

## Situation Update 1: Flood Situation in Jammu and Kashmir Floods, India (September 10, 2014)



Photo Courtesy: PTI

It has been a week since the flood situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to wreak havoc in the lives of the people, bringing life to a complete standstill in Srinagar and adjoining districts of the Kashmir Valley and Jammu. As on September 10, 2014 South Kashmir districts are the worst hit by the catastrophe, with many areas still cut off while over 30% of the capital city Srinagar continues to remain under flood waters. More than 10 lakh people are affected in Jammu division. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah has said that it is the worst flood in a century.

The death toll in the floods has crossed over 200 while many are still feared to be missing. The multi-agency operations of Army, NDRF and other paramilitary forces have so far evacuated 80,000 people. Efforts to provide rescue to stranded people have been doubled as the number of people stranded due to the flood is estimated to be around 4lakhs (according to media reports).

### Highlights of Flood Situation:

- The number of affected districts has increased from 10 to 15. The include- Kupwara, Bandipore, Ganderwal, Baramula, Srinagar, Bagdam, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag, Ramban, Reasi, Jammu, Rajauri and Poonch districts. (Source: Sphere India)
- Some of the badly affected areas include Bandipur, Ganderbal, Sri Nagar, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, and Jammu while areas like Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, Kulgam are cut-off.
- In some areas of South Kashmir such as Kakpura, Pulwama, Sangam, Lathipora and Awantiputa no rescue operation has been launched yet.
- In Srinagar town there is a decrease in water level by 3 to 4 feet since the beginning of the floods, where as there is a rise of 6 inches in Wuller Lake.
- Manasbal Lake saw a reduction by 3 inches bringing the water level to 18.3 feet, which is still 4.3 feet above danger mark while areas downstream of Jhelum River are experiencing increase in water levels.
- Communication networks are still down however, state-run and private telecommunication service providers are working in coordination with the Army to restore connectivity. Connection in some parts of Kashmir has been restored this morning.
- The J&K national highway, which links the valley to the rest of the country, will take about four to five days to open again. Srinagar-Leh highway was opened today.
- Close to 5000 migrant workers have been reported to be affected, demanding for safe return to their respective states.
- Situation in the Jammu region has stabilized and the focus is now on providing relief material on the ground, officials said. 68 relief camps have been set up in Jammu.
- IMD has predicted smooth weather for the following four days which may expedite the on-going rescue operations.

### Response by Government Agencies:

- The NDRF and Army have deployed over 150 and 110 boats respectively in the flood-hit state for rescue and evacuation operation.
- 215 Columns of personnel have been deployed by Army for the rescue and relief operations. Of these, 130 columns have been deployed in Srinagar region and 85 columns in Jammu region.
- So far, 61 aircraft and helicopters have been presence into action, undertaking multiple sorties to fasten the rescue efforts. So far, more than 459 tons of relief materials have been air dropped at various sites.

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- Jammu and Kashmir government has directed all Deputy Commissioners in the affected districts to assess the damages.
- Government has set-up flood control rooms to help relatives and friends connect to their kin.

**Flood Control Room No:**

**New Delhi J&K House:** (011)-24611210 and 24611108 **Srinagar:** 0194-2452138 **Jammu:** 0191-2560401 **Home Ministry Helpline (Delhi):** 011-23093054, 23092763, 23093564, 23092923, 23092885, 23093566, 23093563 **Emergency Army Helpline:** (+91) 011-23019831 · (+91) 011-23322045 **NDRF Control Room:** (+91) 011-26107953 · (+91) 0-9711077372

- The state tourism department has issued a flood advisory advising tourists to postpone their travel plans to the state due to the prevailing flood situation.

**Response by Other Agencies:**

- Due to poor road and communication connectivity most of the humanitarian agencies have not been able to reach the interior villages.
- Lack of Information continues to delay the humanitarian action in the flood affected districts.
- Google has set-up a People Finder Facility to help relatives trace their family members. (Please click the following link for more info <https://www.google.org/personfinder/2014-jammu-kashmir-floods>)
- Local residents and some locally based NGOs are providing basic relief services to the affected people.

**Emerging Needs:**

1. Non-food items: Flash lights with extra batteries, tarpaulins, chlorine tablets, boats, utensils and buckets, portable mobile charger, solar lamps, blankets, tents, DG sets etc.
2. Health and Hygiene: Medical camps and distribution of medicines focused on children and women; medical equipments, safety gears for rescue operations, sanitary napkins, nutritional food for children and pregnant women, etc.
3. Education: Books, bags, tents and other school materials to prevent loss of school days due to lack of education infrastructure.
4. Protection of Children, Women and Elderly People- as they are the most vulnerable in the aftermath of the disaster.

**Actions undertaken by United Way of India:**

United Way of India has set up a "**United Way Disaster Response Fund-India: J&K Floods 2014**" to mobilize resources from India and the world to support the relief and rehabilitation programs in Jammu and Kashmir. The United Way network in India has started raising resources through our corporate partners and established contact with some credible disaster relief organizations to address this major calamity. Some of these organizations include:

- SEEDS India: For reconstruction of Schools, provision of non-food and education items.
- AmeriCares International: For providing primary health care and medicines through an expert team of Doctors.
- Habitat for Humanity: For Construction of Emergency and transient shelters; Toilets
- Hope Foundation: For Health, education and disaster preparedness interventions

United Way Disaster Response Team is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with Sphere India, local and state administration of Jammu and Kashmir; NDRF and other NGOs to assess the flood situation, provide timely response and avoid duplicity of efforts.

Shortly, as soon as the situation improves, we will be conducting a detailed needs assessment which will enable us to strategize our future actions based on the real needs of the people.

***(For details on Donations to our programs for the flood victims, kindly refer to our appeal note)***

United Way Disaster Response Team  
United Way of India