

IMMEDIATE FLOOD RESPONSE

In Flood Affected Districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh India



A report

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is our pleasure to present the compiled report of the Immediate Flood Response in the worst flood affected areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The recent floods have ravaged the overall development process and socio – economic situations of the area in monsoons of 2007. With the support of number of volunteers and agencies we were able to successfully and timely implement the activities of the immediate flood response.

We express our sincere gratitude to Dr. R. N. Singh, Physician, Dr. Surahita Karim, Physician, and the team for their great voluntary support in conducting health camps for the affected community.

Our sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Akhilesh Mishra (BAMS), Dr. A. V. Pathak, (MBBS), Dr. Shailendra, (Physician) for their voluntary support in successful conduction of health camps in the affected community.

Our special thanks are due to Mr. Raman Kumar & Mr. Sandeep Pathak for their valuable and praise worthy technical support in the process.

It is the untiring effort and cooperation of the volunteers and team of field staff of the different organizations which made the whole process a success. We express our thanks to all of them for their wonderful job.

Our special thanks are also due to OXFAM NOVIB for their timely responsiveness and support in our efforts for the affected community of the flood affected districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih

Executive Summary

The districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh are much poor on the socio – economic grounds. The region is prone to several disasters that also make it more and more vulnerable in all development sectors. The education scenario is grim and livelihood opportunities are not enough. Most of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

The current floods of year 2007 had hit different districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh worse. They have created a great loss in all sectors of development. Infrastructures, agriculture, education, health, livelihood, all have been affected and the part of state has gone years back on development grounds.

The Government & Non – Government organizations have provided relief to the affected community in form of ration, temporary shelter, toilets in some places, and medical assistance.

GEAG, with support of OXFAM has tried to address the situation and the impacts of flood havoc. GEAG has identified partners for Immediate Flood Response to be implemented in the selected most vulnerable districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh. With the help of these partner organizations that are based in different flood affected districts, GEAG successfully and timely implemented the Immediate Flood Response program for the affected communities.

Under the Immediate Flood Response program, several health camps were organized in the selected areas. Besides, relief materials have also been distributed in all locations. The relief packets composed of items as according to the needs assessed by different organizations for the local community.

In the process, GEAG got support from several other organizations and agencies that supported the process in one or other way. These include Vyapar Mandal (association of businessmen), Association of chemists & druggists, Media, administration, and local CBOs and SHGs.

The support of local community also need to be appreciated, as they actively participated in all the process since beginning. This made the efforts truly community based. They participated in rapid assessment, surveys, relief distribution, and organization of health camps etc.

There are several learning and experiences during the process that would certainly prove helpful in future strategic planning. This also leads to few points that should be noted in future planning of community based initiatives on sustainability of livelihoods in the affected communities.

The affected population had got great loss in all the sectors of development; they had lost their livelihood opportunities, their agriculture, their assets etc. The health

and education of the affected population had also been poorly affected. It is also evident that this effect shall continue for a long time.

The Government and Non – Government organizations and agencies had tried to assist the affected population in immediate response to some extent, but still they need a long term intervention so that they would not face this drastic situation in the future years. Instead, they would find themselves in some capable, resilient and strengthened position to cope with the disaster more efficiently.

The quick and timely response of OXFAM NOVIB and fast actions on approvals helped a lot in delivering relief to communities at a time when it was most needed.

This report compiles the interventions of Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group and the partner organizations that had been done in the Immediate Flood Response in several flood affected areas of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The program has been a great success in providing quick response and assistance to the affected community as it reached to them at the time when they needed it most. The overall approach behind the Immediate Flood Response was **“Those affected with disaster have a right to humanitarian assistance and right to life with dignity”**.

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## Background of floods in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

The history of flooding in Eastern UP casts a dark shadow. The ecological and social settings through which flooding takes place in Eastern UP are diverse. For generations, floods have ravaged the lives of the inhabitants of this area with unrelenting regularity every alternate year and sometimes in subsequent years. The current trends show that we are witnessing greater flood problems in eastern UP. The results of these floods have been to reverse the gains on the development front.

### UNITED NATION'S OPINION ABOUT SIX BILLION LIVES...

On 12 September 2000, Kofi Annan said that the "Day of Six Billion" challenged us all "to live up to the promise of our time to give every man, woman and child an opportunity to make the most of their abilities, in safety and in dignity."

The flood situation in Eastern UP can be divided into three categories based on the intensity of flooding: the most affected areas, the medium affected areas and the least affected areas. **The most** (highly) flood-affected (about 40% of Eastern UP) districts are Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Ballia, Kushinagar and Ghazipur. These are districts closest to the Himalayas. **The medium** affected (about 33% of Eastern UP) are Varanasi, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Deoria and Gorakhpur. **The least** flood affected districts are Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Allahabad, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra.

### BIGGEST KILLERS...

- Pre-independent India – droughts and famines
- Post-independent India – Floods, cyclones and earthquakes (account for about 98% of the injuries and deaths) – frequency has been increasing in the last ten years

UP is one of the largest states in India; it is the most populous state with a human population of over 166 million (2001 Census). Found on the foothills of the Himalayan ranges, Eastern UP lies between 23° 50' and 28° 45' North latitudes and 80° 57' and 84° 50' East longitudes. It is an area covering 23 districts. These are Kaushambi, Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharth Nagar, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Azamgarh, Mau, Ballia, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi), Mirzapur and Sonbhadra.

## Major losses due to flood

There is an increasing trend in "flood" hazards in Eastern UP. The impact of floods is manifold, viz.

- **Loss of human life and livestock:** Floods especially flash floods are known to drown people and livestock. In the floods of 2003, many goats and sheep perished in floodwater. Loss of life can be from other factors too – deaths due to snakebites, diarrhea, & other diseases. Cattle become particularly vulnerable because of loss of fodder.
- **Destruction of field crops:** This is usually due to deposition of silt in fields, erosion or water logging that comes with floods.
- **Massive erosion:** Sometimes, huge tracts of land and villages are swept away. In Ballia district, for example, one village (Bhorapura in Revthi Block) with some 150 families was completely swept away during the 2003 flood. Three other villages were destroyed in the last five years.



- **Sedimentation/silting on inhabited land.**
- **Loss of stored grains due to floodwater.**
- **Loss of fodder** for livestock, as fields are inundated or swept away, the fodder in these fields is swept away as well. Animals are left without any fodder. This has an impact on the health of animals and milk productivity.
- **Infrastructures and communication systems** are cut off. Often, floodwaters erode roads, bridges, rail lines, telephone lines, and power lines. This makes communication and transportation difficult. Schools that have been built in higher and safer grounds act as temporally shelters for affected people. This disrupts learning in these schools.
- **Loss of livelihoods:** This is manifold: the farmers lose crops in the field, while those who rely on daily labor in farms (about 25 percent of the total population in these areas) lose the source of their livelihood. At most times, the landless also rely on renting land for cultivation. When floods destroy the crops in their rented field, it compounds their problems as it leaves them heavily indebted. The situation is made grave by the fact that at the moment, the state compensates the owner of the land and not really the one who had leased it for cultivation. This means that landlords benefit from the lease as well as from the government.
- **Destruction of shelter:** Houses, particularly those made of water-soluble materials like mud and others made of grass thatch are destroyed. These are mainly the kind of structures that poor people can afford.

#### DISASTERS, LEADING TO...

- Average annual loss of human life is **4350**
- Average crop area affected annually **1.42 million hectare**
- Average number of houses damaged **2.36 million**
- Average annual loss is **2 % of the GDP**
- **Increased allocation of CRF** – post funding mechanism

#### Causes of Flooding in Eastern UP

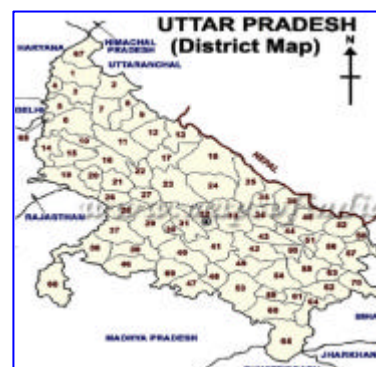
The causes of flooding in Eastern UP are many and varied. The most common causes in the recent past are:

- **Faulty Development Planning and lack of collaborative approach** at National & International level. The rivers of Nepal (Neighboring country of India in North East) get heavy rain fall and they discharge huge amounts of water in a short duration of time.
- **Massive deforestation** in the upper reaches of the rivers, especially in the Himalayan ridges where the rivers originate, accompanied by deforestation and overgrazing in the lowland plains of eastern UP.
- **Intense rains** falling over a short period of time. This has led to increased volume of water runoff and flow into the rivers. The rivers are unable to drain this massive volume of water due to the low gradient of the area.
- **Inability of river basins to cope with the huge volumes of water:** This has led to overflows and embankment breaches and hence massive rapid onset flooding has resulted sometimes at night, as was the case in Bhorapura (Ballia) in 2003 and several districts of Uttar Pradesh & Bihar in 2007.
- **The embankments** originally constructed to mitigate floods have also created a problem of water logging. The embankment creates a barrier that prevents the surface runoff from getting into the rivers. Therefore, when floods occur, it takes a lot of time to recede due to these physical barriers.
- **River drainage capacities** have reduced over time by the problems associated with silting as a result of embankment construction. The

construction of embankments has reduced the area under which the flood used to spread and deposit the silt they carry. Floods are now confined to the embankment and over time, silting has raised the riverbed. This has led to floodwater breaching the embankments.

