

Uttarakhand Floods

Joint Shelter Assessment

22 August 2013



Acknowledgements

On behalf of the participating agencies, Sphere India, CARE India, ATI, SEEDS,CASA, Christian Aid, Emmanuel Hospital Association, SHARD, CORDAID and RED R we would like to acknowledge the valuable guidance and support of the Government of India. The close collaboration of the Government and the Sphere sub-committee on Shelter has led to a well-coordinated assessment that has yielded useful and actionable information about the impact of the June floods.

Our thanks to the representatives of all Gram Panchayats for their on-the-ground knowledge, their support in obtaining secondary data and community level perceptions of impact. In particular, we would like to thank the affected population who took time to answer our questions providing the data for this assessment.

Also our thanks to the Global Shelter Cluster and Reach Initiative for support with survey formats and mapping of the data.

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Geographic Classifications

Name Used in Report	Definition
State	Federal administrative structure for governance in India
District	Second administrative sub-division beneath the state. Each district is headed by a District Collector / District magistrate
Block	The intermediate tier of regional administration
Village	Villages are grouped together as part of a Gram Panchayat

Executive summary

CARE India led a Joint Shelter Assessment to understand the situation and needs of women, men, boys and girls around shelter in the post flood scenario in Uttarakhand. The members of the Joint Shelter Assessment were SEEDS, Christian Aid, Appropriate Technology – India (ATI), CASA, Emmanuel Hospitals Association, Sphere India and RED R. This shelter assessment was undertaken in the five worst affected districts of Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Terhi Garhwal and Uttrakashi. Information on the extent of damages around shelters was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Survey Questionnaire and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). While the FGDs, KIIs and Survey questionnaire focused on different aspects pertaining to shelter, information on WASH was also collected as part of the assessment. During this survey, a total of 412 households across 73 villages in 5 districts were surveyed. The following report gives detail on the information gathered as part of the shelter assessment. The Key Recommendations agreed by participating agencies are as follows:

Displacement

There is significant variety in the observed shelter situation across the affected population. This variety is apparent within both the 68% of displaced households and 32% non-displaced. It is clear that no one response will be suitable for all these groups and a mixed response strategy will be required.

Land

One issue that is relevant to all displaced and at risk households is the provision of new land. In many of the districts it was observed that the availability of land was severely limited. Also noted were the limitations on identifying safe land for relocation. The Government is expected to identify and allocate land for households, however, there is a requirement for greater transparency of the criteria for selection and future involvement of the communities in site selection.

It is likely that this and the construction of long term shelter will take some time. It is therefore suggested that a mid-term response is required before winter for the various identified groups.

Strategy

Due to the variety of the shelter needs and complexities of coordinating with the Government long term response it is recommended that the Sphere Shelter Sub-committee and Emergency Shelter Forum develop a strategy in coordination with the Government. The strategy should contain a 'menu' of shelter options for supporting the affected population with given parameters to ensure equity of response.

All shelter responses, solutions and designs must be discussed with the community prior to implementation.

Logistics are still a challenge and moving large quantities of goods is not easy – especially for more remote locations – solutions should look to utilise local materials and resources.

Beneficiary Selection

The disaster has affected a broad economic cross section and therefore there must be a strong focus on beneficiary selection to ensure the most vulnerable receive assistance:

- ensure the most needy are receiving assistance as a priority
- ensure that provision of assistance does not break up existing family units hoping to gain extra assistance
- some areas are still inaccessible and should not be overlooked in favour of those easier to reach areas
- Some people and villages have been left off Gov. lists and they should not be left out
- Only 55% of people have proof of house ownership. Flexibility will be required from agencies and Government to accept people with other forms of verification

WASH

Water access and sanitation practise were good before the floods and all shelter solutions should include WASH sanitation and water supplies to maintain this level of practice.

DRR

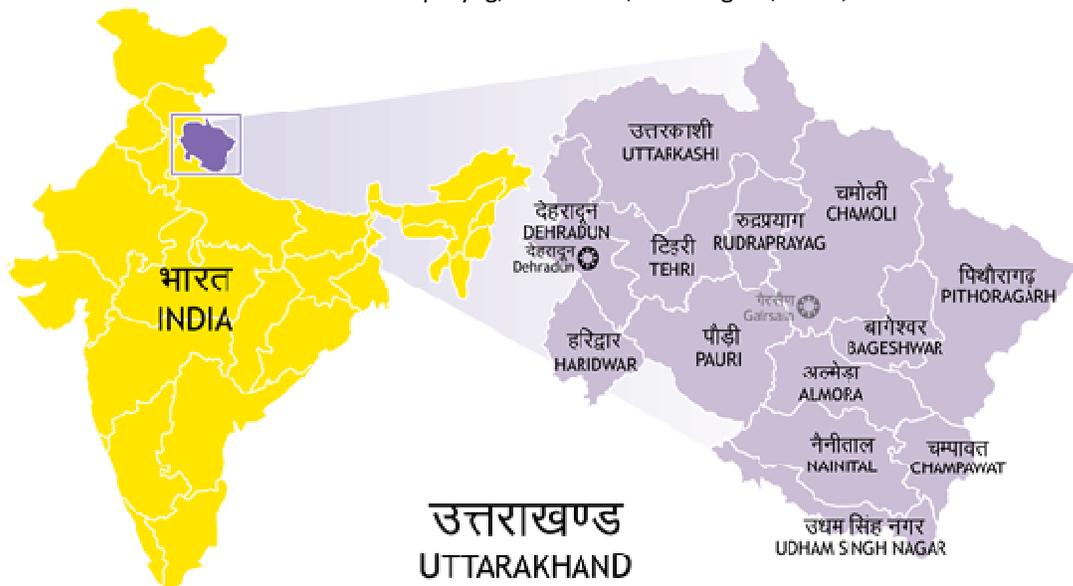
Over half of people were warned of the floods through word of mouth. There is a lack of evidence of community based risk awareness and preparedness. Plans for long term disaster risk reduction should be included in the shelter strategy as is it a multiple risk area. The most significant of these is that the area is in earthquake zone 4 & 5. Technical assistance needs to be provided with cash or material assistance so that people can build back more safely and effectively.

Operating environment and situation trends

Background

Flash floods, triggered by overflowing waters of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers caused by the advanced onset of monsoon with incessant heavy rains for over 60 hours (50mm-500 mm of rainfall from 14 -17 June 2013) have caused severe and widespread devastation in the hilly state of Uttarakhand in North India. Rainstorms and heavy landslides have worsened the situation.

The worst affected districts are Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Pauri, Tehri and Chamoli.



The Government of India (GoI)'s and Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK)'s initial relief efforts focused on search and rescue efforts of tourists and pilgrims stranded in various places. The extent of damage as reported by State Government on 20.07.2013 was:

No. of Districts affected	13
No. of villages affected	1603
No. of human lives lost	580*
No. of body recovered	249
No. of injured	4473
No. of missing as on 30.07.2013	5474
Livestock lost	9470
No. of houses damaged	4726
Cattle shed damaged	649
Pilgrims stranded at various places	All the pilgrims have been evacuated #
No. of persons rescued to safer places as on 02.07.2013	1,08,653

- *Including 20 victims of a helicopter crash.
- It must be taken into consideration that many people would remain at Badrinath, Gaurikund and Yamunotri until the holy doors of respective dham get closed for winter i.e. until the second or third week of November 2013.
- Figures are provisional and gathered from several sources. These are likely to change as further information is received from various, updated sources.

(Source: SITREP NO-63/2013 Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division), Government of India Dated 2nd August, 2013

The interim assessment indicates loss/damage worth INR 800-900 Crore (equivalent to GBP 8-9 million). The state government is dependent on leisure and religious tourism for its revenue so this has now been set back by three years.

