

## QUICK FLOOD ASSESSMENT Barabanki – Uttar Pradesh

**Assessment Period: August 5, 2011**

### Rapid Assessment Team:

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### Summary information

#### Background:

Uttar Pradesh is facing flood situation spreading across 12 districts Barabanki and Gonda districts being the worst affected. Other affected districts include Bahraich, Pilibhit, Lakhim Khiri, Deoria, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sitapur, Siddharth Nagar, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Azamgarh, Basti and Unnao district. In 8 districts (Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Basti, Barabanki, Gonda, Lakhimpuri Kheri, Siddharthnagar and Sitapur) approximately 5 lakh people are affected.



Major rivers of Uttar Pradesh Ganga, Ghaghra, Rapti, Rohini, and Kuano flowing above the danger mark. People affected by floods have taken shelter on rooftops, where water levels are high they have shifted to embankments and many others are migrating to other places. Losses include collapsed mud houses and damages of agricultural crop i.e pearl millet, maize and rice. On 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2011 at 2:35 pm at 11.45 th Km from Sanjay Setu Jarwal Road on embankment in lower stream of Ghaghra river – Elgin Bridge- Charsadi embankment breached due to pressure on it at least 4 villages surrounded the location have lost their mark.



#### Location: Affected Population and areas:

##### Barabanki:

**Total 4 villages in Pure Delai Block** are severely affected by the floods. **Approximately 1718 families** and 13500 no of people affected by the current flood. District administration has evacuated 1296 families from the marooned villages and the families are shifted to different areas , like road side of gorasinghpur and many people still living on the embankment area with temporary arrangement and also some families moved to raipur embankment area , also is distributing cooked food items in the affected areas.



#### Access:

**Logistics** There are road access to majority of the affected areas and villages. There are however, certain villages developed as islands and certain isolated hamlets marooned in water

affected by the disaster, where road connectivity is difficult. Currently government is using boats to distribute relief items (largely cooked food and medicine) in these villages and hamlets. Trucks carrying relief goods would have access to most villages. But for certain villages and hamlets provision of boats would be required.

### **Shelter:**

Since the water is yet to recede and villages are not approachable at present; information on the number of houses and types of damages to these houses are not known exactly. Districts are in the process of collecting data through Block Development Offices in the affected area.



It was informed by the people taking shelter on the embankments that all the kutchha / thatched houses got washed away as the force of water was very heavy.

The families those have left their villages with whatever little they could carry have taken shelter on the embankments at different locations and also some of the families from affected villages have shifted to nearby villages.



Government has distributed tarpaulin sheets supplied by UNICEF to the affected families. Most of the families are using old tarpaulins/ polythene sheets available with them. Oxfam tarpaulin sheets distributed during 2007 floods were also being used by the people living on the embankments .

One of the major concerns is that the currently used tarpaulins and polythene sheets will not be enough to protect the affected families against the approaching winter.

### **Water and Sanitation:**

People depend on the hand pumps during normal times for drinking waters; almost all the hand pumps in the area are shallow tube wells. The hand pumps in these villages are submerged. The functional condition of these hand pumps will be known once the water recedes completely from these villages. Barabanki, administration has installed 15 hand pumps, though they are dug shallow and hence, not in a condition to be used.



District administration is distributing drinking water pouches and each of these pouches is of 200ml. The water pouches are given along with the food packets. The quantity of drinking water in pouches received by each person is not sufficient and for which people have to fetch water from other sources available in the nearby villages.

District administration has installed hand pumps on the embankments where people have taken shelter. The team checked the water from two newly installed hand pumps; the water has bad odour and non consumable. These hand pumps are mostly used for the bathing and cleaning purposes. Where ever possible people fetching drinking water from nearby villages else are forced to drink water from these newly installed hand pumps.



Open defecation is a common practice in the areas affected by floods. During normal times people use to go to a distance in the fields. In the absence of the liberty to go to a distance, people are defecating near the tents on the embankments. In the partially affected villages

people are using whatever little open/high land available for defecation very close to their houses. This also imposes threat of outbreak of epidemic in future in the affected areas.