### Geographical & climatic conditions of Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh (before division into Uttranchal) is bounded between latitudes 23° 45' and 31° 30' North and longitudes 77°0' and 85°0' east and has a geographic area of about 294 lac hectare. It is bounded by ranges of Himalayas in North and Vindhya in South with Gangetic Plains lying in between in elongated shape in west-east direction. It is divided into three regions on the basis of its physiographic:



Map showing location of Uttar Pradesh in India

The following tables describe the characteristics and the general climatic conditions of the three physiographic regions of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Table 1: Table indicating climatic conditions of UP

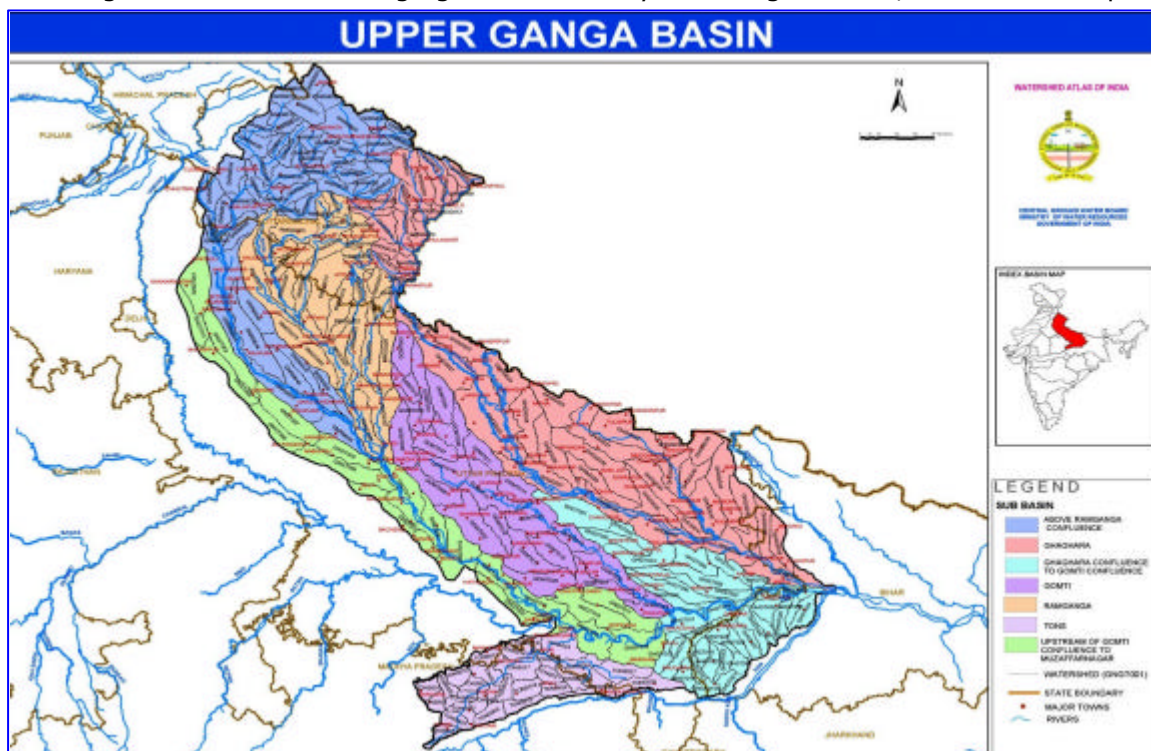
|                                                                  |                |                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tropical Monsoon Climate Marked By Three Distinct Seasons</b> | <b>SUMMER</b>  | <b>March - May:</b><br>Hot & Dry (temp rising to 45°C) Low relative humidity (20%) Dust laden winds.                          |
|                                                                  | <b>MONSOON</b> | <b>June - September:</b><br>85% of average annual rainfall of 990 mm. Fall in temperature 40-45 rainy days; Rise in humidity. |
|                                                                  | <b>WINTER</b>  | <b>October - February:</b><br>Cold weather (temp dropping to 3 to 4°C). Clear Sky. Foggy conditions in some tracts            |

### Facts of floods in Uttar Pradesh

- Out of India's total flood prone area of 346 lac ha, 73 lac ha lies in State of UP
- It has been estimated that 59 lac ha area can be protected by way of flood protection works
- Floods affect 27 lac ha area and causes average yearly loss of Rs. 432 crore to the State

## Major Flood Causing Rivers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh

The rivers of North India and particularly those flowing through Uttar Pradesh find their sources in Himalaya, in both India and Nepal. The Indian Himalaya releases the Ganga and Yamuna, while the majorities of the other rivers here emanate from Nepal and flow through the status of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and west Bengal in India and on to Bangla desh before merging with the Bay of Bengal. Thus, these rivers pass



**River basin map of Upper Ganga (major rivers – Ganga, Ghaghra, Gomti, Rapti, Gandak)**

through three countries, and anything untoward happening in one country naturally affects the other countries downstream.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh is extremely rich in water resources. The network of rivers and streams in Eastern UP is formed of three drainage systems : -

1. Ghaghra in the west,
2. Rapti and tributaries like Rohin in the centre and
3. Little & Great Gandak in the east part of the great Gangetic system.

These three main rivers have almost over a hundred tributaries. The major ones among these are Ami, Baasi, Burhi Rapti, Great Gandak, Little Gandak, Chandana, Gurra, Kanthani, Kauriyala, Kuano, Kunhara, Manorama, Mahaav, and Rohin. Most of these major and minor rivers originate in Nepal.

### River Ghaghra

The Ghaghra, also known as Sarue, origins in the southern slopes of the main Himalayan range near the border with Tibet. Flowing southward through gorges and valleys, it then crosses the Shivalik hills to enter the plains of India through the northern parts of Beheraich where the Girazapur Barrage has been constructed. In its journey through Nepal, the rivers Karnali and Bheeri join it. In India, the Ghaghra forms a natural border between Beheraich and the three districts of Sitapur,

Lakhimpur, Kheri, and Barabanki. In India, its tributaries are the Rapti, Kunao, and choti Gandak, among others.

The Ghaghra is a major tributaries of river Ganga and flows for a total length of about 1,080 km, the upper half of which lies in Nepal and the lower half in Uttar Pradesh. The Ghaghra is also called "Karnali" or "Manchu" in upper where it originates and west has its source since the Himalayan glacier about 60 km south west of Mansarovar at an elevation of 5,500 m above m.s.l in Tibet. After flowing for another 72 km in south – east direction, the river enters into Nepal territory. The river continues its serpentine course and receives the Magu, the Karnali and the Tila on its left bank. After flowing for another 25 km, below its junction with the Tila, the river takes a winding course till Chaurighat. Thereafter it takes almost a westerly course till it reaches Dundra. At this point, the river takes 'U' turn and starts flowing in south-easterly direction till it debouches into the plains of Nepal after passing through narrow gorge in Sivalik range of hills. In this reach, the river is joined by two more tributaries viz. the Sothi on right bank near Banganga and the Boric on its left near Jamu. After flowing through Nepal, it enters into India near Kattrenighat in Lakhimpur district.

As the river enters the plain, it divides into several channels, the more important of which are the "Kauriyala" and the "Girwa". Both the Kauriyala and the Girwa rejoin at Bharatpur in the Beheraich districts in UP. The river bed from this point onwards is sandy and its course is liable to abrupt changes. Near Gularia, the river receives the Sarju on its right and furthers downstream the Babai Sarju on its left. The Sharda, also known as "Chauka", the most important tributary of the Ghaghra joins the Kauriyala at Rampur Mathura in Siapur district.

After the junction with Sharda, the river is known as Ghaghra and flows in south-eastern direction. Earlier it forms the boundary between Beheraich and Gonda District. The Lower Sarju and Tirhi rivers join the Ghaghra in Gonda district on left bank. During the course through Gonda district, the river inundates a large area on its left bank piling its flood water into the river Sarju, Tirhi etc. The Tirhi joins the Ghaghra near Nawabganj, about 19 km below its junctions with Tirhi, then river flows through Ayodhya. It then forms the boundary between the Faizabad and Ballia districts.

