

Alert note*India, Punjab & Delhi Floods and Uttarakhand Cloudburst 19th Sep 2025***Completed by:** Bibekananda Biswal, LWSIT**Date completed:** 19.09.2025**Forum:** ACT India Forum**Type of emergency:** Floods/ Cloudburst**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** 15th September 2025**1. The nature of the emergency**

Punjab is reeling under one of the worst flood disasters in its recent history, with all 23 districts impacted. Extreme monsoon rainfall in Punjab and importantly in upstream catchment areas (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir) that feed the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers. Large/rapid releases from reservoirs (Bhakra, Pong/Ranjit Sagar and other dams) to protect upstream infrastructure, which increased downstream flows. Saturated soils and limited drainage in low-lying agricultural plains, which increased inundation and slowed recession.

As of 8th September 2025, nearly 2 million people across 2,050 villages have been affected, and 3,87,898 individuals displaced from their homes. The official death toll has reached 48, while three persons remain missing. The agricultural sector has suffered massive losses, with more than 1,76,000 hectares of farmland submerged. Alongside crop damage, livestock has been badly hit, with over 2,52,000 animals and 5,88,000 poultry birds affected due to waterlogging, fodder shortages, and lack of shelter. Housing damage has also been significant, with 97 homes fully damaged and 363 partially damaged, forcing many families to depend on relief camps for shelter. (Source: Sphere India and IAG Uttarakhand)

In the last week of August and first week of September-2025, due to continuous heavy rains and rising water levels of the Yamuna River, several low-lying areas of Delhi were severely affected by floods. Families residing along riverbanks, slum clusters, and congested colonies faced displacement, damage to shelters, and loss of livelihoods. Vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities were among the worst hit.

Besides, between 15 and 17 September 2025, Uttarakhand experienced a catastrophic weather event marked by severe cloudbursts, moderate to heavy rainfall, and intense thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. The disaster primarily affected eight districts with Dehradun and Champawat experiencing high severity, while Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Udham Singh Nagar were impacted at a moderate level. In Dehradun, areas such as Sahastradhara, Maldevta, Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple, DIT College area, and Bhagat Singh Colony were severely affected. Sahastradhara recorded 192 mm of rainfall, followed by Maldevta with 141.5 mm, Hathi Barkala and Jolly Grant with 92.5 mm each, and Kalsi with 83.5 mm. The most devastating cloudburst occurred on 15 September in Dehradun, particularly impacting the Sahastradhara, Mussoorie, and Prem Nagar areas. At least 15 people have lost their lives, and 16 are reported missing following cloudbursts that triggered landslides and caused rivers to swell in Dehradun and surrounding districts. The Disaster Management Authority confirmed that 13 bodies were retrieved in Dehradun, while one body each was recovered in Pithoragarh and Nainital.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)

Because of floods and cloudburst, the livelihood of people including agriculture and farmlands are badly affected. The health sector has faced unprecedented destruction. According to the health minister, medical infrastructure worth ₹7,800 million has been damaged, including machinery and medicines worth ₹1,300 million. A total of 1,280 dispensaries and health and wellness centers, 101 community

health centers, and 31 sub-divisional hospitals have been impacted. This disruption has severely strained healthcare delivery at a time when stagnant water and poor sanitation are heightening the risk of outbreaks such as dengue, cholera, typhoid, diarrhea, and hepatitis. The risk of snakebites has also increased. Medical teams, including ASHA workers and Community Health Officers, are conducting door-to-door checks, distributing medicines, and providing anti-snake venom in flood-hit areas.

The education sector has been badly hit, with around 3,300 government and private schools damaged or inundated across the state. Schools were closed on 27 August due to the deluge, and though reopening began on 8th – 9th September, many remain shut in the worst-hit districts. Thirty schools in Fazilka and 36 in Ferozepur are still inundated, all schools in Ajnala and Lopoke (Amritsar) remain closed until 12 September, and dozens more in Gurdaspur, Pathankot, and Sangrur continue to be non-operational due to either structural damage or flooding from the Ghaggar river. This has disrupted learning for thousands of children, adding to the long-term recovery burden.

The total estimated damage in Dehradun due to the floods is over ₹100 million. Among the reported losses, approximately 13 bridges were damaged, amounting to ₹15 million; 12 agricultural fields were affected, resulting in a revenue loss of ₹23 million; damage to 21 roads is estimated at ₹12 million; and embankments worth ₹17 million were also destroyed.

