



# Himachal Floods, 2023

## Situation Report

28th August, 2023

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Doctors For You conducted the situation assessment after the Series of flood events in the beginning of August month. Based on the assessment, two districts were identified as most affected- Kullu and Mandi district. To support the flood affected villages, DFY deployed an emergency response team to distribute relief materials such as Wash (Hygiene) Kits, Tarpaulins and Mosquito Nets coupled with health and hygiene promotion activities.

The DFY team, with the support of HCL, has been able to reach out to the districts of Mandi and Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh; by organizing 32 Health Camps and 29 Awareness Camps which involves medical checkup of 1745 flood affected people and 1664 awareness beneficiaries disseminating important information to the flood affected population. DFY also distributed 496 Wash Kits, 1000 Tarpaulins and 400 Mosquito Nets to the flood affected people as relief material during the time of crisis.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The state of Himachal Pradesh is inherently prone to disasters, as it is a part of the Himalayan Mountain system. The South Asian monsoon season, which spans from June to September, typically brings about 80% of annual rainfall to the region.

In recent years, India has witnessed intensified weather patterns, with the monsoon season becoming more erratic and less dependable over time. The current period of heavy rainfall is occurring closely on the heels an intense heatwave that also affected much of northern India. While various factors contribute to flooding, experts point to climate change as a significant driver of increased occurrences of heavy rainfall.

The state of Himachal Pradesh was the hardest hit, with at least 330 dead, 38 missing and more than 100 injured during flooding since 1 April. More than 1,000 roads were blocked in the state as a result of downed power lines and other damaged infrastructure. Approximately 70,000 tourists were evacuated from the state, as reported by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Rescue

operations were led by teams from the Indian army and the National Disaster Response Force. Several districts experienced an entire month's worth of rainfall within a single day. In Manali, roads were swept away by the deluge, leaving both tourists and their vehicles stranded.

Over the weekend of August 12-13, 2023, additional torrential rains hit Shimla, triggering landslides and destroying a temple, homes, and buildings, and killing at least 57 people. The intensity of the rains has been attributed to climate change. The landslides washed out several roads, including the Himalayan Expressway and sections of the Railway. The additional floods and landslides killed a total of 71 people. A massive landslide destroyed roads and buildings in the city of Shimla.

Cumulatively, since the monsoon hit on June 24, 170 incidents of cloudburst or land sliding have been reported and 9,600 houses have been damaged in Himachal Pradesh. Chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has stated that the losses from the combined floods of 2023 have been as high as 10,000 crore rupees, and the damaged infrastructure would take a year to repair.

Following are the highlights -

- 170 cloudbursts and landslides are registered
- Districts affected – Mandi and Kullu.
- A loss of INR. 10,000 crores have been estimated by state government
- 330 human lives lost; 100 people injured; and 38 missing reported
- More than 70,000 people including locals & tourists are rescued
- Approx. 1495 houses fully damaged; 8433 houses partially damaged; 279 shops, 3364 cowsheds, 620 school building damaged
- 15867 animals & birds affected
- 40175 hect agriculture and horticulture crops area affected
- Financial assistance of INR. 1 lakh to affected families
- INR. 180.40 Crores released as central share of state disaster response (SDRF) funds on July 21, 2023
- Hospitals were advised to be in readiness
- Issued an advisory to citizens asking them to avoid unessential travel to landslides and rockslides prone areas
- Central government has team to assess to flood damages in the state
- Government of India is providing all necessary logistics and financial assistance
- Revisions in the relief manual for emergency aid

- Restoration of roads, bridges, power, and water supply are the priority. Will take a year to rebuild the infrastructure collapsed or destroyed by flood
- The World Bank offered support for a comprehensive assessment of damage in collaboration with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

### Situation Overview- August, 2023

Continuous heavy rains in the month of August, 2023 has resulted in caving in of roads, building collapse, landslides and increase in water levels in the rivers and streams. Local weather department issued an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall on 12th - 13th August and a yellow warning of heavy rain on 14th August, 2023.