It has total catchments area of 1,27,950 sq. km. Out of which about 44% or 55,784 sq. km in India, the major portion of 52,550 sq. km is in UP and balance in Bihar. Ghaghra basin forms about 18% of the area of UP and is major flood prone area. The most severely flood affected districts due to Ghaghra are Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Azamgarh, Mau and Ballia. This river brings enormous quantity of silt and deteriorates during flood and deposits the same in its bed. The river meanders practically in width of 6 km to 10 km through entire course in Eastern UP. This causes flooding due to spilling of banks as well as serious erosion of outfall conditions causing drainage congestion problems. Hydrological observations are carried out on this river at Katernighat, Elgin Bridge, ayodhya and Turtipar.

The upper catchments of the Ghaghra have been carved by Glacial action while that is in its middle and lower courses are influenced by the action of running water. The course of Ghaghra has been changing in the upper northern part from east to west and in the middle from north to south. It has a high peak discharge of 28,000-31,400 cusec and crosses the danger level virtually every year. In India, the erosion from Ghaghra has generally been more on the western bank, and many villages in Lakhimpur Kheri and Barabanki districts have lost land.



### River Gomti

The river Gomti has its origin near Puranpur in Pilibhit district at an elevation of 200 m at latitude 28°34'N and longitude 80°07'E. It flows in North West to south east direction through Sahajanpur, Kheri making boundary line between Hardoi and Sitapur districts, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Jaunpur and Varansi districts. It joins with the river Ganga near boundary line of Varansi and Ghazipur districts. Its left bank main tributaries are Kanta and Sarayana which meet in the middle reach. The right bank tributary is Sai which meets in the lower reaching in D/S of Jaunpur town. The total length of the river is about 540 km and it drains a total area of 30,433 sq. km from the origin to its confluence with the river Ganga.

### River Gandak

The river **Great Gandak** after originating from Nepal traverses in UP and Bihar. After construction of continuous embankments on right side from D/S of Balmiki Nagar Barrage to Chitauni, there was no problem of floods seen in district Gorakhpur but districts Maharajganj, Padrauna and Deoria (and Bihar state on right side) are affected by floods because of improper maintenance of 43 km Bihar bund which has breached many times in the past years.

Great Gandak, the third major river flowing through eastern Uttar Pradesh, also finds its source in the over 7000 mt high Dhaulagiri peaks of the Himalaya in Nepal. It enters India in Bihar at Bhainsalotan. Thereafter for 18.5 km, it forms the Nepal-Indo boundary and for the next 80 km, it makes the boundary between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where it ultimately meets with the Ganga. In its entire journey, as many as 40 small and big streams join Gandak. Gandak, with a 35,470 sq km catchment area in Nepal, 8,650 sq km in UP and 4,188 sq km in Bihar, receives an average rainfall of 1250 mm to 2000 mm.

The river **Little Gandak** is left bank tributary of river Ghaghra. It has its origin from East of Thuthibari village near Nichlaul town at border of Uttar Pradesh & Nepal.

### River Rapti

It rises from Dundwa range at an elevation of about 915 m in Nepal. After traversing about 50 km in Nepal territory it joins river Rapti near village Natwa tal in district Basti. The name of this river near village Natwa tal is locally known as Bilar. The total length of this river is approximately 152 km and total catchments area is approximately 4,080 sq km, out of which approximately 1,200 sq. km area is in Nepal. It flows roughly parallel to Rapti and in high flood it inundates a large area. Discharge of this river is measured at Kakarahi and Machurwaghat.

Rapti has meandering course and throughout its journey in both Nepal and India, it has habit of changing course and displacing people and villages. There are large numbers of lakes, ponds and other water bodies left behind to mark its changing course. These deposition and changing course characteristics of the river have resulted in huge inundation in the region during monsoons when heavy rainfall increases the flow through these rivers over their drainage capacity.

In 1945, in changing direction, it gave birth to new river, which flowed into the Gurra emanating from Ramgarh tal. This river leaves the Rapti and joins it about 53 km downstream at village Rudrapur, thus developing a kachhar. Maximum erosion by the river can be seen at Kalkalwa where in 1984, a dam was made on the river and since then it has an abandoned look. The Rapti has a discharge of 4600 cusec in summers.

and 39 cusec in winters. Comparatively, the Gurra's discharge is maximum 1700 cusec in summers, but 64.87 cusec in winters which is higher than that of the Rapti at the time.

### River Rohin

It is the most tributary of Rapti river emerging from Nepal at end elevation of 1,200 m. It is hilly river up to Nepal territory and enters in plains in UP. The total length of this river is approximately 119 km; out of which 25 km lies in Nepal and 94 km lies in UP. Its total catchments area is 2,940 sq. km; out of which approximately 1,690 sq. km lies in UP. The river meets river Rapti near Domingarh in district Gorakhpur.

### Current flood situations (Floods 2007)

The flood problem is mostly confined to the areas on the northern bank of the River Ganga. The damage is caused by the northern tributaries of the Ganga like Kosi, Gangak etc. which spill over their banks and often change their course.

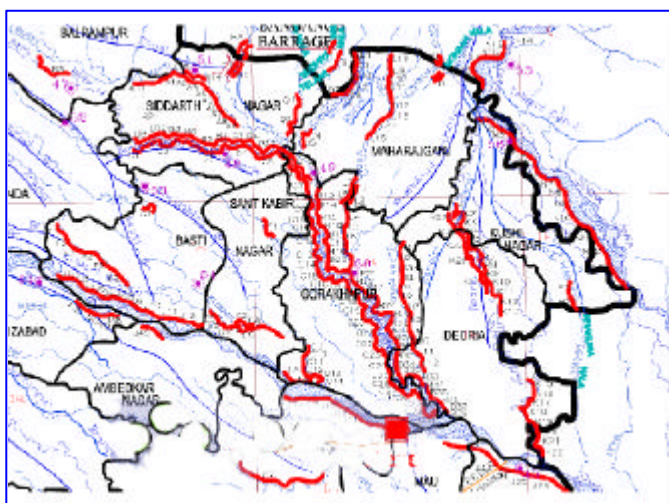
In Uttar Pradesh the flooding is frequent in the eastern districts, mainly due to spilling of Rapti, the Sharada, the Ghaghra and the Gandak. The problem of drainage congestion exists in the western and north-western areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Agra, Mathura and Meerut districts. The erosion is experienced in some on the left bank of Ganga and on right banks of the Ghaghra and the Gandak.



**A school building drowned in flood water (Campierganj, Gorakhpur, UP)**

This year, the devastating floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have taken their toll on human lives. This flood is one of the worst in recent history and it has claimed many lives and has washed away crops worth millions. With the flood situation worsening each day, many people run the risk of starvation and outbreak of water-borne diseases.

During the recent floods in Uttar Pradesh, 1437 villages in 19 Districts with population of about 11.88 lakh are reported to have been affected in the State. 13 relief camps continue to run in which 68,000 people have been



**Embankment map of the covered 5 districts**

accommodated. 460 boats are deployed in the affected areas of the State for rescue and relief operations.

The trend of floods in recent years has shifted towards higher degree of loss of lives and livelihoods. Earlier, the floods did not stay for a long time but now floods continue to ravage the life and livelihood for a long time, even months. The post flood effects on different sectors can be found visible for months even after the floods have gone away.

The floods in the year 1998 had caused a great loss to all sectors. The rivers Ghaghra, Rapti, Burhi Rapti, Gandak, Narayani, Rohin, Kuano, Ami, Manorama etc. caused floods in 1998. Besides, the Pyas, Basmaniya, Poh, Faren, Turra Nalas have also made the situation grimmer. This flood was quoted as the most devastating of the century. This was a quick flood and people were not ready to cope with it.

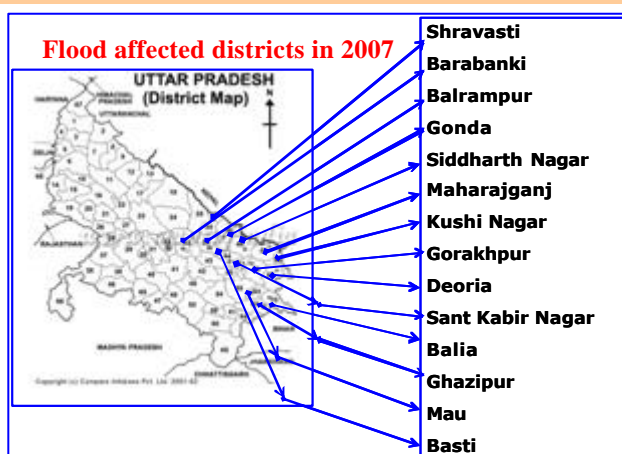
The floods of year 2007 also fall in the category of dangerous and threatening floods as a large number of embankments breached during this flood. A large number of villages and higher number of population were affected. Besides, the loss of crops and assets is also great in this flood.



