

Humanitarian Health Response

To Flood Affected Communities of

Gorakhpur District, U.P

7th – 9th August 08 (1st Phase)

Joint Effort



Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur

&

Sahara Mobile Health Unit, Gorakhpur

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Background of Flood Situation in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

The Situation was grim in 5 districts of **Eastern Uttar Pradesh** – Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Kushinagar & SantKabir Nagar following incessant rainfall. The rivers of Gorakhpur & Basti Mandal, Kuwano, Rohini, Ghaghra & Rapti have created a great loss in all sectors of development. Livelihood, Agriculture, Schools, Roads, Houses, Education all have been affected.

According to the information received from flood control department of the district **Gorakhpur** and Our Vasudeva volunteer's Total affected Village-721 in which 324 villages were totally marooned, total affected population was 506505 out of this 256034 from marooned villages. 686 Boats were deployed for relief and rescue. Most affected five tehsils were – Camperganj, Sahjanwa, Khajani, Bansgaon, Chauri-Chaura & Gola. **29.20 lakh hectare cropped** was damaged, the estimated value of **damaged crop is Rs.1330.15 lakh**. Number of damaged houses were **fully 319, Partially 3589** and **huts 4436**, the estimated value of damaged houses was Rs. 718.94 lakh.

Health Challenges Emerged Due to Flood

The inflow of patients in medical college is increasing. Due to severe flood in Gorakhpur & its neighbour districts, patients are unable to reach the Medical Colleges for treatment. In marooned villages several children were reported to be suffering with encephalitis and they are lying there untreated under the mercy of God.



With two more deaths on Tuesday, the total deaths due to encephalitis reached to 128 in the current disease season in Gorakhpur division. Total 621 patients suffering from encephalitis were admitted to the encephalitis ward of Nehru Chikitalaya attached with BRD Medical College here on Tuesday.

According to reports, 140 patients of encephalitis are still under treatment at BRD Medical College and 10 in the district hospital. Till Wednesday, total 621 patients suffering from suspected encephalitis were admitted to Medical College and district hospitals for treatment out of which 128 died.

Planning Process

As per the worsening health situation, due to continuous rains and flood, it was decided in a meeting called by District Administration, Gorakhpur that Govt. and NGOs shall provide health flood relief jointly.

The C.M.O Gorakhpur and Unicef assisted by PGVS called an emergency meeting of all Health Inspectors (HI) of all blocks of Gorakhpur regarding dusting in flood

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affected villages. A program was chalked down in this regard and it was decided that during health camps VASUDEVA Volunteers of PGVS, Team of MHU-Sahara and Officials of Govt. Health Departments will also provide helping hand in execution of program.

The whole program was thus finalized by a team and then discussed with D.M, C.M.O and other important officers. The first phase started on 7th August & should continued up to 9th August,08 introducing ten mobile vans. D.M., C.M.O, Representative of Unicef agreed to FLAGGED OFF the mobile vans equipped with doctor, Pharmacist and other staff with medicines from RASHTRIYA SAHARA COMPLEX Gorakhpur.

Objective

- The health risk of water and vector-borne epidemics in vulnerable flood-affected Communities has been minimized by preventive and curative support.
- Making the common people aware about do's and don'ts for maintaining health and hygiene in pre, during and post flood times through meetings and IEC materials publications.

Area Selected for Health Camp

According to the reports and information received from various Government Departments, VASUDEVA Volunteers, Field Visits, Media and Various Partner NGOs on URS Common Rapid Assessment format, we have selected 7 blocks Sahjanwa, Kauriram, Piprauli, Khajani, Camperganj, Jungle Kaudiya and Khorabar. In these blocks we have identified 24 cluster village covers approx 150 villages with the help of our local Program Operating Partners and VASUDEVA Volunteers.

Support of Sahara Mobile Health Unit (MHU)

The MHU worked in 9 blocks of Gorakhpur district on regular basis, but considering the gravity of situation and short duration the MHU decided to reach out to those areas as well as where the flood situation was grim and medical attention was urgently required. 10 Van with 10 Doctors, 10 Pharmacists and Medicines.

Support from Unicef & Govt. Health Departments

Unicef & District Health Departments give the support Chlorine tablets and Bleaching Powder and provide guidance of Health Inspectors in the process of dusting in flood affected villages. Cheque of Rs.5000/- was distributed to Gram Pradhans of flood affected villages through District Health Departments to reduce the vulnerability of water born diseases.



Relief Work

Medical relief was to be provided to the flood affected villagers. Altogether 4524 patient from 108 villages covering all seven blocks were seen and given medicine for various ailments.