Hygiene practices like hand washing, personal hygiene especially among women and children are not feasible due to the flooding situation. During menstrual period women and adolescent girls face major problem in terms of privacy and maintaining personal hygiene. They are using their old clothes etc. for the menstruation cycle and facing enormous difficulty in cleaning themselves as well as the clothes for the reuse for their Menstruation. Women have to wait till it gets dark and some of the women staying on the embankments are not eating properly to avoid defecation. Also women and adolescent girls are forced to take bath before the dawn. Even for changing attire they have to wait for everybody to go out of the tent or they use the little space in back side of their own tent. There are women who are not taking bath for last 2 to 3 days due to the problem.

### **Government response:**

Water pouches of 200ml are being distributed in the affected areas day before yesterday. The quantity of water is not sufficient and also not reaching to everybody.

District administration is distributing drinking water through tankers in the camps.

District administrations are distributing 15 liter buckets supplied by UNICEF.

### **Health:**

There has been no information on the outbreak of epidemics from the affected areas of districts so far. In fact the present water, sanitation and hygiene conditions may lead to outbreak of epidemic in the affected areas. Looking in to the current situation of the submerged villages it will take minimum of 2 months for water to recede and further chances of outbreak of diseases will increase owing growth of bacteria and huge amount of filth and waste materials lying the villages.

As informed by district officials. The local administration has started health Check up camps in affected areas and regularly monitoring the situation in the district. Mobile health units along with doctors and paramedics have been deployed in the affected areas. During the interaction with the community it was observed that the health team has not reached the area at proper time and with insufficient stock of medicine. The major challenge is non availability of female doctors as women feel uncomfortable in discussing their health related issues with male doctors.

### **Food & Nutrition:**

Food grains stored in the affected villages have been either damaged or washed away by the heavy water flows as there was no time for villagers to shift the stored grains to safe place, At present they have very limited food stocks, may be after 15-20 days there will serve shortage for food and other basic needs , therefore depending heavily on the government relief supplies.

### **Impact on livelihoods and livestock:**

Most of the affected families dependent on daily wages and agricultural laborers are jobless and surviving on the government relief supplies.

Standing crop such as rice, sugarcane and maize are damaged and agriculture field in the affected areas are covered under water.

The problems pertaining to food, health and hygiene will be acute in coming days especially for the people residing in the marooned villages as the 1st phase of relief distribution of cooked food items by district administration is going end after 5nd of August 2011.

To understand the situation, especially the impact of this flood on the livelihoods of the affected population there is need of a very specific detailed assessment of livelihoods.

There is no information available with the agencies on the death of livestock's. From the discussion with the government officials it was quite evident that till now government has no plan to start vaccination of animals and to deal with the acute shortage of fodder in the affected areas.

### **Government Response:**

Cooked food items were distributed in the affected areas by the local authorities starting from 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 It was informed by local authorities that the cooked food items will not be distributed from 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011 evening onwards in Barabanki districts .

Apart from cooked food items government is also distributing dry food item such as puffed rice, flatten rice, jaggery and fried horse grams.

As informed by people though the cooked food items are fine in terms of quantity, there are problem in the distribution system and timing which is adding to their sufferings.

### **Government Response:**

<b>Govt. Compensations and relief in Barabanki district: Sl.no</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
1	Fully collapsed houses	Not clear
2	Partially damaged houses	Not clear
3	All affected families	Rice 20 kgs, Kerosene Oil 3 liters, Dal 1 Kg, Match box, salt 1 kg to each family
4.	Tarpaulin sheets	To each affected family
5	Buckets	To each affected family

### **Recommendations:**

- Details WASH related assessment by technical experts to keep a tab on the current situation and also to understand the probability of occurrence of major disease outbreak in these areas.
- Provisioning of contingency stock of Aqua tabs needs to be ensured
- Food and fodder for long term ,
- Proper mobile medical team with female doctors with adequate medicine and continuous follow-up should be ensured for long term.
- As in the current environment, controlling open defecation in the water logged areas may not be possible and the water being made available by the govt. departments is not adequate, urgent steps are necessary to ensure that the people don't end up drinking contaminated water. For this, immediately making available chlorine tablets (Aquatabs

etc.) is necessary, along with steps to make people aware of the danger of drinking the flood water (through local volunteers etc).

- Media Advocacy

**Source of Information:**

- Self Observation
- District Administration
- Community meeting
- Interaction with PRI members and Pradhan

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