**Collapsed house in flood  
(Campierganj, Gorakhpur, UP)**

### **Major affected areas in 2007 floods**

The floods of year 2007 have spread their impact over a wider area. A large number of districts have got affected and large number of population got severely struck with the consequences of floods. The major affected areas in this year floods are districts Kushinagar, Siddharth Nagar, Maharajganj, Deoria, Behraich etc. Besides, the districts Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur also faced the impingement of the severe floods this year.





"There was water everywhere in the house and all around. We just managed to get away and save our lives. All our rations & assets were swept away. We lost everything," said **Mewati Devi**, a flood victim.

All major rivers in eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh got flooded in this monsoon. Ghaghra, Rapti and Rohin rivers crossed the danger mark several times all along their course. Hundreds of villages were submerged in Gorakhpur District of Uttar Pradesh after the three rivers bordering Nepal broke their embankments. Hundreds have been killed by drowning, snakebites and house collapses. The state's the worst affected Gorakhpur and Kushinagar districts remained cut off from the rest of the State for a long period due to heavy floods. Most villagers have lost their household goods with rain water submerging houses and destroying food stocks.

The crops have been destroyed due to incessant rains and water logging in the fields. Most of the fields have come under the direct flow of flood water. This has increased risk of erosion of the valuable upper soil of the fields. In many more fields, there would be sedimentation of sand and other debris that shall adversely affect the agricultural value of the land.

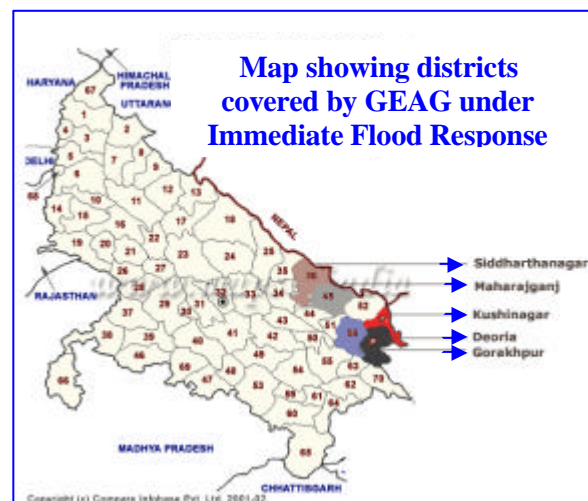


"All fields have also been flooded. The floods have destroyed everything. All of us have to go to embankments and relief camps to survive. Our next season crop shall also be affected. Oh God! What has happened," said **Ram Nayan**, another victim.

## IMMEDIATE FLOOD RESPONSE BY GEAG

### (1) Area Covered

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) has responded immediately towards the identified needs of the flood affected communities in few of the most vulnerable districts. GEAG first conducted a rapid assessment of the affected districts and selected Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Deoria, Siddharth Nagar, Kushinagar districts for intervention under Immediate Flood Response. The selection of districts for assistance was on the basis of vulnerability, degree of losses due to flood and status of Government's relief work in the districts.





The following table details the area covered by GEAG under Immediate Flood Response:

| Sl. No. | District        | Block       | Village                                                                                                                          | Implementing / partner agency           |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1       | Gorakhpur       | Campierganj | 1. Shivpur Karmaha<br>2. Thakurnagar (Tola Pachma, Thakurnagar)<br>3. Azagarha<br>4. Gulhariya<br>5. Gerui Buzurg<br>6. Sonatkar | Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group    |
| 2       | Maharajganj     | Paniyara    | 1. Ranipur<br>2. Laxmipur<br>3. Harakhpura<br>4. Lala Badahara<br>5. Aurahiya<br>6. Aktahawa                                     | Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group    |
|         |                 | Ghughli     | 1. Tilakwaniya<br>2. Tedhwa<br>3. Viraicha<br>4. Vishwnathpur<br>5. Ghaghariya Khadeshwar<br>6. Ghughli Buzurg                   | Jan Kalyan Sansthan                     |
| 3       | Siddharth Nagar | Jogiya      | 1. Semara<br>2. Kohda<br>3. Banki<br>4. Kandhe Kusum<br>5. Bhutahiya                                                             | Shohratgarh Environmental Society (SES) |
| 4       | Deoria          | Barhaz      | 1. Parsiya Kure<br>2. Gaura Katailawa<br>3. Parsauni Tola of Mahen<br>4. Madila Pratham<br>5. Vinwapur Kubaich                   | Yuva Chetna Kendra (YCK)                |
| 5       | Kushinagar      | Seorahi     | 1. Ghaghwa Jagdeesh<br>2. Chain Patti<br>3. Jangli Patti                                                                         | Satyagrah Seva Samiti                   |

## (2) Damage assessment of covered area

The floods have created a huge void in the community development and sustainability. The livelihoods and assets have been lost, health badly affected, education structures damaged, safe drinking water facilities destroyed; there are several forms of damages that are visible at a glance in the affected areas.

### The indication...

- In 1950's average annual flood damage was **Rs. 60 crore per year**; while in 1980's, as development activities intensified, average flood damage shot up to **Rs. 2,307 crore per year**; (an increase of 3,745%);
- As, every year the human loss decreasing, loss of property is increasing alarmingly;
- A property of more than **Rs. 26,883 crore** has been devastated in floods during 1953 to 1987.

The following table provides a picture of the damage to life, livelihood and population:

| Sl. No. | Indicator                                  | Gorakhpur | Mahrajganj  | Deoria | Siddharth Nagar | Kushinagar |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 1.      | No. of affected Tehsils                    | 7         | 3           | 5      | 5               | 3          |
| 2.      | No. of affected villages                   | 563       | 45          | 38     | 650             | 46         |
| 3.      | No. of marooned villages                   | 218       | 15          | 4      | 295             | 9          |
| 4.      | Affected population                        | 351936    | 48000       | 4825   | 300000          | 26256      |
| 5.      | Affected area (Hectare)                    | 50343     | 45215       | 3362   | 40390           | 8170       |
| 6.      | Affected sown area (Hectare)               | 21478     | 32252       | 3362   | 17500           | 2475       |
| 7.      | No. of people sent to relief camps         | 7950      | 1901        | 112    | 17075           | 1240       |
| 8.      | No. of relief camps                        | 81        | 34          | 38     | 30              | 33         |
| 9.      | No. of boats used                          | 573       | 32          | 57     | 167             | 95         |
| 10.     | PAC / Military used in relief/ rescue work |           | 2 companies |        | No              | ½ company  |
| 11.     | Expected crop loss (Rs.)                   |           |             |        |                 | 1860000    |

The damages due to flood are more visible in the following sectors:

- Health**

Due to post flood effect and much unhygienic living conditions during the flood period, the affected population have faced sever problems of health. The children and women faced biggest problems as they were the most vulnerable and occupied the secondary status in society.

The affected population has faced several health related problem such as viral fever, cold and cough, skin infections, stomach diseases, ear and eye infections and other. They are still facing the same situation due to continued water logging and unhygienic conditions. Several water borne diseases and mosquitoes and other insects are still creating trouble for them.

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- **Education**

Most of the schools in flood affected areas are either damaged or water logged due to recent floods. Besides the schools that are not affected are being used as relief camps for the affected population. Due to these situations the education of the children is adversely affected for a long time. Besides there is no provision for temporary or emergency schooling for the affected area.

- **livelihood**

The floods have completely destroyed the agriculture in the affected areas. It is obvious that agriculture is the main occupation of the rural India and the loss to agricultural crops severely affects the livelihood of the rural communities for months.

The compensation provided by government is much less compared to crop loss and it does not make a difference in misery of the affected communities. Most of the farmers even don't have access to this compensation.

The daily laborers depend on day to day work for their bread but during and after the floods they don't get work due to damaged roads and loss of agricultural season.

- **Sanitation**

Floods create a serious problem of sanitation in the area. The women and children don't get space for toilets and sanitary needs. In few villages it is seen that the women, children and aged people are provided a little amount of food so that they have reduced needs for toilets.

- **Safe drinking water**

The flood waters contaminate the drinking water sources in the area. The hand pumps get drawn under water and the affected communities find no sources of safe drinking water. The government hand pumps (India mark – II) have also been reported to be drowned under water at numerous places.

- **Assets**

The floods have destroyed a lot of assets and infrastructures worth crores of rupees. Number of houses collapsed and damaged, roads, embankments, communication network, schools and many more have been reported to be affected due to floods.

- **Livestock**

The livestock have also faced the severity of floods; they didn't get fodder for days and weeks. They have to stay in open rain, some other such condition. Besides they are also exposed to several types of diseases during and after the floods.

