

RELIEF OPERATION DISTURBED BY MORE RAIN



Over a month after being hit by the devastating flash floods, the North Indian state of Uttarakhand is still struggling to come to terms with the rain-induced disaster.

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The stranded pilgrims have been evacuated, bringing to an end one of the world's largest air rescue operations. More than 100,000 people were rescued from the area.

At least 5000 people have been officially confirmed as missing and over 4000 people are presumed to be dead.

After the evacuation of stranded pilgrims, the government authorities, aid agencies and other state and non state actors have been focusing their attention towards distributing relief to the locals in far flung villages that are still out of access as roads connecting these areas have been swept away by the floods.

Incessant rain hampers relief operations

The incessant rains over the last couple of days have hampered the relief operations in Uttarakhand.

The network of major roads in the districts are still damaged making it impossible for the administration to transport trucks carrying relief to affected villages especially the ones totally cut off. The state Disaster Management and Mitigation Department called for an emergency meeting today to discuss how choppers capable of flying even in bad weather can be pressed into service.

The team of experts dispatched to Kedarghati for removal of debris and disposal of bodies is also finding it difficult to carry out the exercise due to wet weather and lack of heavy equipment.

Paucity of food stuff for the personnel engaged in the exercise at the high altitude shrine has further complicated their task. The food stocks at the Himalayan shrine are fast running out and some of the personnel engaged in the operation are also reported to be sick.

Fresh spell of rains in Kedarghati over the past two days have instilled fear among residents of villages adjoining the shrine with waters of Mandakini and Alaknanda constantly on the rise. The water level in Ganga is also rising close to the danger mark in Haridwar



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Remains of a house that was half washed down by the floods

DanChurchAid providing relief

Since the onset of the disaster, DanChurchAid has been providing relief to the affected families in the most affected districts – Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli through its ACT Alliance partner CASA.

CASA had been providing cooked food to the people seeking shelter at temporary camps set up in different parts of the district.

It is now distributing nonfood items such as polyester fleece blankets 4 pcs, hygiene kits, plastic buckets, utensil sets, pressure cookers, silpaulin sheets to 1500 families from Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli district.

Around 50 volunteers had been trained by DanChurchAid's partner CASA on disaster

Facts about the emergency

- Over 4500 people presumed to be dead in the disaster and 5700 missing as per official data.
- Over 760 villages still remain cut off with damaged roads and snapped power and telecommunication cables still to be restored.

What DanChurchAid is doing?

- Provided cooked food to 700 people living in shelters till 6th July.
- Distributing non-food items such as Polyester Fleece blankets 4 pcs, Hygiene kit, Plastic bucket, Utensil set, Pressure Cooker, Silpaulin sheets to 1500 families from Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli district.

preparedness, and they are now being mobilized across the state to collect information from difficult and inaccessible areas to get an overview of the situation in the area and the condition of the locals. These data have also been helpful in relief distribution.

- Mobilised local volunteers for assessment of the ground and collection of data from remote villages.

After the initial assessment and relief distribution, DanChurchAid ,through its partner CASA, will be working on training the local communities in Uttarakhand to prepare for future disasters.

See also "[Families in despair](#)"

By Shrey Singh, communication officer

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