

UNICEF Bihar Floods Update # 1



Highlights

- Due to incessant rainfall the state of Bihar is experiencing flooding situation among its several river basins across 13 districts. Due to moderate to extremely heavy rainfall happened last 48 hrs in the river basins such as Narayani, Bagmati, Kamla and Koshi in the territory of Nepal and North Bihar, increased runoff has been experienced in downstream regions of the said rivers.
- Bihar has received almost 200% excess rains (received 424 mm rains against 220 mm) during the period of 01st June to 5th July 2021. There are 11 districts where the excess rains is more than 200%; West Champaran district received 1044 mm rains against 280 mm.
- The collectorate at West Champaran district also went under water after heavy rain.
- Currently, no major evacuation operation is required as water is shallow, and people are staying in the villages
- As per Water Resources Department, GoB all the embankments are safe.
- UNICEF is in constant touch with the Disaster Management Department GoB, IAG and other UN agencies

Coordinated action from State level:

- Concerned District Magistrates have been instructed to operate relief camps, community kitchen as per SOP following COVID protocols.
- NDRF and SDRF teams have been deployed along with motorboats and other lifesaving equipment to carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected districts.
- Disaster Management Department, however, is yet to issue any press statement to officially declare the impact of floods in the state and relief being provided to the affected people.
- Control room for State Health Society Bihar has been activated for floods.
- 3249 people (including 1494 children) have been evacuated and provided shelter in relief centers
- Chief Minister, Bihar made an aerial survey of flood-affected areas of West Champaran and East Champaran and reviewed the rescue and relief operations

Highlight in numbers 8th July 2021

13/38 districts affected by floods

366,000 people affected

3 lives lost and 1 house damaged

Number of Relief camps: 1

Displaced: Only 3249 people are displaced; majority are staying in the villages.

Changing Conditions:

As per the FMIS predictions, Rainfall alert for next 2 days in Nepal can impact the situation further in East Champaran, West Champaran, Saran and Vaishali.

Humanitarian Situation and Needs

- Several acres of cultivable lands and fishing ponds are submerged with flood waters, resulting in loss of crops.
- There is a clear sign that people in the affected districts are not following CAB. Even in the relief shelter where people have gathered, no one was seen using the masks.
- Need of the hour is to promote CAB, hygiene and promote COVID vaccination. The health system needs to be ready to accommodate house to house screening and referral for any COVID suspected cases.
- Routine services like VHSND, ANC, PNC, PDS and other health & nutritional services are not yet disrupted.
- Currently, situation is being closely monitored with consolidating preparedness measures already in place. Unfolding situation will indicate the need and types of humanitarian interventions required.



UNICEF Preparedness for response

- The Core Committee of the Bihar Inter Agency Group had a meeting on 8th July, which was participated by several development partners. The flood scenario was reviewed, member agencies shared their preparedness for flood response, and it was decided to conduct light Joint Rapid Need Assessment (JRNA) in the flood affected four districts (West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Purnea). The training of the JRNA team is planned on Monday and JRNA would be conducted on 13 and 14 July. The JRNA formats have been revised with the addition of Covid context and digitized (CoBocollect tool). Sphere India has agreed to provide assistance in the data analysis and report writing of JRNA.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to IAG in setting-up coordination mechanism in 10 districts
- IAG members and local networks trained on Flood preparedness with Covid context, SPHERE Standards and CCCs
- In terms of staff surge and capacity, all the UNICEF staff members, Consultants, SMnet and implementing partners have been provided training on revised CCC and emergency preparedness and response; if situation warrants, Consultants can be deployed to provide supportive supervision to districts in flood response
- 446 Surakshha Prahari (Community mobilizers) engaged in Covid response and flood preparedness in six districts are assisting community in preparing family survival kit, Covid kit, Safe keeping of important documents, mobilizing people in hard-to-reach areas for Covid vaccination before flooding
- Six partnerships covering 22 districts (3 HPDs and 3 PDs with CP) having emergency component ready to be activated
- In terms of emergency supplies, 8 mobile water treatment units and 75 customized School in a Box kit has been deployed in 5 flood prone districts with Partners and Education Department. Procurement initiated for 40 mobile water treatment units, 40 water storage tanks, tap stands, 4500 NFI kits, water testing kits for flood response
- Health team is assisting Health Department in the special Covid Vaccination drive for flood affected areas, with priority to Relief Workers, Stock-piling of medical supplies at block level in all the flood prone districts, ensure availability of sufficient ORS/Zinc at community level taking advantage of IDCF campaign in third week of July
- Communication materials developed on Covid and Floods and shared with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA). BSDMA shared the materials with District Magistrates for wider dissemination
- 4387 Aapda Mitras (Community volunteers) have been trained on search and rescue in partnership with BSDMA, more that 6500 NYKS Volunteers oriented on emergency preparedness and response as part of the Covid Young Warrior campaign.

- As preparedness measure UNICEF has supported in drafting of directives/SOP for flood response with the integration of Covid context and more than 5600 government functionaries of ICDS, Social Welfare, Health and PRIs trained on the SOP
- 2695 Jeevika functionaries and 12088 Jeevika didis from 16 flood prone districts provided training of flood preparedness and response and first-aid skills

Source of information:

- Government bulletins and Sphere India
- Media, IAG and field partners

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for further
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