A detailed statistical output of Flood Relief Operation is given as under:

S. NO.	Block	NO. OF PATIENT		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Camperganj	601	416	1017
2	Kauriram	269	180	449
3	Khajani	214	329	543
4	Khorabar	438	674	1112
5	Piprauli	239	299	538
6	Sahjanwa	244	270	514
7	Jungle kaudiya	144	207	351
	GRAND TOTAL	2149	2373	4524

- On the first day 07-08-08 the no of patient were 1310,
- On the second day 08-08-08 the no of patient were 1672, &
- On the final day 09-08-08 the no of patient were 1542.

Total population covered was 2.5 lakh approximately out of which 4524 beneficiary were provided medical care. The age wise categorization of patient is as follows:

0-5 Yrs		05- 15 Yrs		15 & above	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
269	297	806	891	1074	1185

During the flood relief operation 24 cases of fever were examined for malaria by making Blood Smear Test and Chloroquin tablets were distributed.

The chlorine tablets were distributed in small packets containing 15 tablets in each, for disinfection of drinking water and it was advised to villagers take only chlorinated water. With the help of VASUDEVA Volunteers we have bleached the 38 hand pumps.

All 47 VASUDEVA Volunteers, 4 Partner NGOs, PGVS Staffs with nine vehicles were involved in the flood relief operation and stand by van was also allotted with the supervisory work. On contrary all the ten MHU vans were involved in the operation.

On the whole 17 PGVS Staff with thirty five MHU staff were conducting the given duties in their personal capacity with respect to flood relief operation.

Partner Organizations Involved

S.No	Organization	Key Person
1.	Saraswati Devi Shiksha Samiti	Dr.K.N.Singh
2.	Shohratgarh Environmental Society	Dr.B.C.Srivastava
3.	Panmati Devi Shiksha Samiti	Mr.S.B.Singh
4.	Rudra Dheraj	Mr.I.P.N.Singh

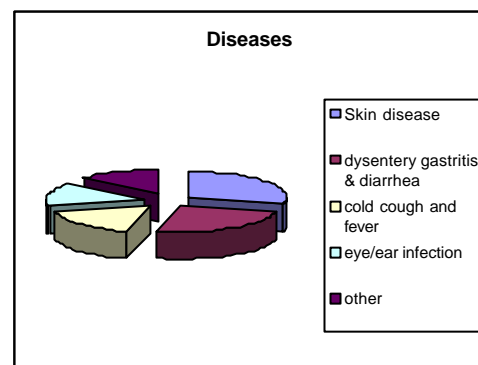


PGVS - Team Members

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Sri. Ram Naval Tripathi	Joint Secretary
2	Sri. Sribhagwat Singh	Treasurer
3	Mr. Gautam Gupta	Manager, Emergency & Humanitarian Response
4	Mr. Pradeep Viswakarma	Health Program Officer
5	Mr. Shyam Prakash Singh	Disaster Mgmt, Project Officer
6	Mrs. Reshma	Public Health Promoter
7	Mr. Abhay Pratap Mall	IT Officer

Disease Trend

Out of the total patient examined **29%** were infected by **skin disease**, **25%** were infected by **dysentery gastritis & diarrhea**, **17%** were infected by **cold cough and fever**, **15%** were infected by **eye/ear infection** & **14%** were infected by **other** category of disease. Such was the disease trend of all 4524 patient.



Constrains

1. Tampered way was a great obstacle in the program
2. In accessibility of some locations due to heavy rainfall was a problem for the team.

Learning

1. Timely medical relief during flood is equally important, as in the case in the post flood period when the water recedes.
2. Action in isolation would have been an uphill task; willing co-operation of corporate sector was handy in reaching the medical relief to the flood affected victims.
3. It is always good to take district administration into confidence before initiating any such action.

Recommendation

- It is recommended to give utmost attention to the medical aspect in the post flood situation. Secondary effects in the aftermath of flood far outweigh the immediate effects, which are characterized by the emergence of communicable diseases and water borne infections.
- Medical aspect of flood relief in the post flood period should be adequately backed up by proper and adequate health education.



Photo Gallery



Photographs detail:

1. Packaging of Bleaching & Chlorine tablets in small packets with the help of Vasudeva Volunteers.
2. Hand pump bleaching
3. Doctors examine flood affected peoples in health camps.
4. Distribution of medicines through mobile vans.
5. Raised Hand pump in flood affected village.
6. Women and children in Health Camps.