### **(3) Approaches Adopted for Need Assessment**

GEAG and the partner organization have adopted several tools for assessing the situation and the needs of the affected communities. All of these tools was based on participatory approach and involve the local community extensively in the assessment. Some of they adopted approaches are as follows:

- Rapid assessment**

In all of the intervened area, the teams conducted rapid assessment soon after the onset of flood disaster. The teams used a format for rapid assessment i.e. based on **SPHERE** guidelines. The rapid assessment was able to identify the needs of the affected communities and the relief being provided by Government and other agencies.

- Wealth ranking**

Wealth ranking is a PRA tool i.e. used to rank the house holds in order of their economic status. This tool was used by a partner organization in Kushinagar district during the flood situation to identify the most vulnerable and needy families. This exercise was done completely among the community members ensuring their full participation in the process.

- Household level survey**

The partner organization and GEAG conducted household level survey to get detailed database of the covered area. This proved helpful in conducting health camp and distributing relief packages.

### **(4) Chronology of Immediate Flood Response**

The immediate flood response had several steps of interventions. The following are the main stages under the program:

- Identification of vulnerable areas**

GEAG analyzed the information collected from rapid assessment in various areas. The media reports an existing partner at different location provided location on the flood situation in different areas. This way GEAG identified the areas to be covered under the immediate flood response.

- Identification of partner organizations for immediate flood response in affected areas**

In few of the identified areas GEAG has existing partners. GEAG selected them for immediate flood response program also.

- Strategic planning for resource mobilization**

The core team of GEAG and the partner organization work out a strategic plan for the whole process of immediate flood response. The activities, types of assistance to be provided and other components were discussed and finalized. They also planned to mobilize resources for the program and GEAG took the responsibility.

### • Implementation of activities

After the strategic planning and resource mobilization for the Immediate Flood Response, GEAG and the partner organizations implemented different activities of relief and response in the affected areas. These included distribution of relief materials and Health camps.

## (5) Provided Relief

GEAG and the partner organization in Immediate Flood Response provided assistance to the affected communities in several forms. The assistance included medical services in form of Free Health Checkup and medicine distribution camps, Relief material distribution, and light arrangements for the families, temporary shelters, temporary toilets etc.

The details of the activities done by GEAG and different partner organizations under Immediate Flood Response are given below per partner wise:

### • District Deoria (Partner organization – Yuva Chetna Kendra)

In district Deoria, the activities of Immediate Flood Response were implemented by Yuva Chetna Kendra, partner organization of GEAG. They had assessed the needs of the affected communities and they identified the vulnerable villages and families for assistance. The distribution of relief materials in the identified vulnerable villages was as according to the following table:



| Distribution of relief packets in affected villages of district Deoria |                 |                        |               |               |                |               |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                | Relief material | Quantity per household | Village Name  |               |                |               |                |
|                                                                        |                 |                        | Vinobapuri    | Kubaich       | Madila Pratham | Kurh Parsiya  | Gaura Katilawa |
| 1.                                                                     | Rice            | 10 kg                  | 46 households | 39 households | 57 households  | 33 households | 75 households  |
| 2.                                                                     | Pulse           | 2 kg                   | - do -        | - do -        | - do -         | - do -        | - do -         |
| 3.                                                                     | Cooking oil     | 1 liter                | - do -        | - do -        | - do -         | - do -        | - do -         |
| 4.                                                                     | Iodized salt    | 1 kg                   | - do -        | - do -        | - do -         | - do -        | - do -         |
| 5.                                                                     | Turmeric powder | 2 packets              | - do -        | - do -        | - do -         | - do -        | - do -         |
| 6.                                                                     | Spices powder   | 2 packets              | - do -        | - do -        | - do -         | - do -        | - do -         |
| 7.                                                                     | Plastic sheets  | 1 sheet                | 5 households  | 16 households | 8 households   | 7 households  | 4 households   |
| 8.                                                                     | Straw (fodder)  |                        | 13 households | 11 households | 17 households  | 11 households | 8 households   |

• **District Siddharth Nagar (Partner organization – Shohratgarh Environmental Society)**

Shohratgarh Environmental Society has implemented the Immediate Flood Response program in five most affected villages of block Jogiya of district Siddharth Nagar. The following table details the relief material provided by the organization:

| Distribution of relief packets in affected villages of district Siddharth Nagar |                   |                 |                                |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                         | Category          | Relief material | Quantity per household         | Village Name  |               |               |               |               |
|                                                                                 |                   |                 |                                | Kohada        | Banki         | Semra kala    | Bhutahiya     | Kandhe Kusum  |
| 1                                                                               | Food Aid          | Rice            | 22.5 kg                        | 11 households | 11 households | 11 households | 11 households | 10 households |
| 2                                                                               |                   | Wheat flour     | 30 kg                          | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 3                                                                               |                   | Iodized salt    | 3 kg                           | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 4                                                                               |                   | Pulse           | 3.7 kg                         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 5                                                                               | Fodder            | Straw (fodder)  | 60 kg per cattle (for 10 days) | 6 households  | 6 households  | 4 households  | 4 households  | 5 households  |
| 6                                                                               | Temp. Shelter     | Plastic sheets  | 1 sheet                        | 4 households  | 7 households  | 3 households  | 6 households  | 4 households  |
| 7                                                                               |                   | Bamboo          | 2                              | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 8                                                                               |                   | Nail / Rassi    | 250 gm                         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 9                                                                               | Light arrangement | Torch           | 1 pcs                          | 11 households | 11 households | 11 households | 11 households | 10 households |
| 10                                                                              |                   | Battery         | 2 pcs                          | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 11                                                                              |                   | Candle          | 1 packet                       | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |
| 12                                                                              |                   | match box       | 2 pcs                          | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        | - do -        |

The total number of households assisted by Shohratgarh Environmental Society was 54 comprising of a total of 351 family members. This includes 15 days food aid for 54 households, 10 fodders for 89 cattle, temporary shelters for 24 families, light arrangement for 54 households etc.

The organization also organized Free Health Checkup camps in the area in view of the need of proper medical care and support to them. The communities were also made aware of the proper sanitation, hygiene, and basic health care through awareness programs.

| Free Health Checkup & Medicine Distribution Camps in villages of Siddharth Nagar |            |                                        |                  |                         |                         |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                          | Date       | Place                                  | Total Population | No. of villages covered | No. of Covered Patients | Major Diseases                                                                                                              |
| 1                                                                                | 17.08.2007 | Primary School, village - Kandhe Kusum | 400              | 3                       | 74                      | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |

|   |                                                           |                                        |     |   |            |                                                                                                                             |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----|---|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | 18.08.2007                                                | Primary School, village - Bhutahiya    | 828 | 4 | 84         | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 3 | 19.08.2008                                                | Primary School, village - Banki        | 891 | 5 | 170        | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 4 | 20.08.2008                                                | Primary School, village - Bhutahiya    | 828 | 4 | 67         | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 5 | 21.08.2009                                                | Primary School, village - Kandhe Kusum | 400 | 3 | 86         | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 6 | 22.08.2009                                                | Primary School, village - Banki        | 891 | 5 | 168        | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 7 | <b>Total No. of patients treated in free health camps</b> |                                        |     |   | <b>649</b> |                                                                                                                             |

Besides conducting free health camps in the affected villages and providing relief packets to the identified vulnerable households, the organization also assisted the community in sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. For this, lime, bleaching powder, chlorine tablets, and phenol were distributed in the affected villages.

| Sl. No. | Item             | Quantity in each Village |              |              |              |              |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|         |                  | Kohada                   | Banki        | Semra kala   | Bhutahiya    | Kandhe Kusum |
| 1       | Lime             | 300 kg                   | 300 kg       | 300 kg       | 300 kg       | 300 kg       |
| 2       | Bleaching Powder | 100 kg                   | 100 kg       | 100 kg       | 100 kg       | 100 kg       |
| 3       | Chlorine tablets | 1000 tablets             | 1000 tablets | 1000 tablets | 1000 tablets | 1000 tablets |
| 4       | phenol           | 20 liter                 | 20 liter     | 20 liter     | 20 liter     | 20 liter     |

This way, total 1500 kg lime, 500 kg bleaching powder, 5000 chlorine tablets, and 100 liters of phenol were distributed in 5 villages where Shohratgarh Environmental Society implemented the Immediate Flood Response program for affected communities.

- District Kushinagar (partner organization - Satyagrah Seva Samiti)**

The Immediate Flood Response program for assistance to the affected communities in district Kushinagar was implemented by Satyagrah Seva Samiti. They conducted rapid assessment of the affected areas on the formats based on SPHERE guidelines. This assessment clearly indicated the need of temporary toilets, safe drinking water and food & fodder in the affected areas. Besides, survey of the villages at household level was also conducted to identify the vulnerable and needy families. Another important tool of PRA, named Wealth Ranking, was used to identify the most vulnerable and poor families that had lost everything.



