



Sphere India  
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

# PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REPORT

VERSION II



IMAGE SOURCE: MEDIA

## FLASH FLOOD IN SIKKIM & NORTH WEST BENGAL

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## 1. Pre-Incident Information

### 1.1 State Overview: Sikkim

Sikkim, often referred to as the Jewel of the Eastern Himalayas, is a unique and captivating Indian state known for its remarkable geographical and climatic diversity. It is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian state with Gangtok being its capital and largest city.



MAP 1: LOCATION MAP: SIKKIM

**Geography and Topography:** Nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, it boasts breathtaking landscapes and challenging topography. The state's highest point is Kangchenjunga, which also happens to be the highest peak in India and the third highest on Earth.

**Agriculture:** Despite the challenging terrain and high altitudes, Sikkim cultivates a variety of crops, including upland rice, vegetables, pulses, potatoes, and ginger. Terraced benches carved into steep slopes are a common sight, showcasing the ingenuity of Sikkimese farmers.

**Landscapes and Natural Wonders:** The geography of Sikkim is characterized by mountainous terrain, pristine river valleys, dense forests, and high-altitude lakes. The Teesta River, among others, flows through these valleys, adding to the state's natural beauty.

**Flora and Fauna:** The state is home to over 5,000 species of flowering plants, including rare orchids that add vibrant colors to the landscape. The region supports a variety of animal species, including the elusive snow leopard, the adorable red panda, and a multitude of bird species.

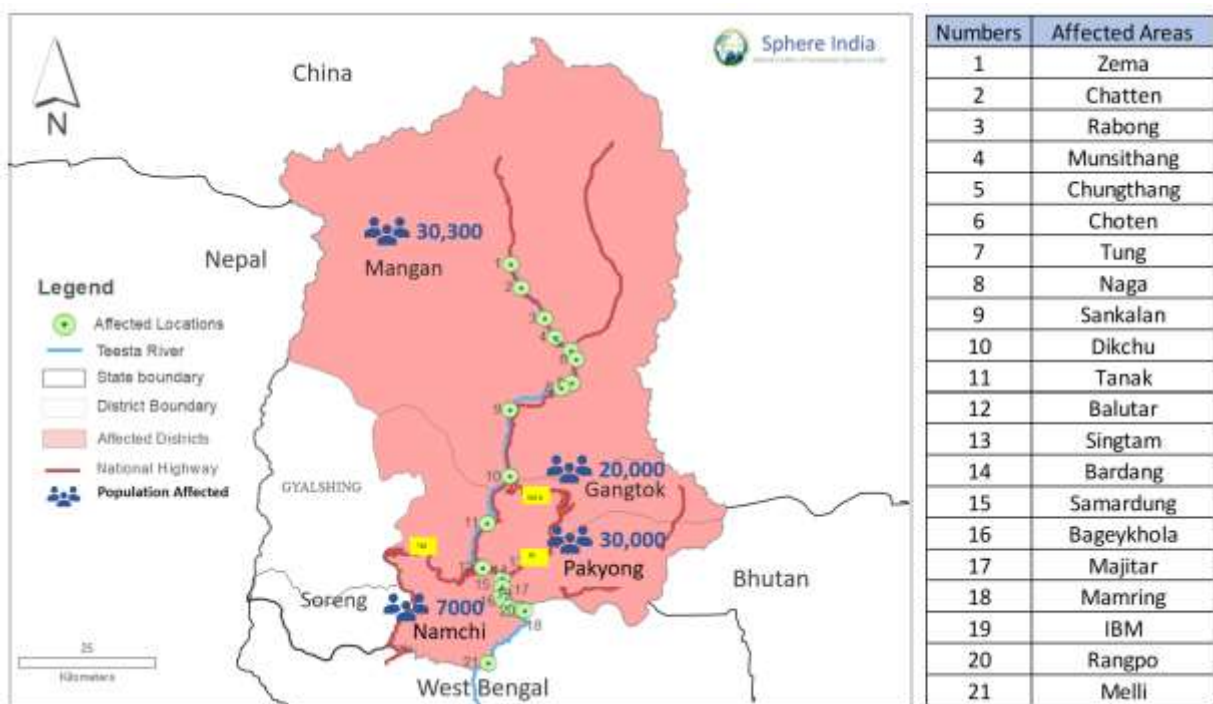
**Climate and Weather Patterns:** Sikkim's climate varies widely based on altitude. It features a temperate climate in most inhabited areas, with summer temperatures rarely exceeding 28°C (82°F). Altitude ranges from 825 to 28,300 feet, influencing local weather. Notably, some regions receive regular snowfall, and the monsoon season brings heavy rains, posing landslide risks and challenging transportation.

