

LEH FLASH FLOODS

Information Update : 3

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Summary information

Estimated Number of People Affected: approx. 10,000

- Leh has been hit by flash floods since 5th (midnight) August 2010. They occurred because of a cloud burst.
- Central Govt team visits disaster site.
- No of people dead – approximately 176 and rising; and 700 missing;
- Villages have been completely washed away. Help is yet to reach some of the isolated areas and affected villages given the inaccessible terrain of the region.
- SETTING – Leh Town – Semi Urban, and rural
- Oxfam India has secured official approvals for the humanitarian response in the Leh autonomous region.
- Oxfam has identified two partners for the Humanitarian Response – Rural Development and You (RDY) and Centre for Food Security and sustainable Development in Ladakh (CENSFood).
- The procurement of the relief materials has been initiated including 100 latrine slabs and tarpaulin sheets for approx.100 toilets.
- Kingfisher airlines – a leading airline in India is being approached to air lift Oxfam relief supplies from Delhi to Leh at no cost. Leh is still inaccessible by road.
- Humanitarian needs – Analysis of reports reflect that Winter Shelters (oncoming winter where temperatures dip to -30 degrees), blankets, WASH and food are most likely going to be the emerging needs.
- Identified areas / villages for Oxfam Humanitarian response in Leh: Choglumsar, Phyang Village, Nimoo Village, Basgo Village, Nei, Taru, Umla, Stakmo and Nang villages
- 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
- Telecommunications networks are limping back to normal with BSNL working intermittently - Power supply to the town remains disrupted even after 6 days.

Coordination:

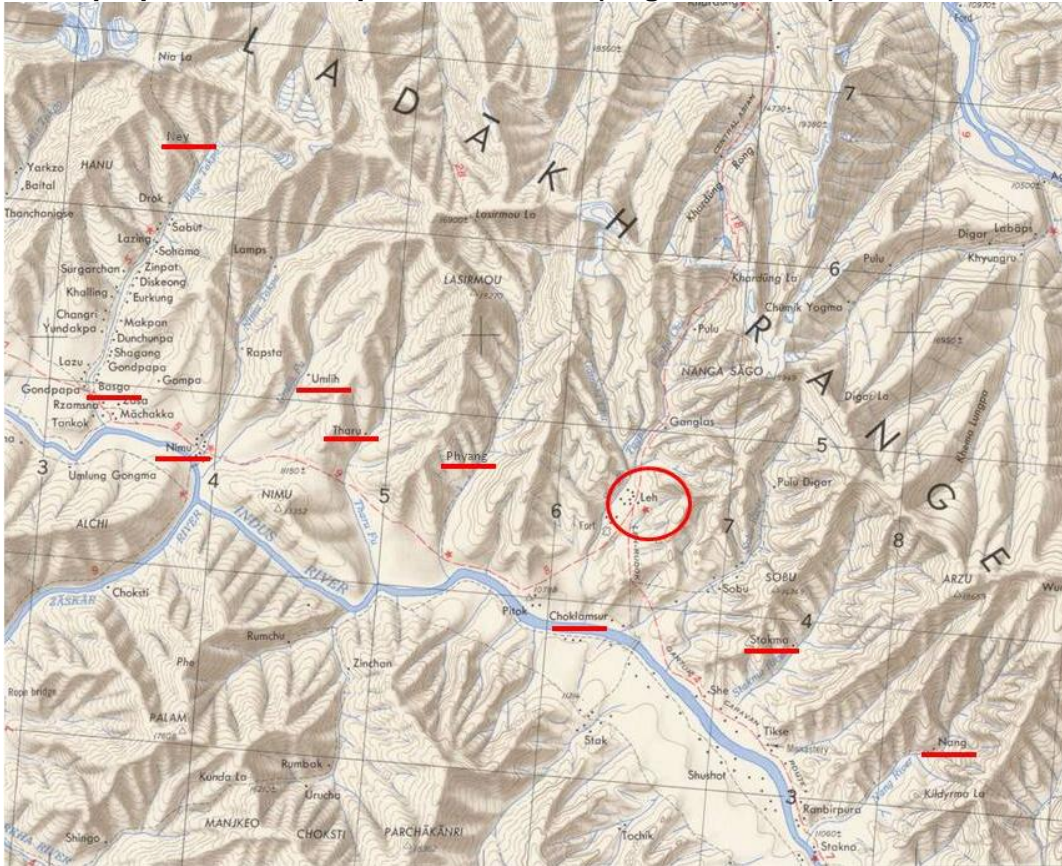
Oxfam has been attending the coordination meets of the civil society networks like Inter Agency Group (10,11 August 2010) and meeting of the relief commissioner (11 August 2010). Oxfam is coordinating with the other agencies as well as the Sphere network at the national level for information sharing and transparency. At the state level, Oxfam continues to be an active member of the coordination initiatives of the local NGOs and the Govt. Oxfam would be printing information products (posters, leaflets) for the people of Leh very shortly.

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
- Govt. has also airlifted majority of stranded tourists in the Zaskar valley and other areas.

Map of the proposed Oxfam Operational Areas (August 12, 2010)



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Assessment:

The Oxfam Team conducted a rapid assessment of the flood affected regions from 9-11 August 2010. The areas covered the villages in the affected zone and the methodology included intensive field surveys across inhospitable and inaccessible areas, short interactions with the affected, broad scale meets with the civil society networks and agencies as well as honest discussions with the govt. agencies and officials including Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development council.

A detailed WASH and Shelter assessment (with inclusive Gender Analysis) is underway in the affected geography by RedR members. The communications officer from the Delhi office is in the field to capture human emotions and develop case lets for wider advocacy / fund raising at the national and international arena.

Proposed Intervention

Oxfam India intends to reach out to approximately 2000 Households in a phased manner with need based relief support in areas of Shelter and Wash. Shelter is a key area of work and with oncoming winter it's an area where we are currently focussing on.

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