The area identified by the organization after rapid assessment and surveys were as follows:

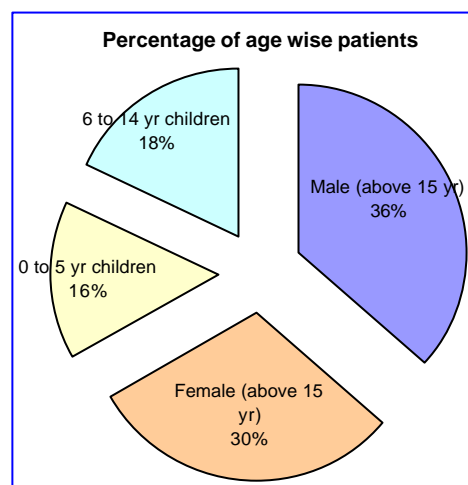
| <b>Affected Village details of block Seorahi, district Kushinagar<br/>(selected for Immediate Flood Response)</b> |                 |                             |                   |             |               |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sl. No.</b>                                                                                                    | <b>NAME</b>     | <b>Number of Households</b> | <b>Population</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Children</b> |
| 1                                                                                                                 | Jangli Patti    | 181                         | 1126              | 532         | 594           | 205             |
| 2                                                                                                                 | Ghagwa Jagdeesh | 102                         | 742               | 375         | 367           | 158             |
| 3                                                                                                                 | Chain Patti     | 654                         | 4129              | 2092        | 2037          | 880             |
|                                                                                                                   | <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>937</b>                  | <b>5997</b>       | <b>2999</b> | <b>2998</b>   | <b>1243</b>     |

After all this assessment, the organization planned to conduct Free Health Checkup & Medicine Distribution camps in the identified villages. It has been identified as a great need of the community. They had been regularly exposed to unhygienic conditions and rude and open climate and they were vulnerable to several diseases especially mosquito and insect borne diseases and water borne diseases. The following is the details of the health camps organized by the team of organization:



| Details of patients in Health camps in affected villages of Kushinagar |                      |                            |                     |                            |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                | Group                | Village - Chain Patti      |                     | village - Ghagwa Jagdeesh  |                     |
|                                                                        |                      | Number of patients treated | % of total patients | Number of patients treated | % of total patients |
| 1.                                                                     | 0 to 5 yr children   | 32                         | 27%                 | 6                          | 5%                  |
| 2.                                                                     | 6 to 14 yr children  | 22                         | 19%                 | 22                         | 17%                 |
| 3.                                                                     | Male (above 15 yr)   | 25                         | 21%                 | 64                         | 50%                 |
| 4.                                                                     | Female (above 15 yr) | 39                         | 33%                 | 35                         | 28%                 |
| 5.                                                                     | <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>118</b>                 | <b>100%</b>         | <b>127</b>                 | <b>100%</b>         |

The graph shows the percentage of patients in different age groups in the villages where free health camps were organized. It is obviously seen that the children constitute a greater portion of the patients. Total percentage of children patients is 34%. Women when added with the percentage of children, the figure goes to 64% that is a high figure.



This graph shows the poor situation of women and children in the social structure. They are given less priority on health, nutrition and other basic needs.

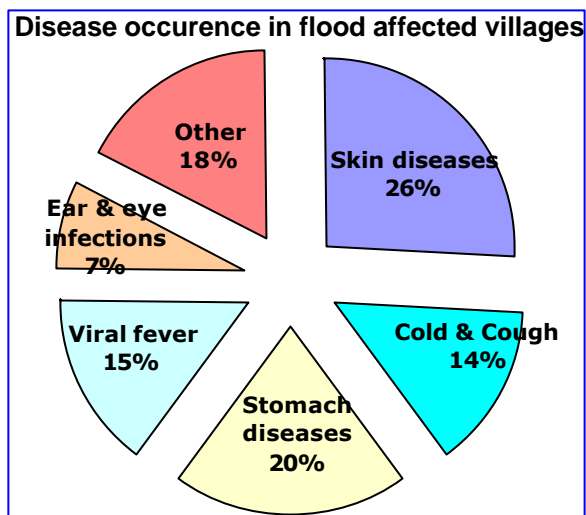
The following table gives the details of the occurrence of diseases in the affected villages:

| Details of patients in Health camps in affected villages of Kushinagar |                      |                       |                       |                           |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                | Disease              | Village - Chain Patti |                       | village - Ghagwa Jagdeesh |                       |
|                                                                        |                      | No. of patients       | Percentage of disease | No. of patients           | Percentage of disease |
| 1                                                                      | Skin diseases        | 22                    | 19%                   | 41                        | 32%                   |
| 2                                                                      | Cold & Cough         | 20                    | 17%                   | 15                        | 12%                   |
| 3                                                                      | Stomach diseases     | 29                    | 25%                   | 20                        | 16%                   |
| 4                                                                      | Viral fever          | 28                    | 24%                   | 9                         | 7%                    |
| 5                                                                      | Ear & eye infections | 6                     | 5%                    | 12                        | 9%                    |
| 6                                                                      | Other                | 13                    | 11%                   | 30                        | 24%                   |
| 7                                                                      | <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>118</b>            | <b>100%</b>           | <b>127</b>                | <b>100%</b>           |

The graph shows the occurrence of various diseases in the patients that were provided medical treatment in the flood affected areas. This graph clearly indicates high percentage of cases of viral fever, stomach diseases, cold & cough, skin

diseases and ear & eye infections. These are the typical diseases that are profound in the flood affected areas due to unhygienic conditions, exposure to mosquitoes, insects, contaminated water, debris, direct sun & rain etc.

The organization also distributed relief packets to 200 families that were most vulnerable and needy in the intervened areas. The process of selection of the needy families was based on PRA methods (ground level survey of each household & wealth ranking). The following table gives the details of the relief provided:



| Details of relief material distribution in affected villages of Kushinagar |                   |                 |                        |                  |               |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sl. No.                                                                    | Category          | Relief material | Quantity per household | Village names    |               |               |
|                                                                            |                   |                 |                        | Ghaghwa Jagdeesh | Chain Patti   | Jangli Patti  |
| 1                                                                          | Food Aid          | Rice            | 8 kg                   | 83 households    | 83 households | 34 households |
| 2                                                                          |                   | Potato          | 3 kg                   | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 3                                                                          |                   | Iodized salt    | 500 gm.                | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 4                                                                          |                   | Soya been       | 250 gm.                | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 5                                                                          | Health & Hygiene  | Cloth Soap      | 1 pcs                  | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 6                                                                          |                   | Bath Soap       | 1 pcs                  | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 7                                                                          |                   | Mosquito net    | 1 pcs                  | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |
| 8                                                                          | Light arrangement | match box       | 1 pcs                  | - do -           | - do -        | - do -        |

#### • District Gorakhpur (implementing organization – GEAG)

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group has taken lead in all the activities and kept monitoring the activities being implemented at each partner organization. Besides doing this, GEAG has directly implemented the Immediate Flood Response in flood affected areas of district Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj. In district Gorakhpur, the block Campierganj has been selected for intervention. The following is the detail of the relief distribution in seven identified villages of Campierganj block:



### Relief distribution

| Relief distribution in selected villages of Campierganj |              |                          |                                                |            |            |            |            |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sl. No.                                                 | Date         | Covered village          | Relief distributed (no. of households covered) |            |            |            |            |            |
|                                                         |              |                          | Polyethylene sheets                            | Chiuda     | Candle     | Salt       | Gud (Loaf) | Match box  |
| 1.                                                      | 17.08.07     | Pachma                   | 9                                              | 25         | 25         | 25         | 25         | 25         |
| 2.                                                      | 17.08.07     | Gulariha                 | 46                                             | 46         | 46         | 46         | 46         | 46         |
| 3.                                                      | 17.08.07     | Shivpur Karmaha          | -                                              | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| 4.                                                      | 20.08.07     | Kailashnagar             | 26                                             | 40         | 40         | 40         | 40         | 40         |
|                                                         | 30.08.07     | (Thakurnagar)            |                                                |            |            |            |            |            |
| 5.                                                      | 20.08.07     | Pashipurwa (Thakurnagar) | 13                                             | 24         | 24         | 24         | 24         | 24         |
| 6.                                                      | 20.08.07     | Azigarha                 | 11                                             | 60         | 60         | 60         | 60         | 60         |
|                                                         | 30.08.07     | Thakurnagar              |                                                |            |            |            |            |            |
| 7.                                                      | 25.08.07     | Kattiya                  | 34                                             | 34         | 34         | 34         | 34         | 34         |
|                                                         | <b>Total</b> |                          | <b>139</b>                                     | <b>258</b> | <b>258</b> | <b>258</b> | <b>258</b> | <b>258</b> |