- 38 Landslide incidents and 06 Cloud burst incidents have been reported
- A major landslide occurred in the Nalagarh area of Solan district
- Another major landslide struck in the Krishna Nagar locality, summer Hill area in Shimla district
- 72 persons have died, 15 persons got injured, 12 persons are still missing.
- Most fatalities at 23 and 19 from Mandi and Shimla district
- First time about 50 people died in a single day
- 2131 persons have been evacuated/rescued safely
- 539 people shifted to relief camps in Indora and Fatehpur areas of Kangra district
- Around 250 families are kept in community centers of Krishnanagar
- More than 1100 people were evacuated from low lying villages in Kangra district using helicopters, airlifted, motor boats, etc.
- 27 houses / cow sheds damaged and 16 animal deaths reported
- 100 of villages of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab located along Beas and Satluj rivers likely to be inundated due to opening of Bhakra and Pong dams and would remain open for next 4-5 day
- For 16th August, red alert of heavy to very heavy rain issued by IMD
- Infrastructure damages (roads, temples, houses, Nalagarh fort building, power, etc)
- Around 400 of the 1,220 blocked roads have been restored including the Shimla-Kalka National Highway and Shimla–Mataur road; Mandi–Kullu National Highway, Shimla-Kalka National Highway
- Water level of the Suketi Khadd Rivulet is very high
- Flood-like situation continued to prevail in the Balh Valley
- All educational institutions are closed
- Prompt rescue efforts by NDRF, SDRF, state police, ITBP, and the Army
- Restoration work has begun and around 90% of the roads are opened
- Lack of structural designing in the state

- Indian Army columns deployed for flood relief operations in Shimla, Fatehpur and Indora areas of Kangra
- Restoration work is being undertaken by BRO, NDRF, ITBP, ARMY, PWD and local administration

In the month of August 2023, torrential rainfall in the Himachal Pradesh due to a cloudburst followed by incidents of landslides and flash flood disrupted the day-to-day living of the people of this state. Consequently, 330 lives were lost, 38 people went missing and hundreds were injured, till August 2023. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert on 20th August 2023 for six districts and yellow alert for rest of regions. IMD also predicted heavy rainfall in isolated places of the districts of Kangra, Chamba, Bilaspur, Sirmour, and Mandi on 23rd and 24th August, 2023.

743 roads are blocked, including the Manali-Chandigarh national highway at Mandi and the Shimla-Chandigarh highway at Shoghi. The Chakki bridge in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra collapsed due to heavy rains on Saturday, disrupting train services. The landslides washed out several roads, including the Himalayan Expressway, and sections of the Kalka–Shimla Railway. The additional floods and landslides killed a total of 71 people.<sup>[7]</sup> A massive landslide destroyed roads and buildings in the city of Shimla.

The Doctors For You (DFY) team have also conducted assessments in flood-hit and landslide-affected areas of Mandi and Kullu Districts and monitored the situation in close coordination with the government and civil societies of Himachal Pradesh. Disaster/ Flood Management & Response are Core DFY competencies; thus, plan to assess and advise on required intervention with specific emphasis on health.



Based on damage reported DFY team finds the situation remains critical, and several areas still need help and assistance. Therefore, Doctors for You proposed and requested support from the funding agency to take measures

for disaster relief for the affected regions of Himachal Pradesh by distributing relief kits, deploying a medical team to contain the spread of disease in the flood-affected areas, and strengthening the capacity of government to conduct search and rescue operations.

### **III. PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND LOCATION**

Doctors For You is reaching out to the mountainous regions of Mandi and Kullu valleys targeting the far flung villages. Program intervention will be in a phased manner to cover the mostly affected areas of these districts.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Proposed Program Goal:**

To reduce the vulnerabilities of disaster-affected people through the distribution of WASH (Hygiene) Kits, Tarpaulin Kits, Mosquito Nets and organizing Health Camps and Awareness activities in Districts of Mandi and Kullu of Himachal Pradesh.

### **Proposed Program Activity:**

- A. Recruiting and deploying team at the project operation site.
- B. Orientation of the team on working in emergency response and relief distribution
- C. Coordinating with the Gram Panchayats of the disaster-affected villages
- D. Assessing the situation with the help of community mobilizers
- E. Surveying the area to prepare a list of people in need of relief materials. Household selection criteria's were based on the vulnerability parameters (such as observational view of the damage caused by the flood, no. of elderly people in the house, no. of Children below 5 years, recent death, single spouse, no. of differently abled person, any person with terminal illness in the family, etc.). Support from Gram Panchayat was also taken to select household/beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries line list recorded basic information, number of any valid Government ID such as Aadhar Card or Election ID, etc. of the beneficiary.

- F. Designating a location for the distribution of relief materials.
- G. Distributing the relief material and confirming the receiving of relief material with signatures or thumb impressions on the kits distribution paper
- H. Sensitizing people on the WASH, disaster management & Evacuation, Readiness & Preparedness for disaster, etc.

## REFERENCES

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