



# Bihar

## Floods 2020

### Situation Report #1



#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Highlights:

- The current flooding of north Bihar is an outcome of extreme rainfall. Bihar has received 50 percentage of excess rainfall (Normal rainfall 460.3 mm; Actual rainfall 690.7 mm) during the period of 01 June to 26 July 2020.
- Presently 11 districts (Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Supaul, Kishanganj, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, East Champaran, West Champaran, Khagaria and Saran) are affected with floods.
- Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur and E. Champaran districts are most affected
- Majority of the evacuated population is not keen to stay in the relief camps due to fear of being infected with Covid; staying on roads, railway tracks or high ground. *As per government report only 7.7 percent of the people evacuated are staying in relief camps.*
- It is being reported from the field that relief camps are mis-managed since government field functionaries are avoiding field visits fearing Covid infection.
- There is a widespread sense of fear among government field functionaries since several government officers died of Covid in the recent weeks and rapidly increasing Covid cases in Bihar.
- IMD has issued a red warning to Bihar for heavy to very heavy rainfall from 27 – 29 July; which may further aggravate the flood situation.
- As per the Disaster Management Department report so far 8 persons have died due to floods. Though the media reports claimed that the number of deaths has already crossed 30.
- Water levels in majority of river are in the rising trend and some of the rivers are flowing above the danger mark.
- UNICEF assisted in revision of Standard Operating Procedures for Flood Preparedness and Response in light of Covid pandemic.
- UNICEF has so far trained more than 746 DRR Catalysts, VDMC members and PRIs from five most flood prone districts who are supporting the community and local administration in flood preparedness as well as response.

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**2,442,725** People affected by flood in 11 Districts, 765 Gram Panchayat, 93 Blocks (Source- Daily Flood Report 27 July, Disaster Management Department, GoB)

**1,123,653** Children (estimated) affected by flood (child population of Bihar is 45.6% of the total population as per Census 2011)

**167,000** People have been evacuated and 12,858 people have taken shelter in 29 relief camps (Source- Daily Flood Report 27 July, Disaster Management Department, GoB)

**5914** Children (estimated) staying in relief camps (child population of Bihar is 45.6% of the total population as per Census 2011)

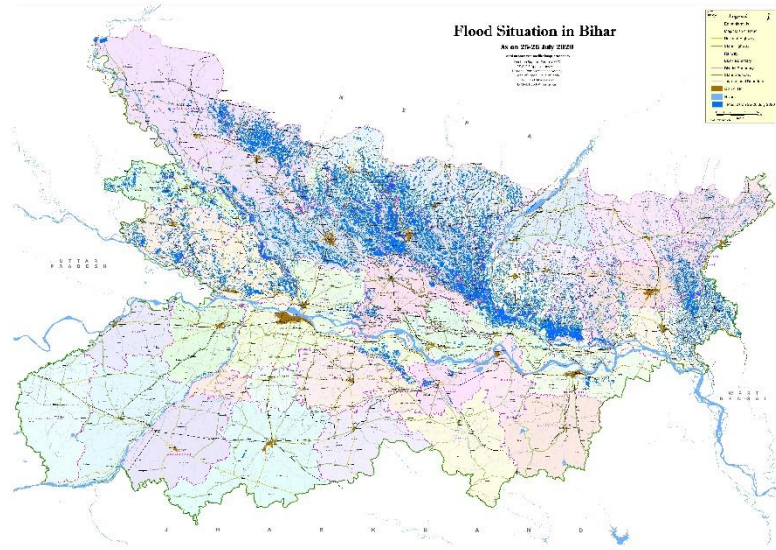
**08** people lost their life due to flooding



### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs:

Since July 11-12, several districts of Bihar have been receiving heavy to very heavy rains coupled with simultaneous heavy rains in the upper catchment areas in Nepal. This led to heavy discharge of water from Kosi barrage (all the 56 sluice gates of the Kosi barrage were opened, releasing three lakh cusecs water towards Bihar) leading to flooding in Supaul, Darbhanga and other eastern districts. Heavy rainfalls caused the rivers to swell, leading to breach in embankments at several places.