### Health Camps

The following table gives the details of the free health camps organized by GEAG in affected villages of block Campierganj, district Gorakhpur:

| Health camps in block Campierganj, District Gorakhpur |                                      |                               |                   |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sl. No                                                | Date                                 | Camp Place                    | Household covered | Name of village covered                                    |
| 1                                                     | 17.08.07                             | Hot Pad Chawraha, Thakurnagar | 240               | Thakurnagar, Agigarha, Loharpurwa, Kailashnagar, Pashitola |
| 2                                                     | 22.08.07                             | Panchayat Bhawan sona teekar  | 173               | Sonateekar, Algatpur, Gotwa, Pachnuri                      |
| 3                                                     | 23.08.07                             | Bantangiya village            | 151               | Bantangiya, Kattiya                                        |
| 4                                                     | 24.08.07                             | Primary school, Chandipur     | 204               | Chandipur                                                  |
| 5                                                     | 26.08.07                             | Primary school, Gulariha      | 207               | Gulariha, Shivpur Karmaha                                  |
| 6                                                     | 28.08.07                             | Geruikhurd                    | 162               | Geruikhurd, Geruibujurg                                    |
| 7                                                     | 29.08.07                             | Kaktahi                       | 75                | Kaktahi                                                    |
| 8                                                     | 31.08.07                             | Primary school, Pachma        |                   | Proposed                                                   |
| 9                                                     | <b>Total no of household covered</b> |                               | <b>1212</b>       |                                                            |

Besides assisting in the Campierganj block of Gorakhpur, GEAG also implemented the Immediate Flood Response in affected villages of paniyara block of district Mahrajganj. The relief material distribution in villages of paniyara block of district Mahrajganj is detailed in the following table:

| Relief Distribution Camp Of Block Paniyara, District Maharajganj |          |                          |                                       |                           |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-----|------|--------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|
| Sl. No                                                           | Date     | Village covered          | Relief distributed House hold covered |                           |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
|                                                                  |          |                          | Temp. Shelter                         | Food Aid                  |        |     |      |        | Light arrangement |           | Fodder Distribution |                |
|                                                                  |          |                          | Poly Sheet                            | Poori Sabzi (Cooked food) | Chiuda | Gud | Salt | Candle | Match box         | Household | Animal              | Qty in Quintal |
| 1                                                                | 31.07.07 | Laxmipur                 | 32                                    |                           |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 2                                                                | 01.08.07 | Manohar Chak             | 28                                    |                           |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 3                                                                | 01.08.07 | Amahawa                  | 16                                    |                           |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 4                                                                | 02.08.07 | Manohar Chak             |                                       | 126                       |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 5                                                                | 02.08.07 | Laxmipur                 |                                       | 92                        |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 6                                                                | 02.08.07 | Amahawa                  |                                       | 16                        |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 7                                                                | 02.08.07 | Ranipur                  |                                       | 18                        |        |     |      |        |                   |           |                     |                |
| 8                                                                | 17.08.07 | Manohar Chak             | 10                                    |                           | 126    | 126 | 126  | 126    | 126               | 37        | 133                 | 29.3           |
| 9                                                                | 17.08.07 | Parsauna                 | 10                                    |                           | 27     | 27  | 27   | 27     | 27                |           |                     |                |
| 10                                                               | 20.08.07 | Laxmipur Chhawani        | 4                                     |                           | 112    | 112 | 112  | 112    | 112               | 41        | 129                 | 26.6           |
| 11                                                               | 20.08.07 | Aurahiya                 | 8                                     |                           | 53     | 53  | 53   | 53     | 53                | 13        | 33                  | 8.1            |
| 12                                                               | 21.08.07 | Raipur                   |                                       |                           | 26     | 26  | 26   | 26     | 26                |           |                     |                |
| 13                                                               | 21.08.07 | Kewtaliya                |                                       |                           | 41     | 41  | 41   | 41     | 41                |           |                     |                |
| 14                                                               | 21.08.07 | Salkothiya               |                                       |                           | 10     | 10  | 10   | 10     | 10                |           |                     |                |
| 15                                                               | 23.08.07 | Aurahiya khas Komar Tola | 10                                    |                           | 175    | 175 | 175  | 175    | 175               | 27        | 79                  | 17.5           |
| 16                                                               | 25.08.07 | Harakhpura Ahirauli      |                                       |                           | 230    | 230 | 230  | 230    | 230               |           |                     |                |
| 17                                                               | 28.08.07 | Pandeypur Ranipur        | 8                                     |                           | 84     | 84  | 84   | 84     | 84                |           |                     |                |
| 18                                                               | 29.08.07 | Pandeypur Ranipur        |                                       |                           | 39     | 39  | 39   | 39     | 39                |           |                     |                |

GEAG also organized health camps in flood affected villages of block Paniyara of district Mahrajganj. The details are as follows:

| Health camp of block Paniyara, District Maharajganj |          |                    |                   |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sl. No                                              | Date     | Camp Place         | Household covered | Name of village covered                                                                        |
| 1                                                   | 16.08.07 | Aurahia embankment | 440               | Aurahia, Harakhpura, Satkothiya, Ranipur, Parsauna, Kewtaliya, Padrahwa, Pandeypurwa, Laxmipur |
| 2                                                   | 22.08.07 | Lala Badhara       | 248               | Lala Badaraha, Bankimai place, Macchigaon                                                      |
| 3                                                   | 25.08.07 | Harakhpura         | 284               | Harakhpura, Ahirauli, Aurahiya Komar Tola                                                      |
| 4                                                   | 26.08.07 | Bagabulari         | 217               | Bagabulari, Laxmipur, Ranipur, Amahawa                                                         |
| 5                                                   | 30.08.07 | Pandeypur          | 232               | Pandeypur, Manohar Chak, Ranipur                                                               |

|          |                                      |                          |             |           |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|
|          |                                      | primary school           |             |           |
| 6        | 05.09.07                             | Akatahawa primary school | 237         | Akatahawa |
| 7        | 28.09.07                             | Akatahawa primary school | 275         | Akatahawa |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Total no of household covered</b> |                          | <b>1933</b> |           |

### Veterinary Health Camp

GEAG has conducted veterinary health camps for the cattle in the affected areas. During this a number of cattle have been provided medical treatment and necessary medicines. The following table gives the detail:

| Veterinary Health Camps |                                    |                         |                 |                                                                               |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sl. No                  | Date                               | Camp Place              | Animals covered | Major relief                                                                  |
| 1                       | 03.09.07                           | Laxmipur, Paniyara      | 224             | Vaccination, Medicines provided for foot & mouth diseases, loose motions etc. |
| 2                       | 17.09.07                           | Ranipur, Paniyara       | 232             | Vaccination, Medicines provided for foot & mouth diseases, loose motions etc. |
| 3                       | 23.09.07                           | Lala Badahara, Paniyara | 217             | Vaccination, Medicines provided for foot & mouth diseases, loose motions etc. |
| 4                       | 06.10.07                           | Harakhpora, Paniyara    | 237             | Vaccination, Medicines provided for foot & mouth diseases, loose motions etc. |
| 5                       | 02.09.07                           | Kaparwar ghat, Barhaz   | 197             | Medicines provided for foot & mouth diseases, loose motions etc.              |
| <b>6</b>                | <b>Total no of animals covered</b> |                         |                 |                                                                               |

GEAG also assessed the situation of few other areas where health assistance was necessary for the affected population. For this purpose, few more health camps were organized at different places. The details are as follows:

| Sl. No. | District  | Block     | Village | Total Population | Male Patient | Female Patient | Children | B. P. Checkup | Total Patient | Major Diseases                                                                                                              |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Gorakhpur | Brhamapur | Pusha   | 187              | 39           | 36             | 38       | 13            | 126           | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |

|   |        |          |               |      |    |     |    |    |     |                                                                                                                             |
|---|--------|----------|---------------|------|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Deoria | Rudrapur | Hadha East    | 2108 | 29 | 36  | 2  | 32 | 99  | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 3 | Deoria | Rudrapur | Hadha West    | 2108 | 35 | 54  | 10 | 37 | 136 | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 4 | Deoria | Rudrapur | Tigra Khairwa | 2558 | 88 | 78  | 15 | 43 | 224 | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 5 | Total  |          |               |      |    | 204 |    |    |     |                                                                                                                             |

### Food for Work

GEAG and one of the partner organization (SES) has implemented "Food for Work" program for the flood affected communities in their respective intervention areas. Under this program, the youth and needy women are selected in the area and they were provided work of repair and reconstruction of cut roads during the floods. They are being provided a minimum daily wages of Rs. 80/- per beneficiary in form of food items (rice, wheat flour, pulses etc.).

