaged due to the flood. Now we have to climb up to the road where a stream flows in the rainy season to get water for normal purposes. But for drinking water, we have to go to identified streams that we know are safe. The major problem is for toilets. We have to go far away into the open. For the old aged, especially, it is very difficult. We have to carry them till there and bring them back.”

– Kalawati Negi and Bhuvneshwari Pankti in Pinola Ghat, Pandukeshwar, Joshimath, Chamoli

Water, sanitation and hygiene have become a growing worry for families across the affected areas as the weeks go by. Though open defecation is still a prevalent practice across Uttarakhand, the landslides and floods have limited the open space available and raised the levels of the water. For women and the elderly, especially, finding safe places for sanitation is a major challenge.

Drinking water is usually abundant, especially in this season; and locals have systems of identifying safe streams where the source is visible. However, the extent of damage has limited access to these sources for many. Those packed into relief camps or living in the open are facing problems with contamination.



How do we fill the information gaps ?

“

No information for any further compensation has been shared with us, only some immediate relief. Previously, the Revenue Officer (Patwari) has come to our village to assess the damage, but after that we haven't heard anything and nothing has been done till now.

– Savitri Devi and Kamla Devi, Farm Workers, Narayanbagad village, Chamoli

Information gaps at all levels continue to be a challenge. So far, there is no compiled information even on the extent of damage across the state or on villages that are still cut off. Media reports and stories have focused solely on specific 'most affected' districts; while others which may have sustained less volume of damage, but are equally vulnerable, have been left out.

At a local level, details of relief distribution, clarity on compensation and other essential information are difficult to come by. Affected populations therefore are forced to take daily treks to try and find relief and answers. Local media including community radio channels exist. These can form a credible channel for improving two way communications and information flows.



How do we protect the children?

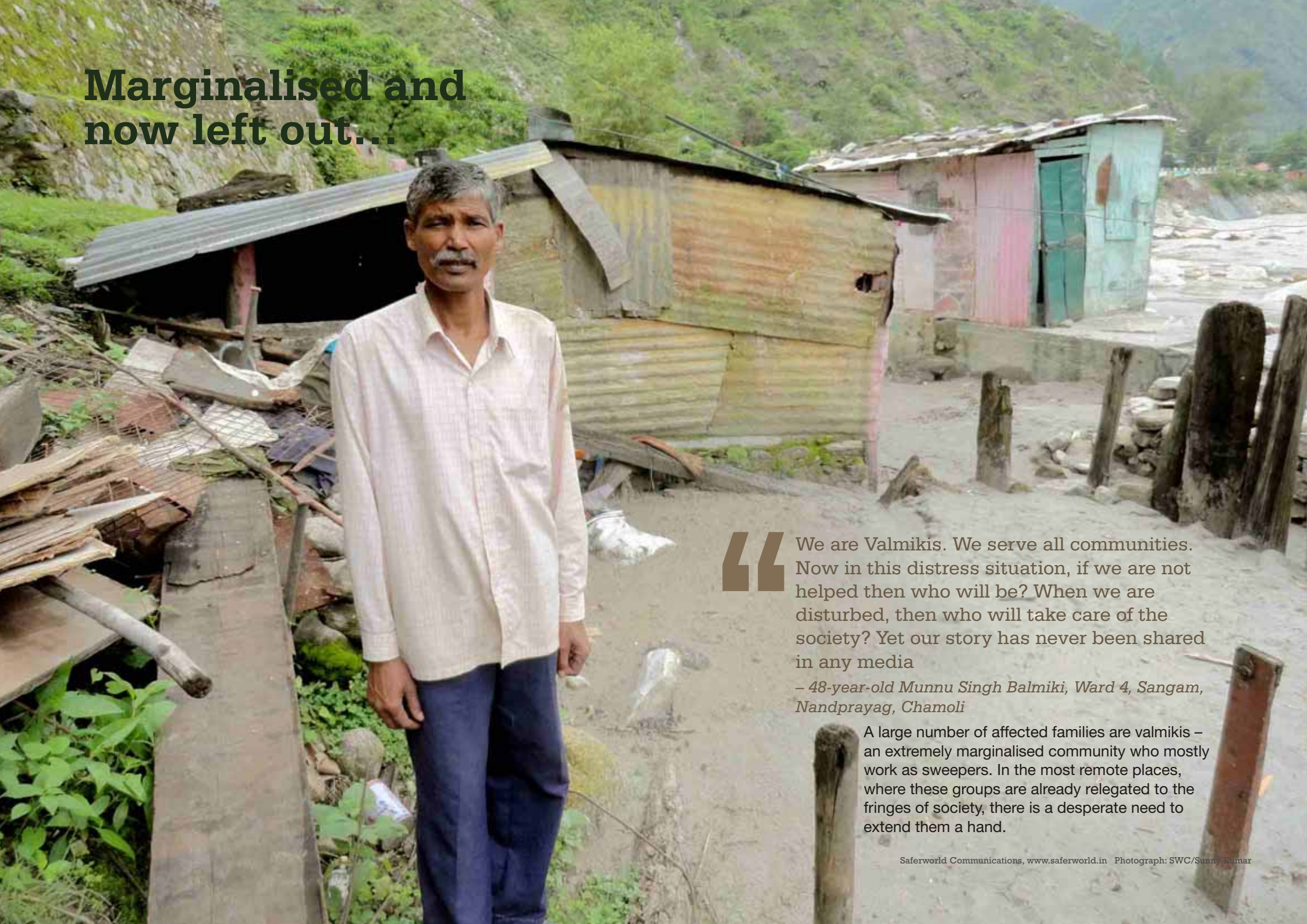


We are most concerned about our children's security now that we are living in the open in the forest. There was times when a lion came and ate a cow and a calf. We worry all the time about how to protect them.