With the first stage of emergency relief complete, further detailed sectoral assessments have been encouraged to enable the planning of medium and long term assistance.

Objectives

A joint shelter needs assessment lead by CARE India was proposed during the coordination meetings and other interested agencies requested to join. All participating agencies were then involved in the drafting of an assessment TOR.

Overall Objective

To assess the shelter situation and needs of women, men, boys and girls in the target districts of Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Tehri.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment mission were:

- The completion of a shelter assessment to understand the past and present situation of affected households and their current and future needs
- Enable operational humanitarian agencies in Uttarakhand to design shelter interventions
- Sharing of results at the field and international level to support a planned and coordinated humanitarian aid response in targeted locations

Assessment methodology

Data

Field Data was collected by teams of enumerators including men and women from participating agencies. Each district was coordinated by agency team leaders in the field ensuring that teams targeted the districts following the sampling strategy and minimising duplication and gaps. Data includes household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations.

Secondary Data, collected from external sources provides the backdrop of reported needs and context. It was collected from IAG reports, State and central Government reports, District administration, UN agencies, INGOs and Local NGOs. Gender analysis done as a part of other rapid assessments (e.g. UNDMT joint assessment mission) will also be referred to.

Sampling Strategy

Due to the localised damage caused by the floods and landslides, this assessment purposely sampled geographic areas based on the districts, blocks and villages identified as being the most affected by the rapid assessments conducted by participating agencies.

The assessment used the following sampling prioritisation:

District Level – A target of a minimum of 4 of the most affected districts

Block Level – At the block level, the assessment targeted the following for undertaking sampling:

- Selection of the worst affected blocks
- Study the damages to shelters in both urban as well as rural areas
- Within the urban and rural areas, study the damage to homes belonging to members of SC community as well as non-SC community

Village level – conduct a minimum of 5 representative household surveys.

Coordination

As part of its response, CARE India has been coordinating with all humanitarian agencies responding to the Uttarakhand flash floods to discuss issues like geographical areas of relief distribution, avoiding overlaps/duplication of efforts in the relief distribution phase etc. These coordination meetings have been held at national and state level. While the national level coordination meeting was organised by Sphere India in Delhi, the Inter Agency Group (IAG) was leading coordination meetings at the state level in Dehradun.

Apart from coordination meetings, participating humanitarian agencies have also been appraising State Government of Uttarakhand on its interventions and possible collaboration with the State for future rehabilitation programmes that different agencies may want to initiate as part of rehabilitation initiatives.

CARE India invited other interested agencies at national and local level to participate in a Joint Assessment on Shelter. Prior to the assessment a draft TOR and data collection formats were shared for inputs from participating agencies and finalised.

Training, logistics and HR

A meeting was held in Dehradun on the 20th July with participating agencies to brief them on the assessment. The agenda covered the following topics:

- Review of final TOR
- Agreement on sampling strategy
- Acknowledgement of access limitations
- Review of household survey and focus group discussion formats
- Reaching common understanding of subjective areas of the formats, including building damage categories.

The timescale for sharing compiled data entry forms and observations were also shared.

Assessment area

Locations and sample size

In the assessment, all the worst affected Districts were surveyed. The worst affected district of Rudraprayag had the most households assessed. A total number of 412 household were assessed across the five districts.

District	Number of Villages Visited	Number of HH assessments
Pithoragarh	24	104
Rudraprayag	20	147
Uttarkashi	9	39
Tehri Gharwal	1	27
Chamoli	19	95
Grand Total	73	412

(See Annexe 1: Map indicating assessment areas)

As only one village was assessed in Tehri Gharwal, the results from this district should not be seen as representative and are excluded from some of the processed data.

Limitations/gaps

While every effort was made to ensure that this assessment yielded the highest quality data with the lowest incidence of error, there were a few constraints that limited the internal and external validity of the results.

Sampling bias

- District administration often did not have a village/Gram Panchayat shelter damage list that the team could use to select villages to be assessed based on the extent of damage. The assessment did not have the resources to record the total level of damage so government figures will be used for each district as necessary. Agencies had to rely only on their own knowledge and perceptions of other NGOs and local volunteers about which villages to visit.
- The transient nature of the population linked to the seasonal tourist trade means that many households were not in their original house and had migrated outside of the assessment area and hence were unavailable for interviewing.
- There were a very low proportion of female enumerators in the teams of the participating agencies. Efforts were made to overcome this by linking up with local health workers and other female representatives. However, some female respondents might have been hesitant to give open answers to male enumerators.

Questionnaire limitations

- Infrastructure losses were not captured as the survey focused on the impact on homes not infrastructure or properties linked to livelihoods.
- Some households had been damaged by the rain or by landslides that preceded those of the 14th - 17th June. These households were not ignored in the survey but the proportion was not effectively captured.
- There was no specific area where houses and land that had been fully washed away or lost in landslides could be captured as a distinct group. These houses have been recorded as

totally damaged but this does not allow for identification of the difference between areas where the land was unaffected.

- There were some translation errors in the Hindi version of the form and some complaints that the language was not very reader friendly for less experienced enumerators. Future translation should use more informal verbal language to facilitate easy collection.

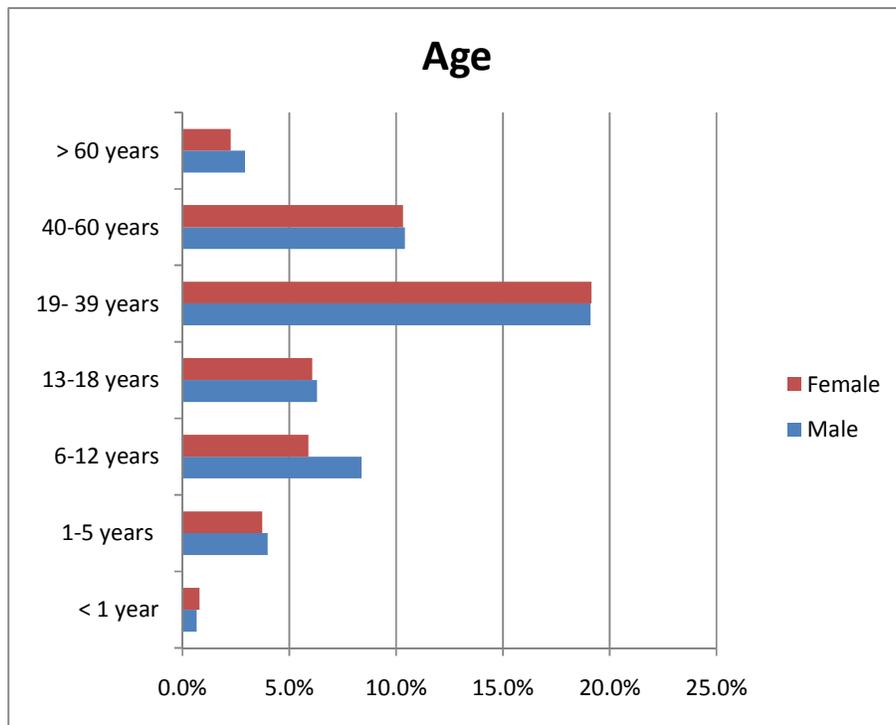
Access

- Existing and on-going landslides made access to the affected areas a challenge and required teams to hike into areas. This limited the number of locations that could be reached and surveys conducted within the assessment period.
- Some very isolated areas were not visited as the potential risk to the enumerators of achieving access outweighed the perceived benefits. These areas should not be excluded in future selection of assistance.

