

Uttarakhand Flash Floods

Situation Report as of 2nd July 2013

Overall Situation:

Uttarakhand, a state in the northern part of India receives large number of pilgrims during the months of June and July since it is a very important Hindu pilgrimage site, due to the many holy Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. It also attracts large number of tourists as it is a hill state and home to many holiday retreats.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, rainfall in Uttarakhand during the week of 20th to 26th June 2013 has been in excess by 37 per cent of normal rainfall. During this period, the state received 73.3 centimeters of rain while the normal rainfall is usually 53.6 centimeters. The heavy rains in the region have led to extensive flooding, landslides and destruction to property and lives. Many areas are still not accessible and hence the exact death toll is difficult to estimate. However, looking at the extent of damage, the death toll is likely to be higher than what India has ever seen during a disaster.

Every day, bodies of deceased are being recovered by the relief agencies from the flooded areas and the mud slides that are spread over vast areas of the hill state. The Indian Army, Indian Air Force, the Indo Tibetan Border Force and para-military troopers, have carried out the biggest ever relief and rescue operation in living memory, while the National and State Disaster management teams joined hands to help the people who were stranded in the different parts of the state.

A slight intensity earthquake of 3.5 magnitude on the Richter scale was experienced in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand on 27th June 2013. No additional damages and casualties have been reported so far.

Damage Details:

Uttarakhand:

All the 13 districts in Uttarakhand have been affected by the floods of which four districts are the worst affected. These are: Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts. Both local inhabitants in the remote villages and pilgrims to the area are affected.

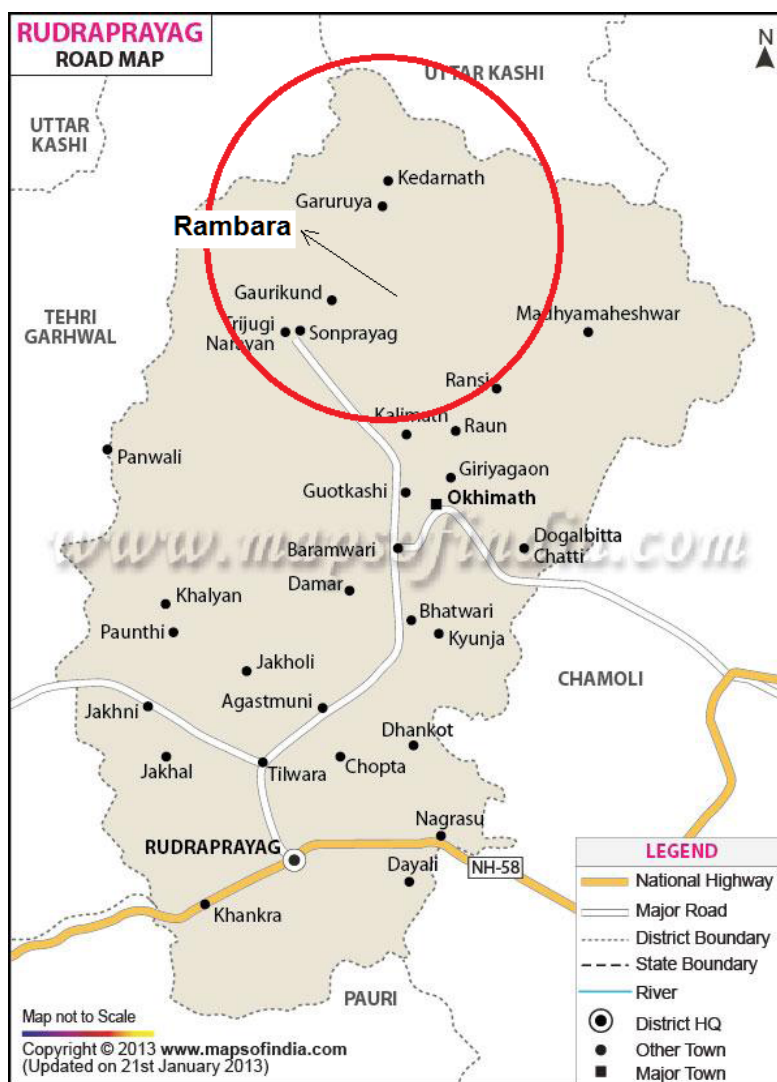


District	Total number of Villages
Almora	2,172
Bageshwar	883
Chamoli	1,166
Champawat	656
Dehradun	738
Garhwal	3,151
Hardwar	510
Nainital	1,091
Pithoragarh	1,579
Rudraprayag	658
Tehri Garhwal	1,801
Udham Singh Nagar	674
Uttarkashi	682

Damage details in the worst hit districts

Rudraprayag District: This is the worst affected district. Most of the district is still inaccessible.