**Teesta River:** It is a 414 km (257 mi) long river that rises in the Pauhunri Mountain of eastern Himalayas, flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and subsequently enters Bangladesh through Rangpur division

Features	Description
<b>Area</b>	7096 sq.km
<b>Borders</b>	North: China, South: West Bengal, East: China and Bhutan, West: Nepal
<b>Major Rivers</b>	Teesta River and Rangit River
<b>Population</b>	610,577 (Census 2011)
<b>Districts</b>	There are 6 districts in Sikkim; Gangtok (East), Mangan (North), Pakyong (South), Soreng (West), Namchi (South) and Gyalshing or Geyzing (West)
<b>Sex Ratio</b>	890 females per 1,000 males (Census 2011)
<b>Population Density</b>	86 persons per sq. km (Census 2011)

## 2. Situation Overview

Cloudbursts and flash floods pose severe and recurrent threats to both lives and the economy in the state, exacerbated by increasing flood frequency and intensity due to shifting rainfall patterns, climate change, and encroachments into river basins. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), on the other hand, occur when glacier-blocked water is abruptly released, endangering nearby communities. These glacial lakes, formed by melting glaciers, are held back by unstable natural barriers of ice, sand, pebbles, and ice residues, with variable water volumes ranging from millions to hundreds of millions of cubic meters. Disruptions like avalanches, falling debris, earthquakes, or excessive water accumulation can breach these barriers, leading to sudden and potentially catastrophic floods.



MAP 2: FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS IN SIKKIM

In the early hours of October 4th, there was a sudden surge in water flow within the Teesta River, resulting in the destruction of several bridges, sections of NH-10, the Chungthang Dam, and impacting multiple small towns and infrastructure projects in the upper reaches of the river valley. The primary districts affected include Namchi, Gangtok, Mangan, and Pakyong.

This flood event has caused significant devastation to infrastructure, including the loss of 14 bridges. Furthermore, water pipelines, sewage lines, and 1320 residential houses have been completely obliterated across the affected districts.

The flash flood has also had a profound impact, extending its consequences to West Bengal's Kalimpong District. The Teesta area has sustained considerable damage, including the complete destruction of 48 households and damage to 79 more. There is growing concern about potential disease outbreaks and heightened risks to vulnerable populations. Urgent

relief efforts are currently underway, with a primary focus on providing essential items, healthcare services, and safety provisions to those affected by this calamity.

The situation in Singtam, Rangpo, Dikchu, and Sirwani is gradually improving. The Gangtok-Rangpo Road is now open in both directions, while the Rangpo–Melli Road is open in one direction. The Melli–Teesta Road is also accessible in both directions. The route from Gangtok to Siliguri is open via Munsong, Lava, and Malbazar for light vehicles. For heavy vehicles, the Gangtok to Siliguri route is open via Reshi, Algarah, Lava, Gorubathan, and Damdim. Additionally, the route from Gangtok to Siliguri via Darjeeling is expected to reopen within a day or two. Power supply has been restored in Lachung and partially in Chungthang. However, Lachen still remains without power supply.