Affected population

Demographic characteristics

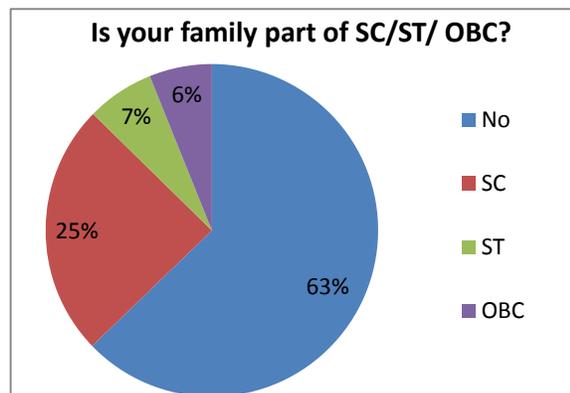
A total number of 412 households were reached for this assessment. The proportion of male to female household members was nearly 51.8%. The largest age cohort was 19-39 years old, the figures correlate closely with the 2011 national statistics for the state. The figure below illustrates the demographic breakdown of assessed households.



The average household size of 5.5 in the assessment is slightly high as people were living in large houses in nuclear groups in large connected houses. It seems that people were giving information about their extended families rather than each household. The data from the emergency distributions puts the average household size at 4.5.

The percentage of minority groups in the assessment was 37%. This is slightly higher than the proportion shown in the 2011 census data which was 25% for rural areas in the district. This reflects that these groups often live in more marginal land along rivers and in areas at risk of landslide.

It is these groups that are going to be most in need of assistance as they are least able to recover without external assistance.



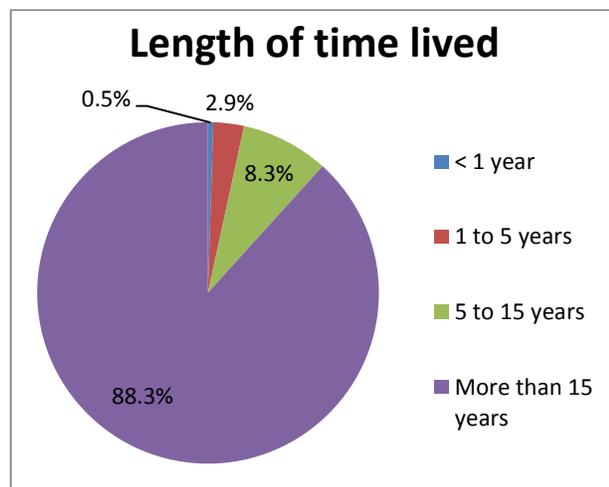
The percentage of pregnant or lactating women within the child bearing age of 13-60 appears to be slightly low for the region. It may be that pregnant woman have relocated to safer areas and were therefore not captured.

	% of total women 13-60
pregnant women	2.6%
lactating women	4.7%

Additionally there were very few incidences of households having disabled members. Physical disability was most closely linked to old age.

	Physical disability	Mental Disability	Blind
male	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%
Female	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%

8.7% of households assessed were single headed with an even split between male and female. There is a question about the reliability of this data as some women who were interviewed gave their husbands name and did not state that they were single headed even though they are separated. Further care should be taken during any beneficiary selection process to validate this.

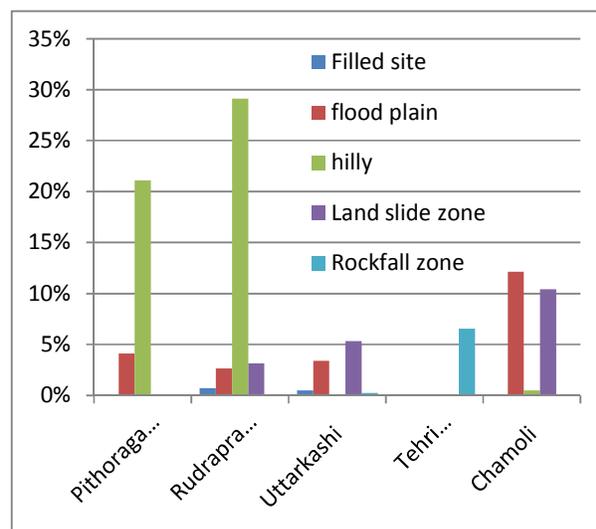


Families have been present for a long time in their current locations. Multiple generations were available at many of the sites with extended families living in adjacent houses or in multiple rooms of the same house.

Geographic context

Uttarakhand (also referred to as land of Gods) state is home to pilgrim sites, 12 national parks and several scenic hill stations which attract scores of tourists every year. 93% of the area is mountainous and 64% is covered with forests, making it difficult to access.

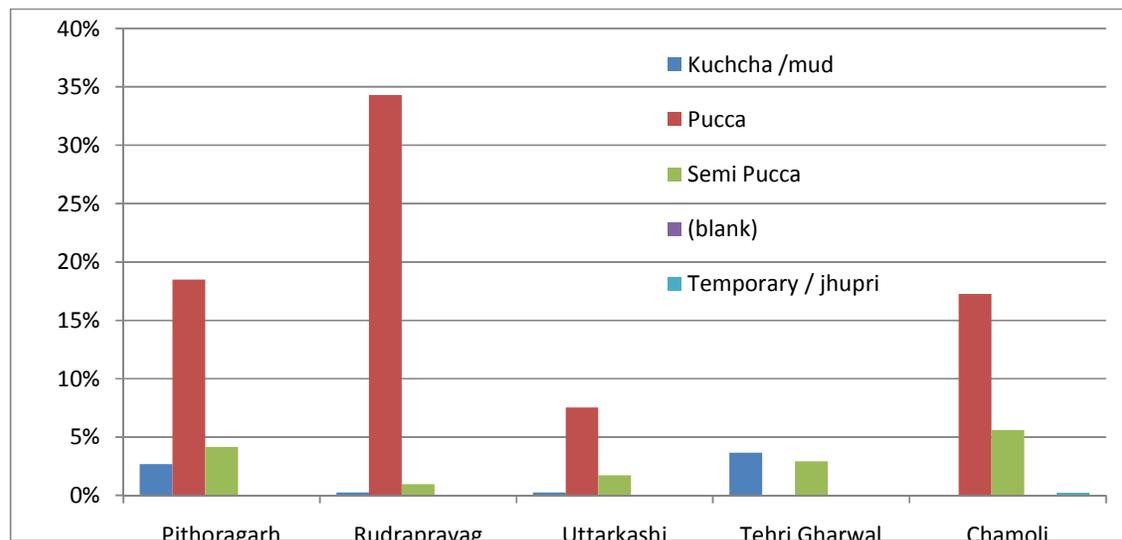
As mentioned in the limitations, the areas covered in this assessment were those worst affected by the floods but accessible by the teams. The figure reflects the types of terrain of the houses that were visited and why they were affected by the rain and floods. Hilly areas of Rudraprayag and Pithoragarh were cut away by the river which raised itself up to 15m and



shifted course significantly. Houses on flood plains in all districts were affected as the river level rose.

Housing typology

The local housing vernacular is for Pucca housing. Stone foundations are laid with either a concrete or earth floor. Stone or brick load bearing walls are the most common wall construction, with a higher number of RCC columns with infill in the larger towns. Roofs and first floor slabs are cast in concrete, which has replaced the traditional pitched slate/stone construction which was still found in more remote areas. It was noted that many cattle and storage sheds were constructed from traditional methods with loadbearing stone walls and slate roofs. Almost no earth construction was recorded, probably due to the availability locally of stone and previously imported bricks.



97% of houses were privately owned with house and land in the name of the male head. This combined with a proportion of men being away for livelihood opportunities elsewhere in the state may lead to problems when new land allocation is selected.

Over 80% of people had ownership papers of some kind for the property, however only 55% still have these. Local leaders did not think this would be a major problem as households were known to them and new land would be allocated to those who had need regardless of papers. There was however some concerns around the government lists and a lack of transparency for how households were being selected.