- Due to a cloudburst resulting in heavy rains on 14 June 2013, the banks of the lake *Chorbaria Tal* (Ghandi-Sarovar) situated above Kendarnath village burst causing flash floods and landslides and washing away villages downstream
- The villages of Kendarnath, a tourist and religious pilgrimage site situated just below the lake, was completely washed away
- Downstream villages of Rambara, Gaurikund and Sonprayang were also washed away
- All roads from Sonprayang upstream were washed away; the area is accessible only with helicopters or on foot
- Government reports estimate that in 3 villages around Rambara all men above age 14 have been killed leaving a number of widowed families.



Chamoli District:

- The worst affected villages in Chamoli district are Ghangaria, Pulna, Govindghat and Badrinath
- A lot of villages have been severely affected between Govindghat and Ghangaria area and major casualties are expected in the Govindghat area
- All roads from Joshimath upstream have been washed away; the area is accessible only with helicopters or on foot

Emergency relief centres have been set up at: Government Inter College, Govt Girls' Inter College, Nagar Palika / Municipality Building in Joshimath; Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN), Govindghat; and Hanuman Chatti. The camps are relying on local help apart from supplies from the administration and other agencies. Road to Joshimath is now open although the road conditions remain precarious. Trucks with relief materials have started reaching Joshimath town.



Uttarkashi District:

- The most affected villages in Uttarkashi district are around Harsil where a lot of tourists were stranded
- An estimate suggests that around 10,000 people have been affected in the district. In the stretch between Uttarkashi to Gangotri, 400 households from 61 villages have been damaged
- It is estimated that a lot of villages are stranded with no reliable source of food
- All roads from Gangani upstream have been washed away; the area is accessible only with helicopters or on foot
- The roads between Bhatwari and Gangani have been severely damaged

Emergency relief centres are operating at: Harshil, Uttarkashi and Chinyalisaur. All relief materials are being routed through control room at Vikas Bhawan, Joshiyara, under the guidance of District Magistrate, Uttarkashi.