The process was added with wonderful community participation and a great cooperation was seen. In one of the locations (village Banki, block Jogiya, District Siddharth Nagar), out of 400 meter cut link road, the community participated and contributed their labour for the repair of 200 meters without daily wages. Rest of the 200 meter road was constructed under Food for Work program.

Other examples of Food for Work program are as follows:

- Repairing of 70 meter cut link road in village Sonateekar, block Campierganj, district Gorakhpur and
- Repairing of 290 meter cut link road in village Ranipur, block Paniyara, district Maharajganj

• **District Maharajganj (partner organization – Jan Kalyan Sansthan)**

The activities of Immediate Flood Response had been implemented in district Maharajganj through a partner organization Jan Kalyan Sansthan. Its interventions were focused over the flood affected areas of block Ghughli. Another affected block, named Paniyara, had been assisted by GEAG itself (details provided above).



The organization had distributed relief packets in the highly affected households of Ghughli block. The detail follows:

| Sl. No. | Relief material | Quantity per household | Villages of Block Ghughli, District Maharajganj |                |               |               |              |              |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|         |                 |                        | Kandhe Kusum                                    | Ghughli Buzurg | Tedhwa        | Biraiya       | Korwa        | Biraichi     |
| 1       | Rice            | 8 kg                   | 102 household                                   | 124 household  | 146 household | 161 household | 81 household | 82 household |
| 2       | Wheat flour     | 8 kg                   | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |
| 3       | Potato          | 2.5 kg                 | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |
| 4       | Iodized salt    | 0.5 kg                 | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |
| 5       | Spices          | 2 packet               | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |
| 6       | Turmeric        | 2 packet               | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |
| 7       | Match box       | 1 packet               | - do -                                          | - do -         | - do -        | - do -        | - do -       | - do -       |

The detail of the free health checkup camps organized by the organization in the identified vulnerable villages is as follows:

| Sl. No. | Place         | No. of health camp | Male patient | Female patient | Total patient | Major diseases                                                                                                              |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Tilakwaniya   | 3                  | 66           | 80             | 146           | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
|         | Ghugli Buzurg | 3                  | 78           | 47             | 125           | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |



|   |                             |   |            |            |            |                                                                                                                             |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | Tedhwa                      | 3 | 90         | 41         | 131        | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 4 | Biraicha                    | 4 | 78         | 48         | 126        | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 5 | Kotwa Vishwanath pur        | 3 | 92         | 88         | 180        | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 6 | Biraychi                    | 2 | 16         | 49         | 65         | Cold & cough, Dysentery, Fever, Skin infections, Malaria, allergy, Gas trouble, Body ache, stomach ache, cuts & wounds etc. |
| 7 | <b>Total no. of Patient</b> |   | <b>420</b> | <b>353</b> | <b>773</b> |                                                                                                                             |

### (6) Community participation in response activities

During the process of Immediate Flood Response, GEAG and the partner organizations have received good community participation and support. In all the places where organizations have implemented the response program, the community has supported the teams in different forms:

1. **Need assessment:** The community has actively participated in the need assessment of the intervened area. They had provided detailed information as and where necessary to the assessment teams in all the places. The surveys and other information collection activities were also completed in wonderful assistance and participation of the community.
2. **Relief Distribution:** The community provided their support in identification of the truly needy and vulnerable families in the villages. This way, the teams were able to assist the most poor and most affected families with the relief packets.





3. **Health Camps:** The community helped in organizing the health camps at each location. They provided space and table chairs for the doctors in the health camps. They also supported by making queues so that the patients could be seen in proper and managed way.
4. **Other assistance:** The community also supported with their feeling of cooperation and humanity. They provided moral support and also created positive environment for all the activities to be completed successfully.

### (7) Mobilization of other agencies

In all the process of Immediate Flood Response, the implementing organization (GEAG & partner organizations) got support of various other agencies through mobilizing them for the assistance of the flood affected communities. The different forms of activities done were as follows:

1. **Support of SHGs / CBOs:** The self help groups and local community based organization of different villages provided great support in the successful completion of the response in the intervened areas. They have a deep bond with the local community and this strength proved to be much helpful in the information collection and relief and other assistances to be provided to the community.
2. **Support of Vyapar Mandals:** At various places during the process of Immediate Flood Response, the organizations were successful to mobilize the Vyapar Mandals (an association of businessmen at different levels). The Vyapar Mandals provided great support to the affected communities when they were aware of the grim situation of them due to flood havoc. They have run community mess (*Lunger*) for them at different locations. Besides, they also provided relief materials to them.
3. **Support of Dawa Vikreta Sangh:** The organizations were able to mobilize the *Dawa Vikreta Sangh* (association of the druggists and pharmacists). They provided medicines and other necessary items for the health camps at very low prices. This was a great support for the affected communities as more medicines could be bought from the same amount.
4. **Military & PAC:** The military and PAC also supported in the relief and response activities at different locations. They saved lives of people and also helped in managing their rescued assets. Besides, they also supported in proper management of relief distribution and health camps at various places.
5. **Social Organizations:** The expert doctors from various social organizations like Masonic Lodge, GPs Association, Star Hospital, Breast Feeding Promotion Committee etc. also provided their voluntary services in Health Check-up Camps.



## **(8) Learning From Immediate Flood Response**

During the Immediate Flood Response in the affected communities, many points of learning and experiences were found by the teams of GEAG and partner organizations. These learning and experiences are a wonderful feedback for next plans and strategies for future interventions in the communities. Few of the major learning are as follows:

- **Identification of most vulnerable and affected families:**

The identification of most vulnerable and affected families and households in any disaster situation or emergency needs exclusive participatory approach. The community participation is a mandate in any such activity. For this purpose, large community meetings with representation of each section of the community are a great tool. Besides, door to door contact and IDI are also useful to assess the needs of the vulnerable families.

- **Relief activities:**

The relief activities that are to be done in the affected community must be planned in order of priority of the need. Community level (village level) relief activities (viz. debris cleaning, sanitation, health camps etc.) should be planned before providing household level relief (viz. food aid, shelter, fodder, light arrangements etc.) to the affected community. This produces best effect of the relief. Besides, community support is achieved in greater extent in this plan. The involvement of community at every step of relief operation also helped in avoiding conflicts.

- **Effect of Government's relief approach**

The Government also takes active part in relief and response to the affected communities in emergency and disaster situations. But, the adopted approach is a little confusing when they identify the needy ones. Due to this, the Non Government agencies face a problem in identification of most vulnerable and needy households as everyone wants their name added in the list.

- **Type of relief provided**

Government's relief package includes wheat, rice, candles, kerosene etc. Although, this is a good package, but the affected communities need wheat flour instead of wheat, as they have to face a lot of problem in going to markets places for grinding of grains etc. which is not possible. It is important to provide need based relief supplies instead of general procured items.

- **Relief to livestock**

The livestock are a great means of livelihood for the rural communities. The floods create severe problem for them as they don't get fodder and shelter and they have to face several diseases too in lack of proper care and assistance. Veterinary medical facilities are also part of assistance to the livestock that should be taken seriously.

- **Response time**

It was observed that the response was very quick and hence helped the communities to a great extent. The urgent and fast actions by Oxfam Novib as well as local NGOs were very helpful.

### (9) Areas of Concern (Possible Future Strategies)

The floods of 2007 have created new dimension of strategy development and planning for sustainability and development of the disaster prone communities. The lessons also tell us new approaches to be adopted. The following are the few points that should be kept in to view for future strategy planning:

1. The districts covered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) should be implemented in flood affected areas on a priority basis.
2. Farmers of flood prone areas should be linked to **Crop Insurance** & **General Life Insurance**
3. Advocacy should be done by the Government at **International level** with Nepal so that there would be developed a proper understanding and coordinated approach to address the situation of flood in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Proper and in time ly warning of water discharge and regulation of water at high locations may be the main consideration.
4. **Liaison with Vyapar Mandals** to provide credit support to flood victims to start their little business for immediate livelihood problems.
5. **Capacity building and preparedness** of flood prone communities
6. Ensure actual **participation of community & local NGOs** in district disaster planning
7. **Ensure fodder** availability for cattle
8. Provide training to youth of flood prone areas for **IGP/Entrepreneurship/ other livelihood generation activities**
9. Advocacy for villages affected with **long duration water logging**

## Acronyms

|       |                                         |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|
| GEAG  | Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group    |
| UP    | Uttar Pradesh                           |
| CRF   | Calamity Relief Fund                    |
| SES   | Shohratgarh Environmental Society       |
| YCK   | Yuva Chetna Kendra                      |
| PRA   | Participatory Rural Appraisal           |
| SHG   | Self Help Group                         |
| CBO   | Community Based Organization            |
| PAC   | Provincial Armed Constabulary           |
| NREGA | National Rural Employment Guarantee Act |
| IGP   | Income Generating Practices             |
| NGO   | Non Government Organization             |