



## SITUATION REPORT BIHAR FLOODS 2008

### OVERALL SITUATION

- On 18 August, a major breach (about 2 km in length) in the eastern embankment of Kosi River in Kusha (Indo-Nepal border) occurred. About 1,29,800 cusec water was discharged through the breach inundating hundreds of villages in **north Bihar districts** of Supaul, Araria, Madhepura and Purnea.
- Due to this huge breach in the embankment, the Kosi River has changed its course and is now flowing through areas that have not experienced major floods in recent past. Since the affected areas are not traditionally flood-prone, people as well as the local administration were not adequately prepared to deal with floods.
- Overall, more than **1.4 million people** in 13 districts of Bihar are flood affected. More than 225,000 houses have been destroyed.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts scattered to fairly widespread rainfall activity over north-eastern States, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim and Bihar during next 4-5 days.
- UNICEF and UNDP are assisting the local governments with relief efforts and coordination. UNICEF is planning a larger intervention in Bihar.

### FLOOD FORECAST

**Flood forecast by Central Water Commission:**

Moderate Flood Situation: Site where water level is touching danger level but below High Flood Situation.												
S No.	Site Name	River Name	District	State	Warning Level (m)	Danger Level (m)	Actual Water Level(m)	Difference (AL-DL)	Forecast			
									Level (m)	Date	Time	Trend
1	Khagaria	Burhi Gandak	Khagaria	Bihar	35.58	36.58	37.75	1.17	37.70	27/08/2008	06:00 AM	Falling
2	Kursela	Kosi	Katihar	Bihar	29	30	30.89	0.89	30.89	27/08/2008	06:00 AM	Falling
Low Flood Situation : Sites where water level is touching or exceeding warning level but below Moderate Flood Situation.												
3	Benibad	Bagmati	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	47.68	48.68	48.56	0.88	48.62	27/08/2008	06:00 AM	Steady
4	Dhengraghat	Mahananda	Purnia	Bihar	34.65	35.65	35.16	0.51	35.25	27/08/2008	06:00 AM	Steady
5	Jhawa	Mahananda	Katihar	Bihar	30.4	31.4	31.02	0.62	31.15	26/08/2008	10:00 PM	Rising
6	Patna (Dighaghat)	Ganga	Patna	Bihar	49.45	50.45	50.27	0.82	50.20	27/08/2008	08:00 AM	Falling
7	Rosera	Burhi Gandak	Samastipur	Bihar	41.63	42.63	41.92	0.29	41.66	27/08/2008	10:00 AM	Falling

#### Abbreviations:

**AL = Actual Level**

**DL = Danger Level**

**NWL = Normal Water Level**



## DISTRICT MAP OF FLOOD AFFECTED BIHAR



## DAMAGE DETAILS

Floods Damage details (as on 25th Aug - 2008)				
Activities	Supaul	Madhepura	Araria	Total
Affected Details				
No of Blocks Affected	5	7	4	16
No of Panchayats Affected	73	64	31	168
No of Villages Affected	243	150	48	441
Population Affected	893790	150000	62000	1105790
No of Families Affected	178758	30000	12400	221158
Area Affected (in Ha)	30177	23403	9879	63459
Casualties				
No of Human Death	0	2	0	2
No of Cattle Death	0	0	0	0
Name of the Affected Blocks				
Name of the affected Blocks	Basantpur, Pratapganj, Radhopur, Chhatapur, Triveniganj	Shankarpur, Kumarkhand, Singheswar, Alamnagar, Murliganj, Bihariganj, Gwalpara	Narparganj, Bhargawna, Farbishganj, Raniganj(west)	



- **Road linkages**, water and electricity supply in the affected districts is badly disrupted. Railway tracks at several places have also been submerged under water.
- Due to the continued flow of water from the breached embankment, **displaced people** will not be able to go back to their original locations for at least another two to three months. The water will not recede till the embankment is repaired. Until then, people will have to stay in the relief camps.
- Most of the displaced population who are staying in the open do not have adequate temporary **shelter material** and have to make do with sheets, *saris*, etc. Very few people have their own plastic sheets.
- For the last three to four days, the weather has been **very hot** and that has aggravated the suffering of the displaced population further, especially those of children, pregnant and lactating women and the aged.
- General **hygiene conditions** in the camps are very poor. Toilets in the camps (mostly in schools) are insufficient and people are going for open defecation. This poses a great risk of water and vector borne **diseases**. A few cases of fever and diarrhoea have already been reported which has the potential to increase, given the scorching heat, unsafe water and poor environment conditions.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Relief Camps				
No of Relief Camps opened	13	37	28	78
No of Health Centers functioning	13	37	4	54
No of Veterinary Centers functioning	13	37	5	55
Air Dropping (3 Helicopters-40 Sorties)				
No of Food Packets Air Dropped	8840	6250	1450	16540
Quantity of Relief Materials Air Dropped	Chura-49620 Kg.. Sattu-16540Kg, Salt-8270Kg, Gur-8270Kg.			
Relief Distribution				
No of Polythene Distributed	5830	2000	1225	9055
Resources used				
No of Boats in use	86	54	10	150
No of Motor boats in use	28	21	4	53
No of NDRF Jawans Deployed	128	72	35	235

- The main focus for the local administration is to provide **food packets** to the stranded and displaced population. They are confident of meeting the food requirement of the displaced population with the help of local traders association, youth groups and NGOs.
- The government agencies are reviewing the **water availability** in all camps.
- **Food and Nutrition** - The state government is air dropping food packets in inundated villages. In many relief camps, the host population (youth groups, traders associations) and local NGOs are providing a combination of both cooked food and ready to eat material. There is no special provision for pregnant and lactating mothers or for infants.
- **Water and Sanitation** - In most of the relief camps, drinking water is available through hand pumps which are insufficient given the scale of the displaced population. Those who are staying along the canal / river tributaries are using the river water.
- **Health** - In some of the accessible relief camps and other locations, essential medicines have been sent by government but there are very few doctors available in these locations.



## UN RESPONSE

### **UNICEF:**

- Pre-positioned supplies of essential items are being distributed in flood affected areas of Bihar.
- UNICEF continues to be on alert, and maintains close monitoring and assessing of the situation along with the Government and NGO partners.
- UNICEF considers the flood situation in Bihar grim. UNICEF is upscaling its intervention to fulfill the needs of the flood affected population especially women and children.

### **UNDP:**

- UNDP personnel deployed at the State Level have been supporting the nodal department in flood coordination and information management. The District Project Officer under the UNDP-GOI Disaster Risk Management Programme has been supporting the district administration in coordinating relief activities in flood affected areas.
- Around 150 volunteers trained under the UNDP-GOI DRM programme have been engaged at the relief centers and in rescue and evacuation in Supaul district.

## SOURCES & CONTACT DETAILS

### **Sources:**

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Central Water Commission (CWC)
- NDM Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Indian Red Cross Society
- UNICEF Briefing Note No. 8

### **For Further Information contact:**

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