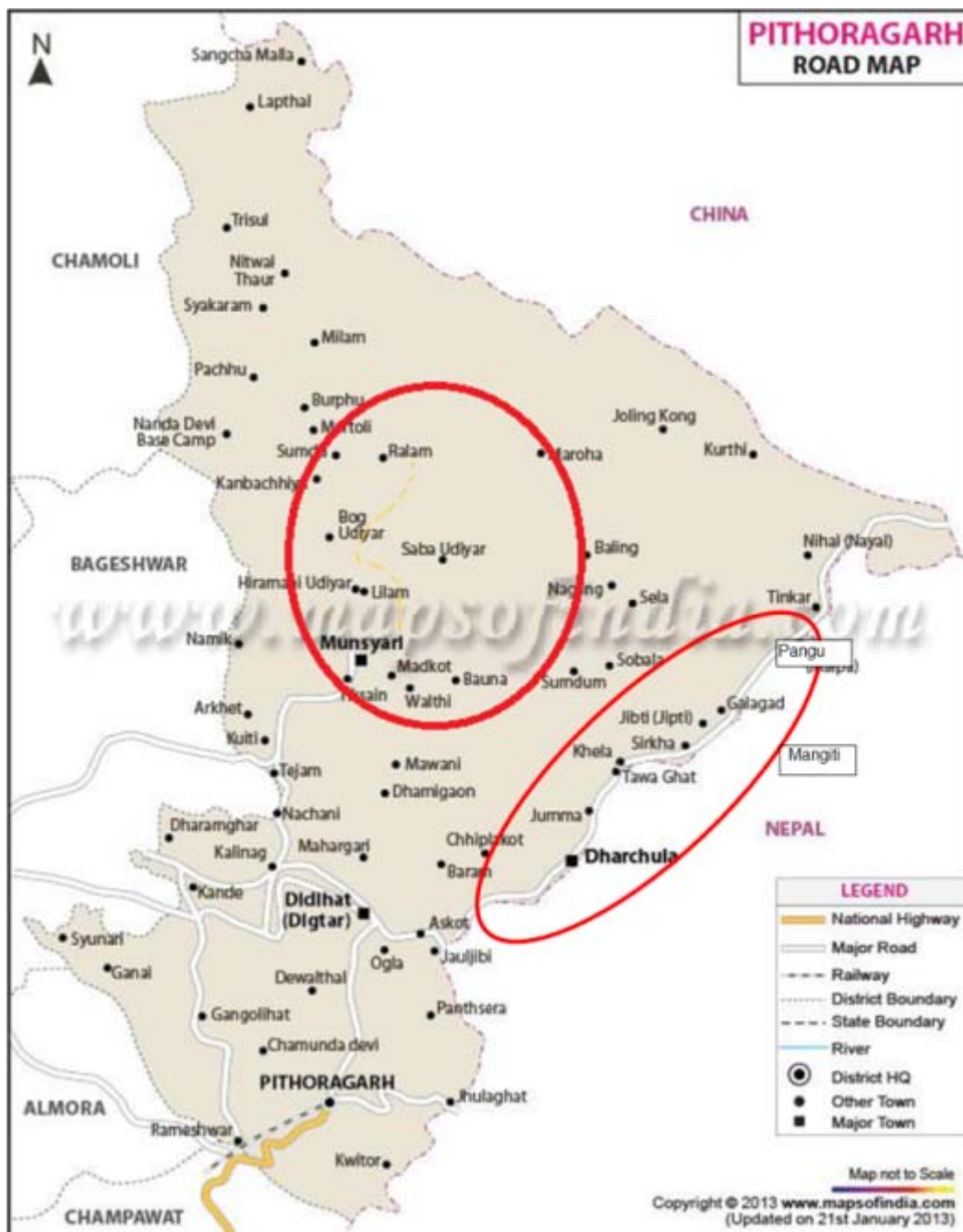


Pithoragarh District :

Total of 121 villages are reportedly affected in this district. The most affected villages Munsyari and Dharchula

In Balwakot village, 50-60 people have lost their homes and are currently staying at an ashram (hermitage). 26 houses have been damaged in Madkot village, 250 in Pangla, 8 in Balwakot, 23 in Tawaghat, 15 in Goti, 19 in Dharama, 15 in Johar, 3 in Ghalpani, 7 in Yelaghat, 16 in Sabda, 19 in Biyas village. 35 houses are damaged in Chori, Ghattabagad and Baram villages. 20 are reported dead and 19 missing in Chiplakedar.

Emergency relief centres have been set up at: Dharchula and the government and NGOs are providing food and other essential relief material. Road access is currently limited in most areas of Dharchula block and relief materials have not reached the remote villages. However, the villages are accessible on foot.