Breaching of embankments in East Champaran and Darbhanga has further aggravated the situation. Fresh areas of East Champaran have been engulfed following breach of Gandak embankment.



Rail traffic on Darbhanga -Samastipur and Muzaffarpur - Narkatiaganj rail section of East Central Railway remained suspended for four consecutive days due to overtopping of rail tracks at several places. IMD has issued red warning of heavy rainfall in catchment areas of Nepal and various rivers including Gandak , Bagmati and Kamla Balan.

Bihar has received 50% surplus rains (Normal rainfall 460.3 mm; Actual rainfall 690.7 mm) during the period 01st June to 26 July.

#### Cumulative Rainfall (period 01<sup>st</sup> June to 26 July 2020) of some of the flood affected districts:

S.N.	District	Actual Rainfall (mm)	Normal Rainfall (mm)	Departure %
1	Darbhanga	930.5	384.3	142
2	East Champaran	1018.4	483.8	111
3	Supaul	1049.4	533	97
4	Muzaffarpur	857.2	441.3	94
5	Gopalganj	834.9	433.7	93
6	Shivhar	955.7	494.5	93
7	Samastipur	799.8	426.1	88

The floods have affected more than 2.44 million people of 765 Gram Panchayats of 93 blocks in 11 districts. The flooding is not new to Bihar, but the state was taken by surprise by the amount of rainfall it received this time and its timing. It usually rains heavily in the state during August, instead of July. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told the media that the state is fully prepared to deal with the early floods. But, most of the people actually bearing the brunt were surprised and unprepared for the unprecedented amount of rains. People living in villages near embankments in Supaul district failed to understand why the water level in river Kosi rose so high in July itself, said Naresh Paswan, one of the Village Disaster Management

Committee member of a village in Supaul district. He further said “Even people in their mid-60s said they had not experienced such a phenomenon in their lifetime.

### Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination:

UNICEF is coordinating with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, respective line Departments, Bihar Inter Agency Group and district administration of Aspirational districts to understand the evolving flood scenario and possible assistance. UNICEF is facilitating weekly review meetings of Inter Agency Group for stock taking. Detailed discussion held with BSDMA on the current flood scenario and it was decided to review the flood scenario and orient the district administration in preparedness and response to floods. UNICEF would support BSDMA in orienting the district administration; two district per day would be oriented and 18 flood prone districts would be covered with the orientation. UNICEF sectors are coordinating with respective line departments to understand the situation and providing need-based support.

### Humanitarian Strategy:

BFO has identified priority needs of women and children affected by floods as part of the risk assessment and will assist state government in

delivering services to address the needs of women and children. BFO has assisted BSDMA in the Revision of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Flood Preparedness and Response revised to include Covid context and ready for use during flood response, assisted in issuance of advisory by ICDS for flood preparedness and response; developed state specific guidelines on Nutrition in Emergency and Child Protection in Emergency as well as school in a box (contextualized to Bihar) is ready with Education Department for creating Child Friendly Spaces in relief camps. An internal review meeting was held under the leadership of CFO to review the current flood scenario and BFO response strategy keeping in mind the Covid situation and other constraints. Keeping in mind the current Covid situation and travel restrictions; it was decided to do a mapping of local partners who can be engaged in response if need arises apart from deployment of the SMnet team members who are supporting district administration in flood response.

*fms*  
Bihar

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
GOVT. OF BIHAR  
WEB EDITION