Shelter Specific Results

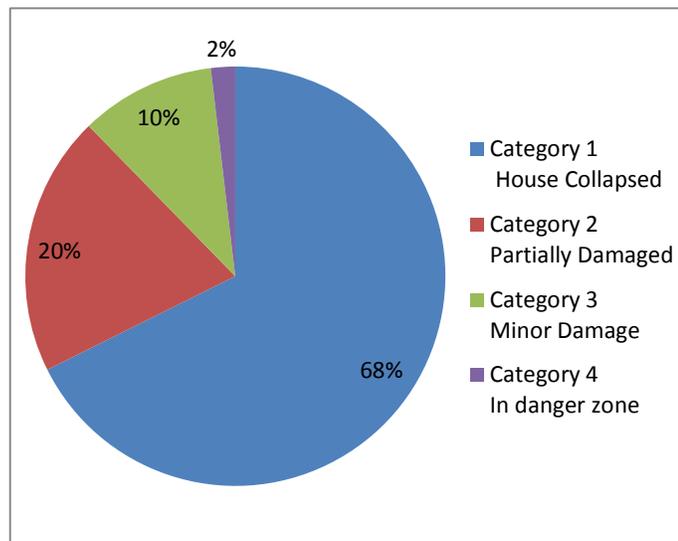
This assessment focused on generating a better understanding of the pre and post flood shelter situation in the affected districts. To do this, questions were asked both about the respondents' previous living conditions, current damage and the house plan and needs for the future.

Government figures are that 2780¹ houses were damaged across the region. Due to issues with access and a limitation on resources from interested agencies this assessment was unable to verify the overall household figures. Key informant interviews were held with Gram Pradhyaan and other representatives in villages who were re-collecting damage data to pass on to regional government. It appeared that the quality and veracity of these lists was largely dependent on the location. Some villages visited were not represented by the system and had received no assistance or been recorded in the government figures. In addition to this there was a lack of transparency around what level of damage qualified houses for government compensation.

The nature of the damages meant that most affected households were fully damaged, either with their house washed away or lost in landslides.

Category descriptions:

1. House collapsed with either: roof missing, walls collapsed, structure collapsed or foundation damaged
2. Partially damaged (50-75%) roof missing or significantly damaged, walls significant damaged, structure significant damaged or foundation damaged
3. Minor damage (20-50%): roof moderately damaged, walls moderately damaged, structure moderate damaged, foundation damaged
4. Undamaged but at risk

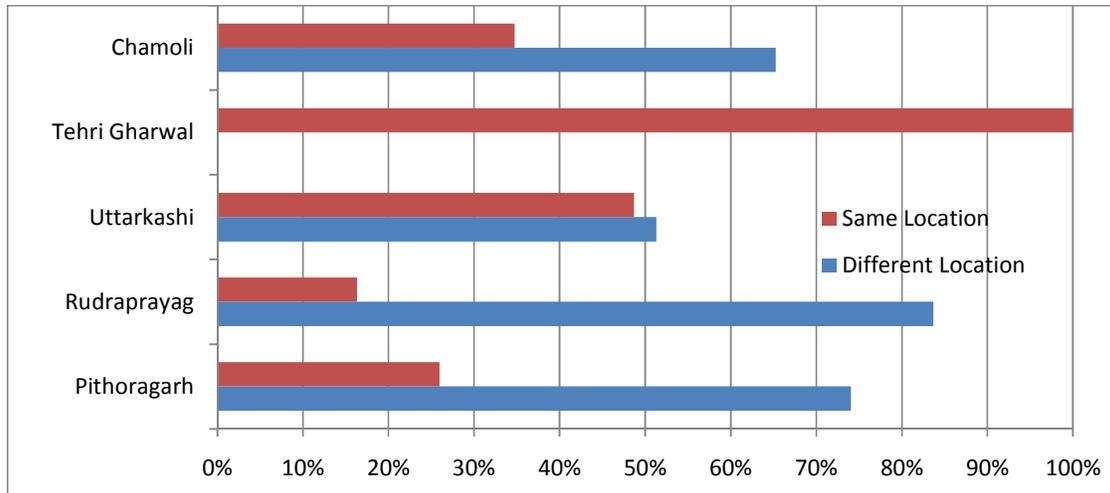


(See Annexe 2: Map indicating shelter categories)

Displacement

Overall 68% of the households surveyed had been displaced from their original location. However, the figures below show that there are significant differences across the 5 assessed districts.

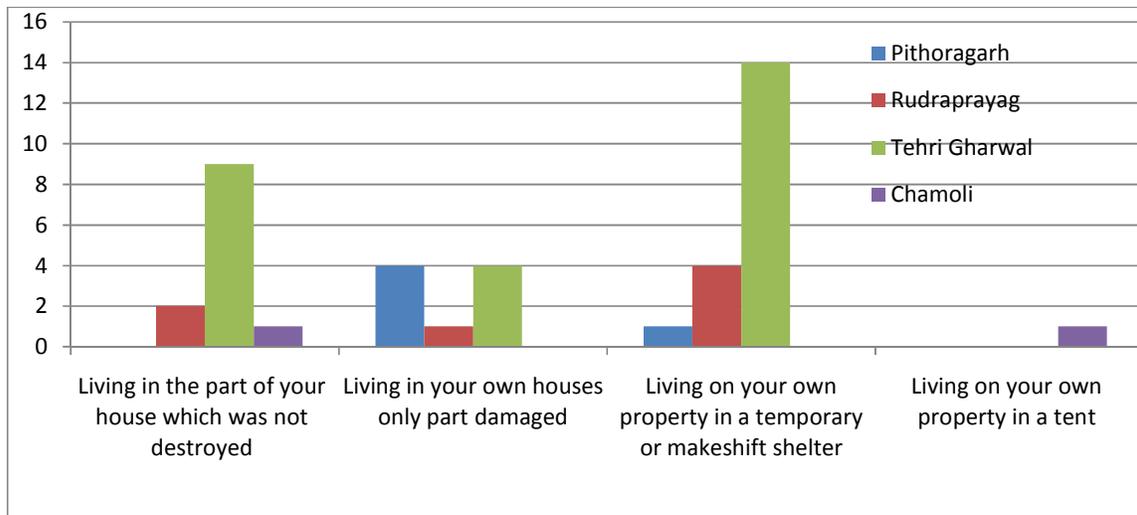
¹ Sphere India State Inter Agency Coordination Group, Sitrep 8, 20 July 2013



