

PSI First Progress Report July 7, 2013**Introduction**

The nightmarish rescue of over one lakh stranded pilgrims and tourists from the Char Dham circuit is over. Civil society organizations and the state machinery are now providing immediate relief to the flood survivors in hundreds of villages spread across the mountain districts of Uttarakhand. In another two weeks this phase will be over and attention will shift to longer term reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Table 1 summarizes damage assessment data of villages outside the Char Dham locations. It has been compiled by state and non-government agencies.

Table 1: District-Wise Damage Assessment

	District	Villages affected	Human Lives Lost	Live stock losses	People injured	Houses Fully/ Partially Damaged	Cow sheds
1	Tehri Garhwal	54	No Reports	340	No Reports	448	No Reports
2	Rudaparyag	60+	278	58 cows, 1500 chickens	No Reports	676	No Reports
3	Pithoragarh	10	50	No Reports	No Reports	297	No Reports
4	Uttarkashi	28	4	4	No Reports	177	15
5	Chamoli	39	64	754	No Reports	677	101
	Total	191	396	2656	-	2275	-

PSI's Disaster Response

People's Science Institute (PSI) has planned a three phase response to the floods disaster as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: PSI's proposed disaster response plan

Phase-I	Immediate Relief	June 25 th – July 25 th	Supply of one month provisions and basic utensils to homeless families: Estimated cost about Rs 5000-6000 per family for up to 300 families.
Phase-II	Medium Term	July 2013-October 2013	Construction of temporary shelters for 200-250 families. Estimated cost Rs 30,000 per family.
Phase-III	Long Term	November 2013-October 2016	Livelihoods restoration

Note: This is a revised version of the response plan first released. The figures and dates have changed slightly.

Work on the first phase began after an initial assessment for all phases was done by PSI and its partners in 8 blocks of 7 districts. About 260 families were identified for assistance in Phase I (Table 3).

Table 3: Phase-I Immediate Relief Supply

	District	Block	Villages/ Location	Partner Org.	Families Benefitting
1	Tehri Garhwal	Thatyur	Parodi, Channan	PSI	50
2	Pithoragarh	Munsiari	Gori Ganga valley	Himal Prakriti	100
3	Almora	Chaukhutiya	Tadag Tal area	Laxmi Ashram	10
4	Rudraprayag	Augustmuni	Chandrapuri	Mandakini Ki Aawaz	100 (estimated)
Total					260

The first set of relief material was distributed to 50 families in Parodi and Channan villages of Thatyur block (Aglar river valley) on June 29, 2013. The relief materials included:

- 1 One month rations for a family of 5.
- 2 Utensils for cooking and daily needs for a family of 5 (for 10 families only).
- 3 Blankets: 2 per family.
- 4 Drinking water kits for all families.

A bottle of sodium hypochlorite was provided to chlorinate drinking water as people were drinking water from the streams. Rs 3.5 lakhs was transferred to provide immediate relief to 100 families through PSI's partner organization, Himal Prakriti, Munsiari block in Pithoragarh district and Rs 42,000 to provide immediate relief to 10 families in Chaukhutiya block of Almora district via Laxmi Ashram, another local PSI partner.

PSI will also undertake relief work in Chandrapuri village in Augustmuni block, Rudraprayag district. This village was completely cut-off when the bridge connecting it with the main road collapsed. PSI's volunteers helped construct a makeshift ropeway to ferry relief materials and a stronger ropeway is now being built. With a sturdier access route in place, we plan to resume relief supplies this week and get construction materials for temporary shelters across.

For Phase-II, PSI has been asked to build 274 temporary shelters of GI sheets and wooden frames. These structures, which last a minimum of 3 to 5 years, provide protection from the harsh climate and security from wild animals. The material procurement for the first set of temporary shelters has begun and construction is planned for the third and the fourth week of July. Further planning is on for the logistics of Phase-II, including procuring and transporting material to cut off areas like Chandrapuri in Rudraprayag.

Table 4: Number of Proposed Temporary Shelters Financials Table 5: Tentative Budgets

	District	Block	Partner Organization	Shelters Proposed
1	Tehri	Thatyur	PSI	25
2	Uttarkashi	Lambgaon	Jai Maa Lok Vikas Pashu Sewa Sansthan	11
3	Rudraprayag	Augustmuni	Mandakini Ki Aawaz	65
4	Bageshwar	Kapkot	KSS	31 HH + 3 school=34
5	Pithoragarh	Munsiari	Himal Prakriti	30
6	Pithoragarh	Askot	Arpan	50
7	Almora	Chaukhutiya	Laxmi Ashram	9
8	Chamoli	Joshimath	Jandesh	50
Total				274

	Phase	Beneficiary Families	Amount (Rs.)	Remarks
1.	Phase-I	260	10 lakhs	Rs.5 lakhs spent by July 3, 2013
2.	Phase-II	274	90 lakhs	Purchases of G.I. sheets & wooden poles begun
3.	Phase-III	TBA*	TBA*	

The immediate response to our first appeal was overwhelming. In just two weeks, committed supporters like you sent in over Rs.48 lakhs and pledged firm commitments of another Rs.25 lakhs. With several major donations still to come in, we expect to raise the entire remaining amount of 27 lakhs from this appeal. We will inform you of any shortfall with full confidence that you will help us to make up the difference!

Phase-III is the long haul. When the pilgrims have returned to their homes and media interest has waned, the people of Uttarakhand still have to rebuild their lives. By the end of September, PSI will identify those villages we will support on the long journey to recovery.

Livelihoods restoration is a multi-stage and complex programme. Its scale depends on the population of the village and its nature depends on the socio-economic conditions of the households and the local resource base. Because our approach is participatory (community-led), at this juncture we cannot be specific.

Broadly, we will focus on activities that will regenerate livelihoods and the natural resource base. These are likely to include community mobilization, preparation of livelihoods development plans by the villagers, establishing village and cluster-level institutions, activities like tree plantation, fodder and dairy development, springs recharge (water resources development), promotion of low external inputs sustainable agriculture, diversion-based irrigation and the promotion of horticulture.

Working in an estimated 50 villages, the expected costs of this programme will be about Rs 12-15 lakhs per village. Part of this cost will come from MGNREGS funds and modest contributions by the villagers. We may also consider experimenting with new and innovative skills development activities.

We will prepare a specific livelihoods rehabilitation programme proposal in August 2013, after the temporary shelter construction is well underway. Axis Bank Foundation and Star TV have both expressed interest in supporting the Phase-III initiative.

Relief Distribution at Chandrapuri



Part of Channan village buried

Damaged house



School building destroyed



Houses destroyed by Mandakini river

Destruction of National Highway to Kedarnath (2)



Volunteer ferries across stream with relief supplies