3. Local and national capacity

Relief and rescue operations are continuing at scale. The Punjab government, with support from central agencies, has evacuated 22,938 people from the worst-hit areas and established 219 relief camps sheltering 5,400 persons. A total of 481 veterinary teams are providing animal care, while 23 NDRF teams, Army units, helicopters, and 144 boats have been deployed for rescue. Immediate relief worth ₹710 million has been released. Cabinet ministers are personally supervising operations across districts: Chief Minister has been monitoring operations daily through virtual meetings with the Chief Secretary and DGP, and has directed officials to ensure no flood-affected family is left without food, safe drinking water, or medical care.

Coping strategies observed: Mass evacuation of people to relief camps or to higher ground/relative's homes; use of boats/temporary rafts for movement; community-led distribution of food and fuel; spontaneous local relief from Gurdwaras, Churches, NGOs and civil society (e.g., food, medical camps). Many households are using savings or selling livestock for immediate needs.

Some of the humanitarian organizations are complementing and supplementing government efforts. They are providing food, clean water, sanitation, medical aid, and livelihood support. Sphere India is facilitating inter-agency coordination and supporting information management through its network of partners and local NGOs. According to the latest update, about 25,470 people have been evacuated from these floods affected areas and around 22,800 shifted to temporary camps. The Delhi government has launched a flood response plan: 58 boats, 675 life jackets, 82 mobile pumps, and 18 NDRF teams helped in rescue and relief operations. Some of the nation and local NGOs and faith groups are active in the ground for distributions and medical camps.

4. Key needs and gaps

The state governments of Punjab, Delhi and Uttarakhand are facing the crisis to respond to these massive needs as the current floods and cloudburst have put these states in a very difficult position. The present floods and cloudburst have been hit by 23 districts in Punjab while eight districts are affected in Uttarakhand including the state capital of Dehradun. As of now and the government machinery also finding it difficult to respond to a level that is required. In addition to the need for peoples permanent rehabilitation with safe shelter there is huge need to support their lost livelihoods. That has been completely lost.

Floods and Cloudburst affected Communities and individuals are currently facing a range of vital unmet humanitarian needs related to the following sectors:

Food and Non-Food items – Because of submerged agriculture fields, the flood affected people in Punjab lost their primary livelihoods. Besides, they lost mulching cows, buffaloes which was source of livelihood. NFI items destroyed due floods and cloudburst as well.

WASH- there is a need to support hygiene services within displaced persons.

Cash Transfer – families lost their livelihood and household items which is swept away by floods and cloudburst which will be partly met through this cash transfer

Shelter and Settlements: The families those lost their houses need immediate temporary shelter materials and followed by housing to live in future

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

Please type your response here

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond *(Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan, you can add rows if needed)*

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
LWSIT	Punjab, Delhi and Uttarakhand	Food and Non-Food Livelihoods Psycho-social support WASH Shelter	Dry Ration NFIs Livelihood Trauma counselling/Psycho social support Shelter Cash transfer	\$ 50,000
CNI SBSS	Punjab	Livelihood, WASH, Education, Nutrition, Gender, Youth, DNH	Food Materials NFIs Livelihood Shelter Cash transfer	\$ 50,000
CARD	Punjab, Delhi and Uttarakhand	Community Development, Emergency Response, Health, Agriculture, Education	WASH, Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs), Cash transfer	\$ 50,000

6. Potential responses.

ACT India Forum Members - LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD will implement the program directly in the disaster affected areas. At the same time it would take the support of local stakeholders in the respective areas to assess actual needs and identification of deserving people for the right kind of support and to make sure the support given is well utilised. The involvement in emergency phase is crucial to gain people's confidence as well as to identify the gaps in local needs to adjust implementation strategies. The local stakeholders cooperation is very important to implement program activities at different states.

LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD has planned to use Rapid Response Funds to support the flood and cloudburst affected people by providing basic food materials, temporary shelter, non-food items, hygiene/dignity kits, psycho social support, agricultural seeds and allied services and cash transfer. Each member organization planned to provide humanitarian assistance to 1,000 households each (i.e., 3,000 in total approx.) through rapid response program as early as possible based on prioritized needs.