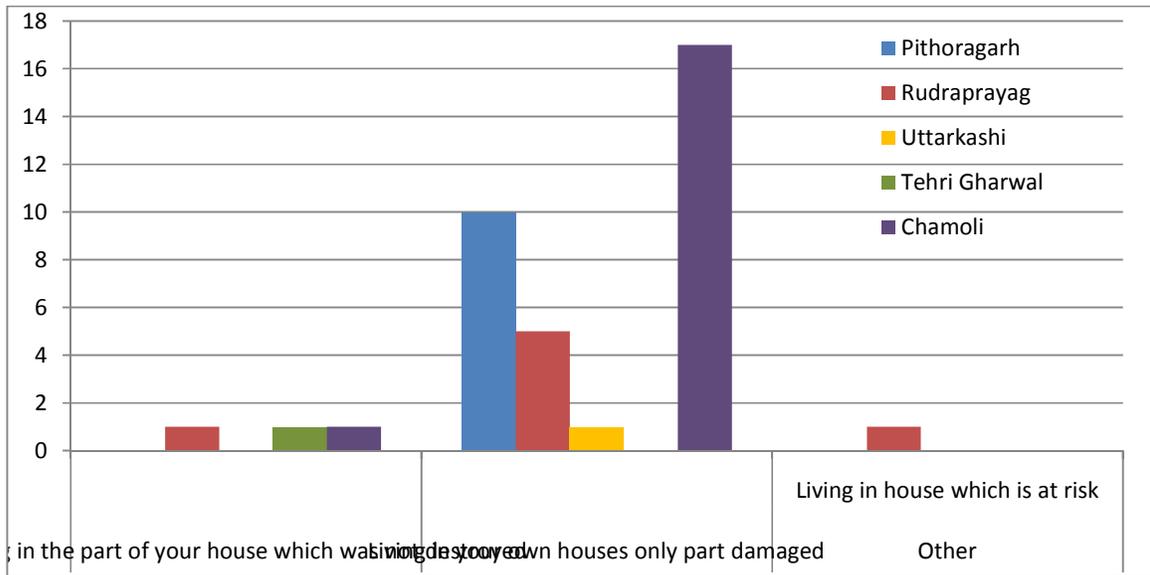
Non-displaced

Of the 32% living in the same location 41% have fully damaged houses with the remaining houses having suffered partial or minor damage. This group are living across a number of circumstances largely dependent on the district. In Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Pithoragarh districts the majority are living in their partially damaged houses, while in Tehri Gharwal, where all households are in the same location, the majority are in temporary or makeshift shelters on their own land.

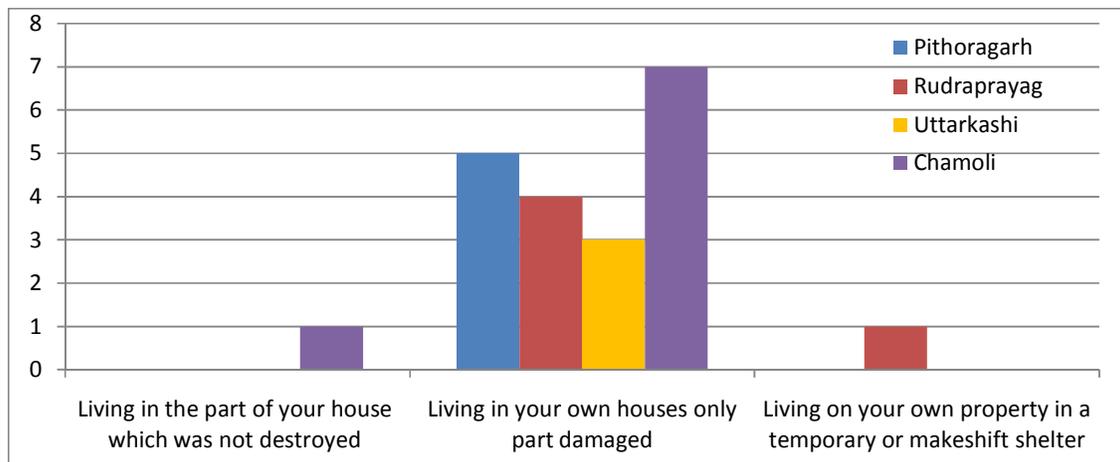
For those with category 1 damaged houses in same location:



For Category 2 damaged households in the same location:



For category 3 damaged households in the same location:



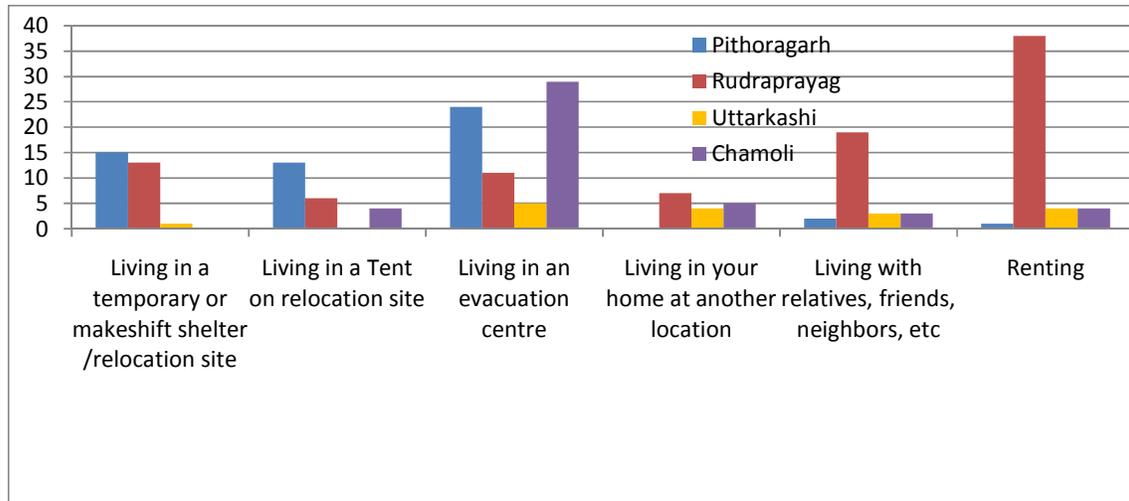
Displaced

In the four districts with displaced populations there is an even greater mix of temporary housing solutions across the districts. In Chamoli the largest number are living in evacuation centres, a government tourist lodge and school buildings. Households in Pithoragarh are split across relocation sites and evacuation centres with a number living in makeshift shelters. In contrast in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi, a significantly larger number of households have rented accommodation in the same or in nearby towns.

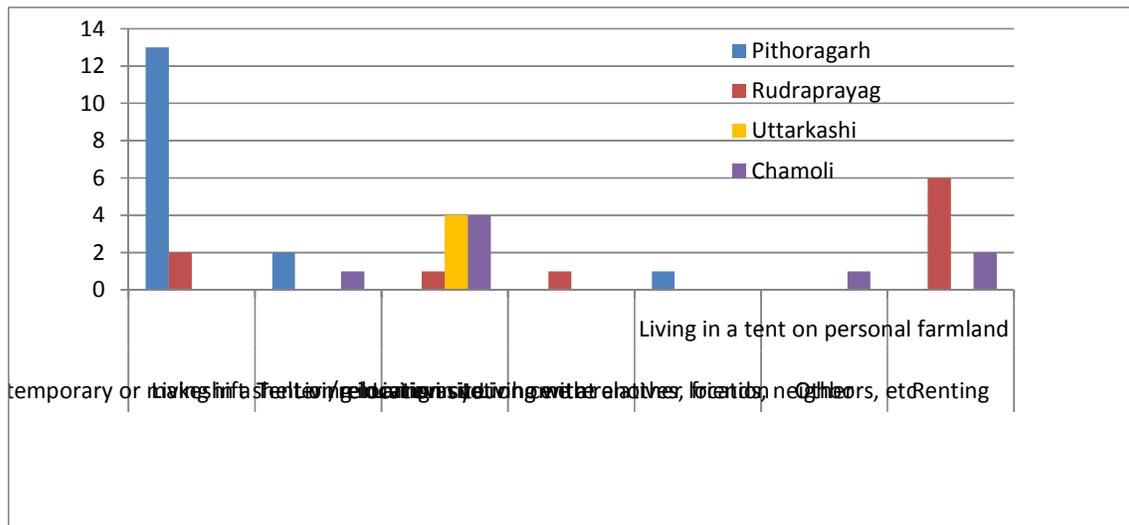
One of the local trends before the floods was for people to rent accommodation in the larger towns to be close to markets or educational centres. These people retained their family homes in their home villages and most have either returned to these locations or rented new accommodation in the village. This group was affected by the floods but as their main residence was not affected, they were not actively sought out by the enumerators.

Public buildings in Uttarkashi have been noted as a separate category from evacuation centres because these were not formally recognised as such. The arrangements to stay in these buildings (ranging from schools to government accommodation) has been made by the individual families.