– Kunwar Lal, father of 3, in Chandrapuri, Rudraprayag

Aside from recovery from the trauma, children's security issues are a growing concern for those now living in the open. In other cases, only young children have survived; having watched their entire families being washed away. Though unsubstantiated, there are several stories of these orphaned children being trafficked and exploited.

Marginalised and now left out...



“ We are Valmikis. We serve all communities. Now in this distress situation, if we are not helped then who will be? When we are disturbed, then who will take care of the society? Yet our story has never been shared in any media

– 48-year-old Munnu Singh Balmiki, Ward 4, Sangam, Nandprayag, Chamoli

A large number of affected families are valmiki – an extremely marginalised community who mostly work as sweepers. In the most remote places, where these groups are already relegated to the fringes of society, there is a desperate need to extend them a hand.

A growing struggle for people with disabilities



Look at my feet. They are badly swollen. But I can't walk and no doctor has come here yet.

– 36-year-old Shiva Prasad Vaishnav, Chandrapuri, Rudraprayag

In 2012, Shiva Prasad Vaishnav fractured his backbone. He has been bedridden ever since. His wife, Anjana Devi, had to take over his postman job to support their three children. Shiva also owned several acres of farm land that have now largely been washed away. When the flood waters rose, Shiva was the last to be evacuated. Neighbours and family managed to carry him out to a safer location. However, he had to be left mid-way in the fields in the pouring rain. With great effort, the villagers finally managed to move him up the hill to where most are now sheltering. Shiva's condition continues to deteriorate, as access remains difficult. No doctors had yet visited and Shiva is unable to walk to the closest clinic.

It's a question that begs some thought. For all those with disabilities across affected areas, are there any specific plans in place?

“The information for any Indian communities has been shared with us, with some exceptions.” Praveen Singh, Director (Foreign) has come to the village to address the situation, but after that, his research team stopped and nothing has been done till now.”



INFORMATION GAPS IN UTTARAKHAND

Information gaps in all areas... [Text continues with details about information gaps in Uttarakhand.]

“People seem totally dependent on agriculture. Some had just moved back to their homes but they are still in the land of the living... There are people in the land of the living who are still in the land of the living... There are people in the land of the living who are still in the land of the living...”



WHERE DO WE FIND WORK?

Where do we find work? [Text discusses employment challenges in rural areas.]

“Look at my feet. They are badly swollen. But I can't walk and so I can't see my home...”



A GROWING STRUGGLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In 2011, [Text describes the growing struggle for people with disabilities.]

Spreading the stories

“We are most concerned about the children especially those who are being taken to the forest... We are most concerned about the children especially those who are being taken to the forest... We are most concerned about the children especially those who are being taken to the forest...”



HOW DO WE PROTECT THE CHILDREN?

How do we protect the children? [Text discusses child protection concerns.]

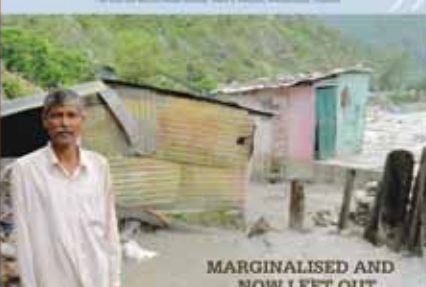
“Right now, we don't even know what's going on... Right now, we don't even know what's going on... Right now, we don't even know what's going on...”



A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS CONTINUES TO UNFOLD

A humanitarian crisis continues to unfold [Text describes ongoing humanitarian challenges.]

“We are isolated. We have no communication... We are isolated. We have no communication... We are isolated. We have no communication...”



MARGINALISED AND NOW LEFT OUT...

Marginalised and now left out... [Text discusses the plight of marginalized communities.]



IN EMERGENCIES, COMMUNICATION IS AID.

Sound strange? Think about it this way: It's about getting the right information to the right people at the right time. Sound strange? Think about it this way: It's about getting the right information to the right people at the right time. Sound strange? Think about it this way: It's about getting the right information to the right people at the right time.

“After the floods, I feel like I'm not a student anymore... After the floods, I feel like I'm not a student anymore... After the floods, I feel like I'm not a student anymore...”



I FEEL LIKE... I'M NOT A STUDENT ANYMORE

I feel like... I'm not a student anymore [Text shares a personal experience of a student affected by floods.]

“Previously we had a good community center... Previously we had a good community center... Previously we had a good community center...”



STRUGGLING FOR TOILETS AND HUNTING FOR SAFE WATER

Struggling for toilets and hunting for safe water [Text discusses challenges with basic infrastructure.]

“We have been waiting for a long time... We have been waiting for a long time... We have been waiting for a long time...”



AN ENDLESS WAIT FOR A NEW, MORE SUSTAINABLE HOME

An endless wait for a new, more sustainable home [Text describes the struggle for better housing.]



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