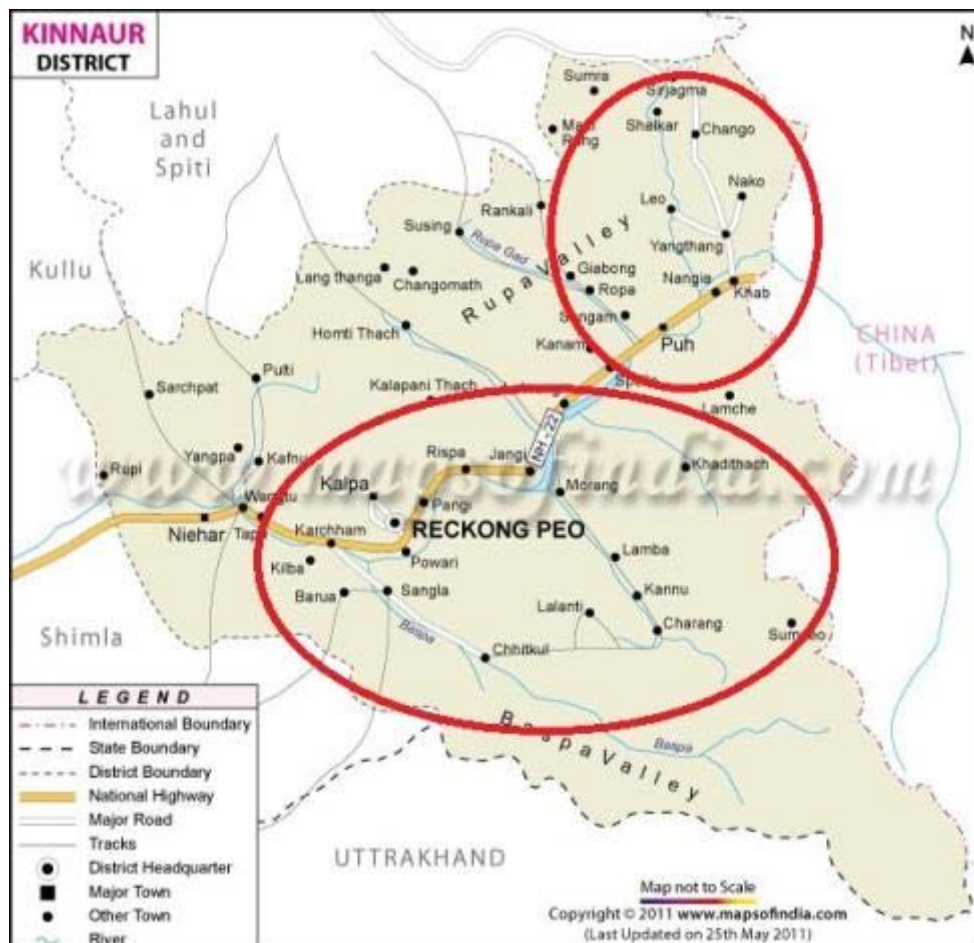
Himachal Pradesh: This is the neighbouring state to Uttarakhand.

As of now damages have been reported from Kinnaur district only.

Kinnaur District:

The worst affected villages are: Pangji, Broa (both in Kalpa block), Tapri, Chagaon, Rarang, Kanam, Labrang, Pooh, Ropa, Gyabong, Sunnam, Thangi, Asrang, Moorang. 5 people in Chagaon village and 6 people in Urni village are reported dead. In Urni village, 50-70 houses are badly damaged. In Tapri, 10-12 houses have been damaged and debris has accumulated in them. 6 houses have been washed away in Chagaon village and 15 are on verge of collapsing. 20-30 houses have been damaged in Broa. Communities are facing a severe shortage of drinking water. Livestock and apple orchards have been affected in the district and people are worried about their sustenance.

Emergency relief centres have been set up by the district administration: in Karchham, Chhitkul, Pangji, and in Yangpa. The District headquarter Reckong Peo is now accessible through road. Beyond Reckong Peo villages are still not reachable and materials are being transported through helicopters. People in Namgia, Pooh are still waiting for relief materials. Army helicopters are transporting materials from Rampur and Reckong Peo to Pooh helipad



Impact Highlights:

Affected	Infrastructural Damage	Environmental Stress
Death Toll 1000 persons in Uttarakhand; Under 50 in Himachal Pradesh; 3000 missing across Uttarakhand. It is feared that the death toll may be higher	400 villages across Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli and Tehri regions have been washed off, submerged or affected.	30 million tourists/pilgrims in Uttarakhand at the time of tragedy
1,00,000 – 1,03,000 people evacuated so far	37,000 sq. miles area affected; estimated Loss to economy is Rs.3,000 crore	60 hours of continuous rain; cloudburst leading to 330 mm of rain
4,000-5,000 people still await evacuation; 10,000 strong armed forces	2232 houses destroyed in Uttarakhand; 90 Dharamshalas swept away	70 Hydroelectric projects in worst- affected Char Dham area; 505 dams in Uttarakhand state
15+ Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are facing severe shortage of medicines	1,000 Bridges damaged; 695 water schemes affected; more than 300 villages facing severe drinking water shortage	4,640 cases of illegal mining have been registered
16 lakh people affected; more than 1000 livestock dead	600 villages are still absolutely cut off; imited/intermittent road connectivity to reach supplies to 13,600 villages in Uttarakhand	50% of the houses swept away in Uttarakhand were illegal constructions on riverbeds

United Way of India is constantly in touch with its NGO partners, government agencies and the United Nations organizations working in the flood affected regions of Uttarakhand and will keep updating the situation report.

Source:

This report has been compiled based on the Situation report updates shared by United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and Pragma, which is one of the NGO partners of United Way of India.