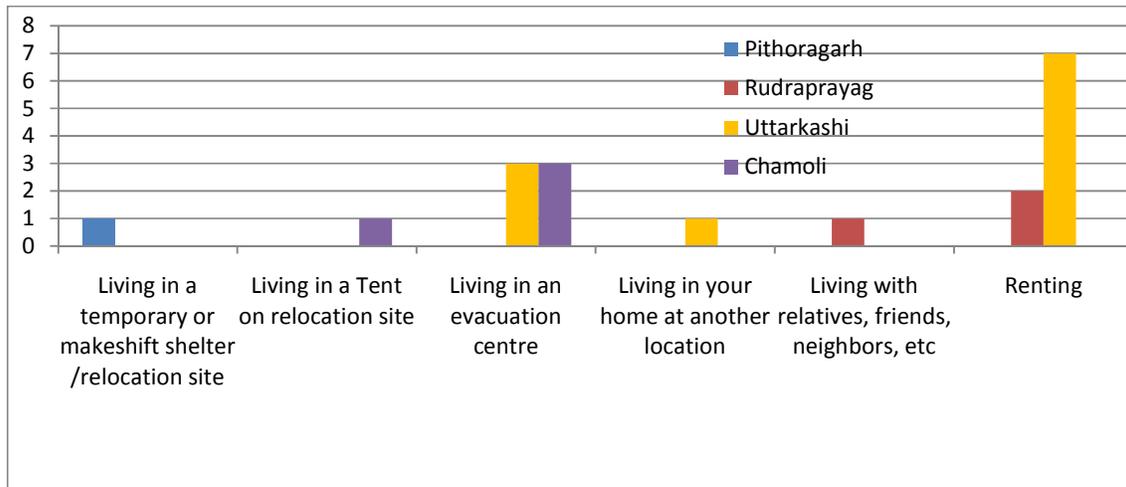
Figure showing category 1 damaged households displaced locations:



For category 2 damaged households displaced locations:

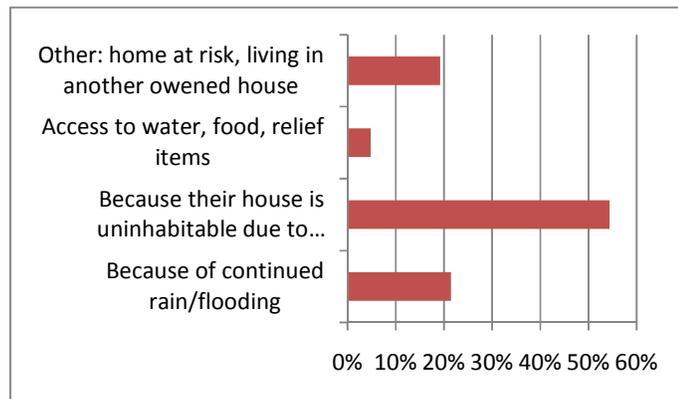


For category 3 damaged households displaced locations:



33% of respondents stated some risk of eviction. Most of these were from people who have been displaced and are living in public buildings or on other people’s land in temporary shelter. A very small number of people have remained in areas that are at risk of further landslide and were recorded as at risk of eviction.

Households were asked what was stopping them from returning to their homes. As 68% of respondents homes were fully damaged, which in this case largely meant that the land had been lost, the question was of limited value as the results in the figure show.



Priorities

Households who had lost everything when their house was washed away or lost in landslides stated a need for all items. New land to rebuild was an underlying request from this entire group and is not reflected as a high enough priority in the table below. This is probably because most people were sure that the government would provide them with new land and or house to relocate to. This belief was so strong that respondents were not yet worried about the winter as they were sure they would receive government assistance before this. **(See Annexe 3: Map on Shelter Priorities)**

Priority	1	2	3	Ranked
Want to move out of communal shelters	57	9	5	5
Want to return home	75	38	17	3
Need materials and tools to repair or rebuild houses	118	108	55	1
Need skills/labour to repair or rebuild houses	11	121	102	2
Need basic household items (NFIs)	25	45	83	4
Need land to rebuild	34	0	0	6

Respondents reflected a number of challenges to being able to rebuild their homes. Here respondents were more realistic about the problems that they will face regarding land. They also stated the need for financial assistance for materials and tools while recognising that these were not easily available. **(See Annexe 4: Map on shelter problems)**

Challenges	1	2	3	Ranked
Materials/tools for repair are not available	89	37	17	3
Materials/tools for repair are not accessible (not enough money)	124	130	40	1
Skilled/labour for repair not available	42	71	64	5
Skilled/labour for repair not accessible (not enough money)	42	46	112	4
There are potential grievances on land issues	114	6	6	2
No land to rebuild	35	0	0	6

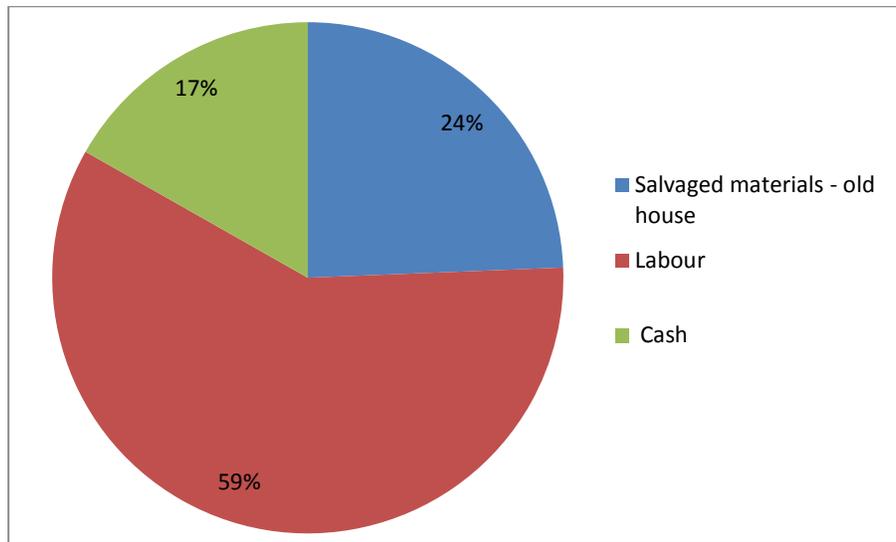
Based on the conversations with households, focus group discussion and key informant interviews, clear shelter priorities were identified:

- Land – identification of and allocation of new land for building houses
- Cash – all respondents stated that they would require more than the government compensation
- Houses – repair and rebuilding of new houses

FGD with some living in tents – had to be pushed to understand that they might be in same situation during winter and what would they need. Responses were extra covered space, warm clothes etc.

Coping mechanisms

Assessment respondents were asked what they would be able to contribute to any future shelter activities. The figure shows the majority stated that they would be able to assist with labour either directly or through paying for hire. It was noted by the team that this is a shift in opinion from the early days of the response where households were not offering any assistance.



Development of shops, houses and hotels along the pilgrimage routes for livelihood purposes has led to some households owning multiple houses, one in their original home village (often higher up the mountains) and one on the riverside. Rooms within the riverside houses were rented out as a source of income. With the loss of these riverside houses some families have chosen to relocate to their original home while leaving family members in relocation sites in the hope of receiving compensation.

A number of negative coping mechanisms were observed. During these floods, irrespective of gender roles, women, men boys and girls have been affected. However, in discussions with men women and adolescent girls, it was felt that women and adolescent girls have been more affected. Some of facts that identified this were:

Though the society in Uttarakhand is as patriarchal as the societies in other states of India, the assessment team found that women in these areas also contributed to household income. The assessment team largely attributed this to high literacy rates in the state itself. However, despite this women shared that domestic violence was prevalent in these areas. In Silli for instance, the assessment team spoke to an ASHA worker who was, along with her mother-in-law, the bread earners for their family. The ASHA worker shared that she had been facing domestic violence at the hands of her husband who never worked or contributed to household income. Following the floods, the ASHA worker has taken shelter with a host family along with her mother in law and after the floods she and her mother-in-law had no source of income. The family is just managing from whatever is available within the host family. She further added that they have lost a lot in these

floods. As result of all the losses as well as no source of income, her husband is generally frustrated. To avoid any facing violence, the ASHA worker avoids meeting her husband as much as possible.