DAILY FLOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN 6:30 P.M									
Hydrologic status for the River Basins in North Bihar									
BASIN NAME	Water Level (m) Observed today at 6:00 AM							Nepal Rainfall (mm) for last 24 hours at time mentioned below.	
	District	Gauge Site	High Flood Level	Danger Level	Water Level	Trend	Status	Rain Gauge Site	Rainfall
GANDAK	East Champaran	Chatra	70.04/02	69.15	67.53	F	Below DL	Pokhara	0.60
	Gopalganj	Dumariaghat	63.70/17	62.22	63.94	F	Above DL	Arghat*	2.40
	Muzaffarpur	Rewaghat	55.41/86	54.41	55.91	F	Above DL	Makwanpur Ghat*	2.40
	Vaishali	Hajipur	50.93/48	50.32	48.74	F	Below DL	Devghat*	0.00
								Ghalekharka*	NA
								Betravati*	19.80
BURHI GANDAK	East Champaran	Lalbeglghat	67.09/75	63.20	64.42	S	Above DL	Sinra	1.00
	Muzaffarpur	Ahriwalla	61.17/75	59.62	60.05	R	Above DL	Thori*	NA
	Muzaffarpur	Sikandarpur	54.29/67	52.53	53.31	R	Above DL		
	Samastipur	Samastipur	49.38/67	46.02	46.84	R	Above DL		
	Samastipur	Rosara	48.35/67	42.63	44.37	R	Above DL		
	Khagaria	Khagaria	39.22/76	36.58	36.95	R	Above DL		
BAGMATI/ADHWARA	Sitamarhi	Dhangbidge	73.00/17	70.10	70.78	S	Above DL	Kathmandu	6.00
	Sitamarhi	Sonakhani*	70.77/14	68.80	68.89	S	Above DL	Sundarjati*	0.20
	Sheohar	Dubbadhar*	63.75	61.28	61.40	F	Above DL	Garuda*	0.00
	Sitamarhi	Kansar*	60.86	59.06	58.95	F	Below DL	Janakpur	0.20
	Muzaffarpur	Benibad	50.01/04	48.68	49.77	S	Above DL	Khokana*	NA
	Darbhanga	Hayaghat	48.96/67	45.72	47.42	R	Above DL	Sindhuli Gadi*	0.20
KAMLA	Darbhanga	Kamtul	52.96/67	50.00	51.76	S	Above DL		
	Darbhanga	Elmighat	49.52/04	46.94	48.46	R	Above DL		
	Madhubani	Jainagar*	71.35	67.75	67.70	S	Below DL	Siraha*	0.00
	Madhubani	Jhanjharpur (Rajput)*	54.50/19	50.00	50.40	F	Above DL	Chisapani Bazar*	0.20
	Madhubani	Jhanjharpur	53.11/19	50.00	49.99	F	Below DL	Titriya*	2.00
KOSI	Supaul	Basua	49.24/17	47.75	47.19	R	Below DL	Okhaldunga	8.60
	Khagaria	Baltara	36.40/67	33.85	35.89	F	Above DL	Taplejung	10.20
	Katihar	Kursela	32.10/62	30.00	30.00	R	DL	Dhankuta	0.00
								Dharan	3.90
								Jiri*	22.60
								Mulghat*	0.00
MAHANANDA	Purnia	Dhengeghat	38.20/17	35.65	36.14	S	Above DL	Biratnagar	6.10
	Katihar	Jhawa	34.07/17	31.40	31.91	F	Above DL		

District wise COVID Positive Case and AES cases				
S.N.	Districts	COVID +ve Cases	AES Positive Cases	Flood Affected Population
1	Sheohar	239	7	5,178
2	Sitamarhi	423	5	56,615
3	Kishanganj	575	0	1190
4	Darbhanga	729	0	887,702
5	Supaul	746	1	81,198
6	Gopalganj	804	0	96,483
7	Khagaria	902	0	74,360
8	E. Champaran	971	21	700,171
9	W. Champaran	1136	4	143,283
10	Saran	1273	2	75,600
11	Muzaffarpur	1795	29	320,945
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9593</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>2,442,725</b>

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response (by Government and technical assistance by UNICEF)**

UNICEF sectors have initiated coordination with counterparts to assess the situation and plan for support if needed. Preparedness to deliver technical assistance has been initiated with mapping of sectoral partnerships and available HR/ Consultants. The following provides a brief overview of initial observations related to sectoral impacts and actions initiated/planned by sectors to support government in the response to this and upcoming phases of floods:

**HEALTH:**

UNICEF supported SMNet coordinators are extending support in 11 Flood affected districts in coordination with District Magistrate and Civil Surgeon. SMNet is engaged in supportive supervision of flood relief camps and providing regular feedback to District Magistrate in evening briefing meetings. Also, support is being provided to FLW for developing the line list of Pregnant women and children less than 2 years of age. Till 27th July a total of 36,394 pregnant women and 57,507 children <2 years have been enumerated and list shared with NDRF/ SDRF teams for ensuring safe delivery of pregnant women by shifting them to safe place as per EDD.

