

## LEH FLASH FLOODS

**Information Update : 2**

**Date: 07.08.2010**

**Prepared by: Zubin Zaman – Humanitarian Response Manager - Oxfam India and Dipankar Patnaik – Programme Officer – DRR, Lucknow**

**Summary information**

**Estimated Number of People Affected: approx. 10,000**

- Leh has been hit by flash floods since 5<sup>th</sup> (midnight) August 2010. They occurred because of a cloud burst.
- No of people dead – approximately 148 and rising; and 500 missing;
- Villages have been completely washed away
- Reports state that government building, security forces camps, communication infrastructure have been badly hit
- SETTING – Leh Town – Semi Urban, and rural
- Oxfam does not have partners in LEH. We have begun to identify local NGOs who can be potential partners in the event of a response programme.
- Oxfam is coordinating with partners in UP (nearest Oxfam pre positioned materials) for rapid deployment of emergency shelter and WASH materials to the affected site if the need arises.
- Humanitarian needs – Analysis of reports reflect that Shelter, bankets, WASH and food are most likely going to be the emerging needs.

Worst affected areas:

- Leh – old town
- Sabu Village
- Nuemo Village and
- Badgoh Village
  
- Damaged Areas: A polytechnic college, headquarters of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) camp, many government offices
- Old Leh city is worst affected, with the city's main hospital, SNM Hospital, flooded and the main bus stand flattened
- New town in Leh is safe
- Power supply to the town is disrupted

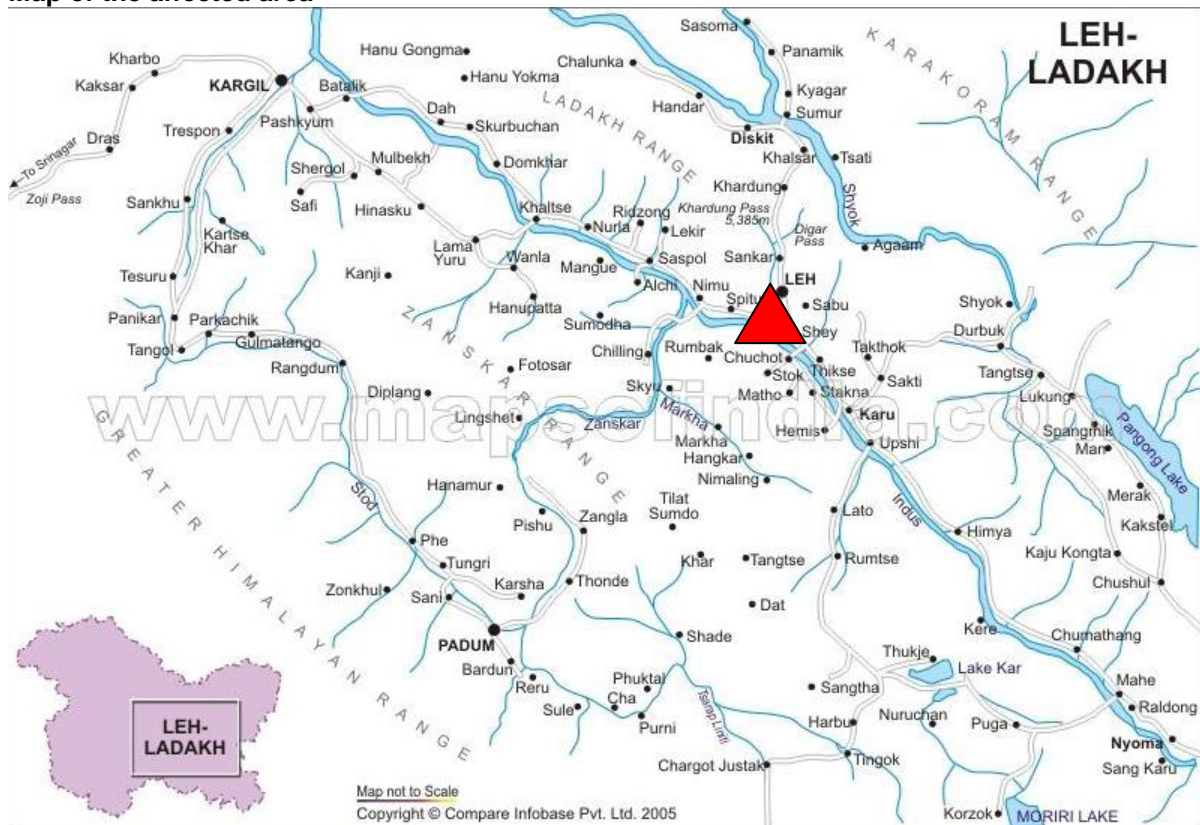
### **Government Response**

- Rescue and Relief:
- The Army's 14 Corps has mobilised 6000 engineers and infantry troops and are using helicopters for rescue.
- Over 160 injured people have been admitted to the army hospital.
- Govt has declared 1 lakh as ex gratia payment for death

### **Assessment:**

Rapid assessment team is ready to travel to Leh. However, the team was unable to travel. Flights to Leh were cancelled because of damage to the airport. Reports state that the airport would be ready for operations by Saturday evening. Roads and bridges have been washed away and road connectivity from Delhi to Leh is cut off.

**Map of the affected area**



**Logistics:**

- Getting in supplies to Leh would be a massive logistical challenge. It takes approximately 3 days for goods to reach from Delhi to Leh by road. As on the time of this report all roads are cut off to Leh.
- Hundreds of vehicles on both sides of Pandoh Dam of Mandi were stranded on Wednesday night as traffic on Manali-Leh highway came to a halt after a major landslide blocked the road between Pandoh and Hanogi.
- The city's main telephone exchange is submerged.
- All communications networks are dysfunctional with Airtel being the only service provider operational albeit with heavy network congestion.
- A bridge on the road connecting Leh to Srinagar is washed away near Nuemo Village. The Army is working to set up a bailey bridge to restore road connectivity.

**Communications:**

Website update on Monday

End of Document