Women in the other villages assessed, shared that though most of the affected families have shifted into host families or relocation sites, the family unit had broken down with women and girls staying at one place while men and boys are at a different location, even though they were in the same village. This made the women and girls feel insecure. Women staying in camps in Pithoragarh shared that as many as 4 families were staying in one room. This also resulted in lack of privacy for women and girls in these spaces.

Lastly, most women with whom the assessment team interacted, could not hold back their tears while sharing their experiences. Based on this the team felt that perhaps there were no spaces for women to share their traumatic experiences or vent their frustrations. These women were perhaps just expected to accept what had happened and move on. While the assessment team recognised that even men and boys may be going through the same trauma, the psycho-social support for women may be seen as a more immediate need.

The mental health of those affected is a serious concern. Those that have had their house and land either washed away or lost in landslides, have lost all they ever had. This, combined with the fact that over 88% of the respondents had lived in the location for over 15 years means there is a profound sense of loss and despair. While households are trying to be proactive in seeking assistance, they reported very low moods on return to their places of shelter. The FGD's indicate that community spirit was one of the best elements of the communities prior to the floods. Proper consideration needs to be given to agencies providing mental health support and not to underestimate how housing solutions will lift spirits and provide a sense of home and stability..

Assistance

On-going / planned response from Government

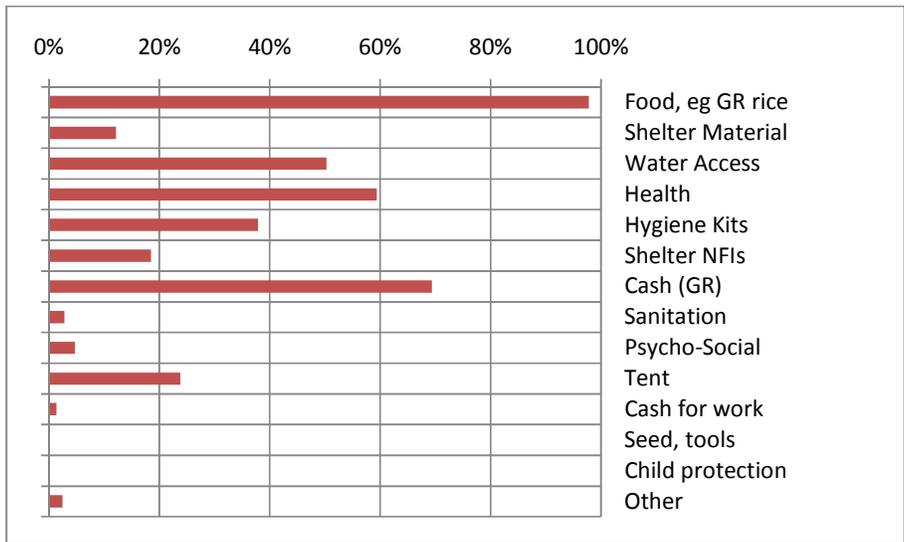
The Government of India and the State Government of Uttarakhand have initiated efforts for rehabilitating the affected families. To this end, affected families have started receiving compensation under different criteria. The scheme offers compensation for a number of areas, loss of life, disability, house damage, household essentials, land damage, loss of crops or livestock. The table below is an extract of the compensation relating to household damage².

Fully damaged pukka house	Rs.2 Lakhs
Partially damaged house	Rs.1 lakh
Damaged/ destroyed hut	Rs.6000
Cattle shed (Each cattle shed)	Rs.2500

Simultaneously, the State Government of Uttarakhand (through district and block level administrative agencies) has started identifying land which could be utilised to construct houses for those families whose homes have been washed away in the floods. It is also expected that the government will take steps in providing alternate livelihood options for such families.

² Sphere India State Inter Agency Coordination Group, Sitrep 8, 20 July 2013

Data was gathered on what assistance households had already received and is shown below:



No households stated that they were already going to be receiving any shelter assistance beyond the Government compensation.

Gap

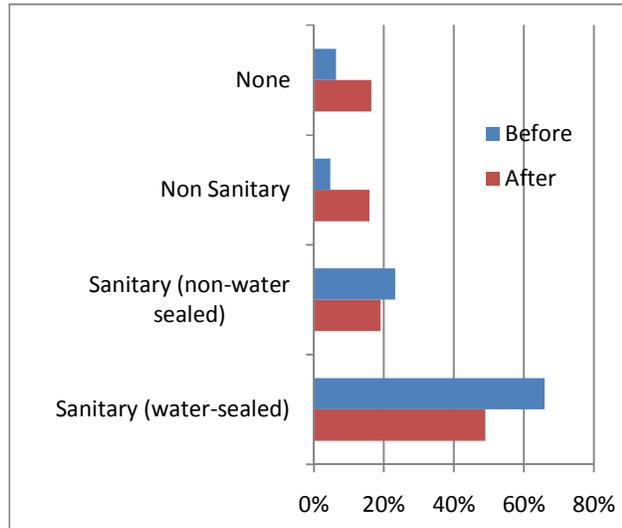
Based on the assistance already received and that planned by the Government and the needs identified, it is clear that there is need for further support from agencies to the communities. This gap can be split into two time periods. In the medium term households require shelter assistance to improve their shelter situation, while longer term government shelter strategies are decided and implemented.

The Emergency Shelter Forum and Sphere Shelter Sub-Committee are aiming to produce a shelter strategy based on the findings of this assessment to form the basis for on-going shelter support.

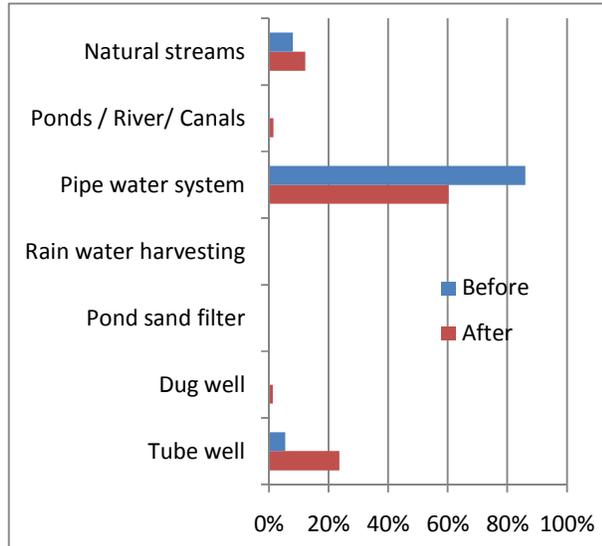
WASH results

Questions on the water and sanitation (WASH) situation were included in the assessment. A full WASH sector is planned but as household WASH is an important part of any shelter response these questions were retained.

Nearly all households (89%) had sanitary latrines before the floods. In the aftermath a very high proportion at 68% still have access to sanitary latrines. As can be seen in the table, there has been a slight increase in use of non sanitary practices including use of natural streams. All households reported using either soap or ash to wash their hands and were aware of when this should be done. The observation of the teams was that hygiene practices in general were good and had not suffered significantly from the effects of the flood.



In addition to good hygiene practices, water access is both plentiful and in 84% of the cases, it can be considered as coming safe sources. While the assessment teams did not have water testing equipment, the hand pumps and spring capture systems observed were in good condition and undamaged by the floods.