Outreach Immunization sessions are hampered in 8 out of 11 flood affected districts. Support is being provided to develop micro-plan for special immunization campaign in flood affected areas as the water recedes.

**NUTRITION:**

As a preparedness to the flood response Nutrition cluster worked closely with DRR and facilitated developing the guidance document on 'Flood Preparedness with Covid lens' and ICDS disseminated it through a letter to districts on 12th June 2020. Considering the flood situation in the districts the Anganwadi Workers asked to prepare the line list of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) as per their earlier growth monitoring data and these children to be followed-up during home visits and if required to be referred at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) for SAM management.

The Anganwadi Workers were guided to prepare the list of nutrition at-risk pregnant women and establish linkage with ASHA and ANM for institutional delivery. The guidance emphasized on services for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers at the flood relief camp.

Considering the COVID-19 Pandemic all the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are closed now, and services are being provided through home visits by the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). The AWWs were oriented on the safety measures during the home visit for disease prevention and key messages to be delivered during their home visits. District wise Anganwadi Center affected: Muzaffarpur - 340, Gopalganj – 423 (Information received from DPO ICDS on telecon)

**WASH:**

PHED is responsible for providing drinking water and sanitation services during the flood situation. The department has issued letter to the Executive Engineers of flood affected 30 divisions on 19/06/2020 highlighting key preparedness for floods.

Executive Engineers are directed to provide sanitation facilities to all relief camps in the division, which is to be gender segregated. They are also directed to prepare for both handpumps and existing piped water schemes to provide drinking water during flood. They are to keep spare parts in case of breakdown. Also, generator sets are to be kept in case there is electricity breakdown. Tankering of water is also directed in case of need. Water tankers are available with all the PHED Divisions.



There is nodal officer nominated to quickly resolve any complaints for break down. There is provisioning for disinfection materials to be adequately made available in the camps and other areas.

UNICEF with its partners made available 8 mobile water filtration units to be utilized specially in camp setting. One such unit is being used in Sitamarhi district. This filter can do on-site treatment of the flood water making it fit for consumption.

#### EDUCATION:

A meeting was held under the leadership of Addl. Chief Secretary – Education Department and it was decided that a assessment will be carried out to estimate the damages in schools. A letter has been sent to the districts with a format to assess the extent of damages. Since schools are closed due to COVID lock down, continuous learning is happening through television and mobile application hence no additional efforts are made in the relief camps for safe learning spaces. Moreover, there is no organized relief camps, people are staying in higher places mainly in the roads.

#### CHILD PROTECTION:

As a preparedness with focus on child protection, earlier, CP cluster and DRR worked together with RedR in developing CPIE Guidelines which has been shared with the state government for the necessary action. Considering the current flood situation, DSW has been requested to convene a virtual meeting of all District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) functionaries from affected 18 districts along with the key statutory bodies like the Child Welfare Committees local NGOs and Childline Services. The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) has assured support through its Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) to support the Relief Camps and in the process of assisting the block level action groups.

A discussion has been initiated with NYKS to work with its NYCs in coordination with UNVs in the management of 'safe spaces' within camps as well as towards providing basic information about the safety and protection measures to be adopted.

Three HPDs are currently operational in most of the affected districts. A joint meeting is planned to discuss the role of the partners in supporting the district administration / DCPU in addressing issues of community vigil, prevention of gender-based violence, capacity development of local functionaries and in strengthening FTR, wherever its needed.