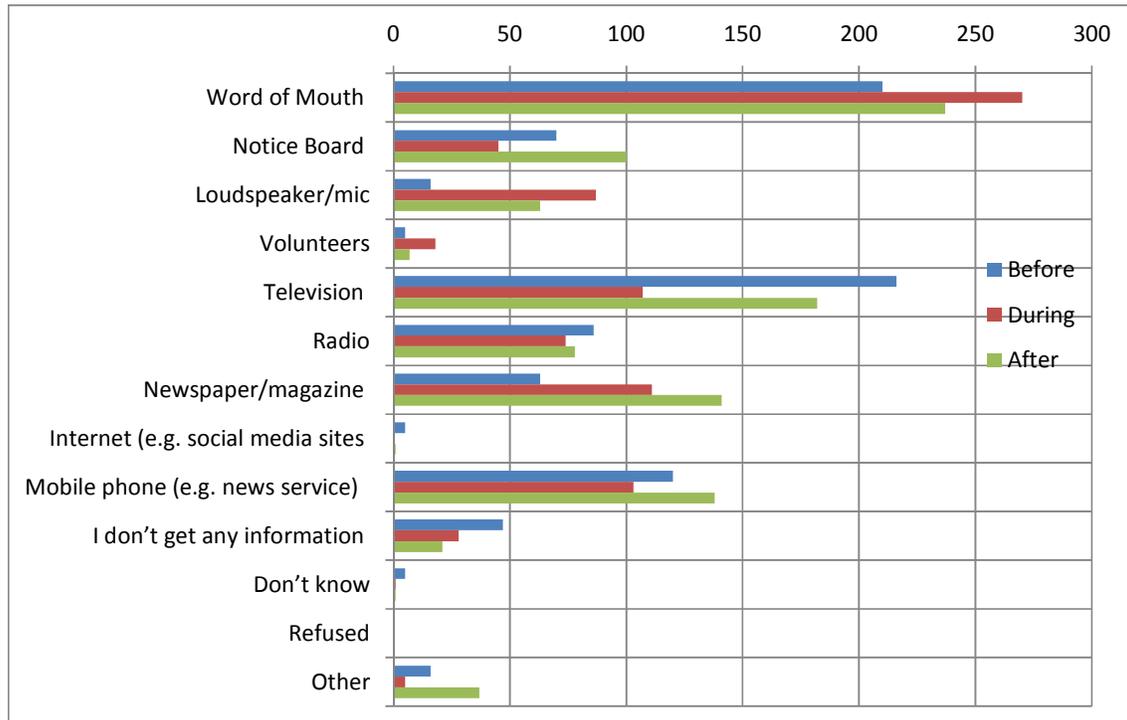


This is supported by the low reported incidences of illness post floods.

Have you noticed any disease since recent floods?				
Diarrhoea	Skin Disease	Stomach pain	Others	If OTHER (please specify)
10%	7%	12%	6%	Fever

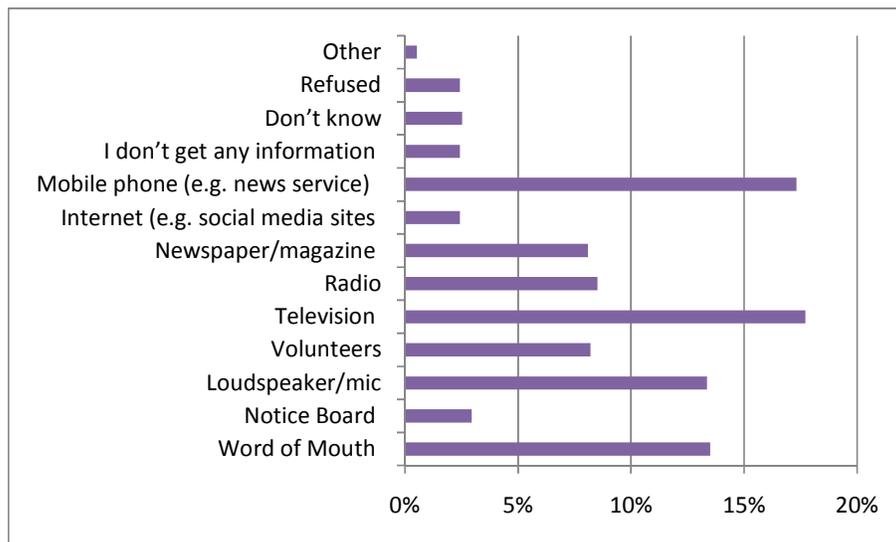
Information sources

Households were asked what the sources of information were before, during and after the floods



From the figure it can be seen that the majority of people heard about the floods from television or through word of mouth. During the floods, word of mouth was the most common source of information. Since the floods, television, newspaper and mobile phones have increased as a source of information, however, word of mouth is still the most common method.

Asked what their preferred information sources would be, there was a mixed response split between mobile phones, television, load speaker and word of mouth.



Recommendations

Based on the survey, the members of the Joint Shelter Assessment recommend the following:³

Displacement

There is significant variety in the observed shelter situation across the affected population. This variety is apparent within both the 68% of displaced households and 32% non-displaced. It is clear that no one response will be suitable for all these groups and a mixed response strategy will be required.

Land

One issue that is relevant to all displaced and at risk households is the provision of new land. In many of the districts it was observed that the availability of land was severely limited. Also noted were the limitations of identifying safe land for relocation. The Government is expected to identify and allocate land for households, however, there is a requirement for greater transparency of the criteria for selection and future involvement of the communities is site selection.

It is likely that this and the construction of long term shelter will take some time. It is therefore suggested that a mid-term response is required before winter for the various identified groups.

Strategy

Due to the variety of the shelter needs and complexities of coordinating with the Government's long term response, it is recommended that the Sphere Shelter Sub-committee and Emergency Shelter Forum develop a strategy in coordination with the Government. The strategy should contain a 'menu' of shelter options for supporting the affected population with given parameters to ensure equity of response.

All shelter responses, solutions and designs must be discussed with the community prior to implementation.

Logistics are still a challenge and moving large quantities of goods is not easy – especially for more remote locations – solutions should look to utilise local materials and resources.

Beneficiary Selection

The disaster has affected a broad economic cross section and therefore there must be a strong focus on beneficiary selection to ensure the most vulnerable receive assistance:

- ensure the most needy are receiving assistance as a priority
- ensure that provision of assistance does not break up existing family units hoping to gain extra assistance
- some areas are still inaccessible and should not be overlooked in favour of those easier to reach areas
- Some people and villages have been left off Gov. lists and they should not be left out
- Only 55% of people have proof of house ownership. Flexibility will be required from agencies and Government to accept people with other forms of verification

³ Also refer Annexe 5: Recommendations on Shelter by Shelter in Emergencies Forum & Sphere India Shelter Sub – Committee

WASH

Water access and sanitation practise were good before the floods and all shelter solutions should include WASH sanitation and water supply to maintain this level of practice.

DRR

Over half of people were warned of the floods through word of mouth. There is a lack of evidence of community based community based risk awareness and preparedness. Plans for long term disaster risk reduction should be included in the shelter strategy as is it a multiple risk area. Most significant of these is that the area is in earthquake zone 4 & 5. Technical assistance needs to be provided with cash or material assistance so people can build back safely and effectively.

Observations on assessment process:

- Given the limitations it was a good process with good responses from involved agencies
- Time is needed to test the assessment forms
- The collection and preparation of the assessment has acted as a tool for drawing agencies together towards a common strategy
- The assessment is not agency specific which has led to information useful for all
- As a joint assessment it has saved time and caused less irritation to communities if you can do multi-sector assessments
- In the future it would be helpful to include questions relating to dynamics at the household level, including the decision making powers and how the home is used