#### C4D:

- C4D is in consultation with sectors and DRR planning for curation and adaptation of existing material and development of new risk communication material on
  - Diarrhea management – ORS/Zinc, etc
  - Drinking water management - chlorination
  - Toilet use
  - MHM during floods
  - Cooking and feeding/eating nutritious foods
  - Breastfeeding by displaced mothers – in public places
  - Safety from lightning
  - COVID related behaviors
  - Infection Prevention and Control (under development with WASH)
  - Other safety measures during floods
  - Any IEC material for highways and road safety as most people have taken shelter on the highway
- Provision of User Guide on HOW to use the material by UNICEF

- Distribution and display of IEC material (provided by UNICEF) by BSDMA at sub-district and village level – at all public places, including emergency contact numbers
- Development and recording of PSAs for Miking in and around flood affected areas and to be used and disseminated by BSDMA and Faith Leaders
- Provision of media-plan by UNICEF for dissemination of messages through mass media and social media – newspaper, TV, radio, SMS, whatsapp (with CAP).

**CAP:**

As faith-based organizations support relief activities, CAP would organize an orientation of FBOs/FLs so they can disseminate correct messages for safety and protection with a focus on women and children, with support of sector colleagues. A few FBOs have requested UNICEF to support with provision of WASH kits.

**Challenges owing to Covid- 19 Pandemic:**

- 2.8 million Additional population due to incoming migrants in Bihar has further added to the already overburdened population; which would require addition shelter, food and other assistance
- Community is already stressed owing to on going lock down, loss of income/ employment; flood has further aggravated their condition,
- There is widespread fear of getting Covid infection among government functionaries specially the frontline officers and functionary due to alarming increase in Covid cases in Bihar and more specifically several government functionaries are tested Covid positive and many lost their lives,
- Offices of most of the development partners are still closed and people are working remotely from home; local NGO partners have lost projects and staffs since field projects are stalled. Hence, it is becoming extremely difficult to get people to work in the field to support community and district administration,
- A new set of vulnerable population owing to Covid has emerged like Corona positive people, People who are in home/ institutional quarantine, People who are in isolation facilities, People in the containment zones, Children below the age of 10 years, People above 60 years, People with Co-morbidity – they need to be treated differently
- Expected new social norms and behaviours – maintaining in the relief camps is becoming extremely difficult since government is not able to set up more number of camps due to lack of space/ infrastructure
- Many people who have been evacuated are not willing to stay in the crowded relief camps due to fear of getting Covid infected; hence have taken shelter on roads, embankments or isolated places,
- Support from outside affected areas can't be expected on the same scale as before the COVID-19 era, considering travel restriction.

**Support required from UNICEF Delhi office:**

- Revision of Floods Communication materials to include the Covid context
- Guidance notes on sectoral response keeping in mind the Covid context including technology and supply viz. Hygiene kit: may include reusable face masks, sanitizer, more soaps; No touch water points; No touch soap dispenser; New toilet designs to prevent infection etc.
- Partnerships with local organizations/ institutions to support response to community and assistance to district administration would be the only strategy looking at the current Covid situation. This will require financial support to be provided to local organizations to hire human resources.



DRR Catalysts distributing Masks to rescued community in Darbhanga district



Kosi Barrage, Birpur, Supaul district

#### Source of information:

- Daily Flood Report by Disaster Management Department, GoB
- Flood Management Information System, GoB
- IMD
- IAG and NGO Partners

#### Who to contact for further information

**M. Asadur Rahman**  
Chief Field Office  
Tel: (+91) 0612 3984600, (+91) 0612 3984702 (Direct), Mobile: (+91) 9934333916  
Email: [asrahman@unicef.org](mailto:asrahman@unicef.org)

**Nipurnh Gupta**  
Communication Specialist  
UNICEF Bihar  
Tel: +91 9771416845  
Email: [nipgupta@unicef.org](mailto:nipgupta@unicef.org)

**Banku Bihari Sarkar**  
Program me Officer – Risk and Resilience  
UNICEF Bihar  
Tel: +91-612-3984652  
E-mail: [bsarkar@unicef.org](mailto:bsarkar@unicef.org)



Embankment breaches in Gopalganj district inundating several villages