FIGURE 1: SITUATION IN RANGPO, SIKKIM



## 2.1 Current Situation Scenario

- Thirty-four bodies, including 10 army personnel, have been recovered so far from the slush and debris caused by a flash flood in the Teesta River that devastated Sikkim. The search is ongoing for over 80 people who are still missing.
- In addition to the 36 fatalities reported in Sikkim, the Jalpaiguri district administration in adjoining northern West Bengal has reported 40 bodies recovered downstream in the Teesta River. However, officials have cautioned that there may be some duplication in the reported death toll between the two states.
- Chungthang town remains inaccessible in Sikkim and Three to four villages are completely cut off from Kalimpong town in West Bengal.
- The district of Pakyong has reported the highest number of fatalities, with 22 casualties, including 10 army personnel. This is followed by six deaths in Gangtok, four in Mangan, and two in Namchi.
- A total of 1781 houses, both temporary and permanent structures, have been damaged. The rescue and evacuation efforts have successfully helped 2563 people. A total of 14 bridges have been either washed out or submerged, affecting road communication within the state.
- Water pipelines and sewage lines have been destroyed in the four most affected districts of Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi. Road clearance activities are currently in progress.
- The flash flood has rendered a total of 6,505 people homeless, and they are being accommodated in 25 relief camps across the four districts. The number of people affected by the flash flood stands at 87,300.

### Statistical Overview



Affected Population –  
87,300



Human Lives Lost –  
36



Injured –  
26



Missing Population –  
80



Infrastructure Damage –  
Bridges (14), Gov. Buildings (2),  
Roads and Highways (15)



Affected Districts: Mangan,  
Gangtok, Namchi, and Pakyong



No. of Relief Camps – 25  
(Sikkim) and 190 (West Bengal)



Roads Closed - NH –  
10



Rescued people –  
2563



Houses Damaged –  
1781



Animal Death –  
609

- NH-10 is severely affected, leading to severe communication disruptions. Although alternative routes are available, they require significant additional travel time.
- It has been reported that the Chungthang town (Mangan District) has been cut-off due to collapse of Toong Bridge and Chungthang Bridge respectively. 80% of Chungthang town has been severely affected. The water supply, electricity and telecommunication networks are also severely affected.
- The affected population in Sikkim has lost everything, including shelter, sources of income, and identification cards.
- There is no telecommunication connectivity in affected areas which is hampering the rescue and relief operations. 05 V-SAT terminals will be airlifted by Army from Kolkata to Sikkim along with 02 engineers for installation by 10th Oct 2023. BSNL has assured that OFC will be laid by evening of 09th Oct 2023.
- Arms/Ammunition/Explosives are reported scattered along the Teesta Basin and poses a threat to the public and this issue is delaying the clearance of debris/sludge near the river side habitations.
- Warnings have been issued to the public to inform the local police if any ammunition/explosive is sighted to avoid any mishaps. Army is carrying out controlled detonation of such ammunitions.
- Schools in Sikkim are closed until October 15th, whereas in West Bengal, some schools have reopened. Twelve schools in affected areas of Northern West Bengal have been converted into relief camps.



FIGURE 2: SITUATION IN TISTA, WEST BENGAL

### 3. Preliminary Assessment Findings

While there were sufficient food supplies at the relief camps for the week, there emerged a need for additional essential items such as torches, candles, blankets, sanitary napkins, and innerwear.

Relief initiatives primarily focused on providing clothing and ration. However, there is an urgent requirement for health and hygiene kits, baby food, and specific medications for ongoing health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Furthermore, for individuals whose homes have been entirely destroyed, necessitating relocation, basic necessities are urgently required to sustain their lives.

The evacuation of people to safer locations has raised concerns about the potential outbreak of various diseases, including dengue, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses. Additionally, given the large number of individuals present and the constant influx of visitors, there is an increased risk of child abuse, both sexual and physical, as well as the potential for child trafficking. Moreover, the shared use of common toilet and bathroom facilities has raised concerns about the spread of infectious diseases.

- Six districts—Namchi, Soreng, Gangtok, Mangan, Pakyong, and Geyzing—have been adversely affected due to this major cloud burst incident.
- All personnel of ITBP, Army and NIMHAS stranded at Zanak post are reported to be safe. 11th Bn ITBP Pegong still remains cut-off from both directions.
- Army troops consisting of approx 160 personnel are reportedly stranded at Menshitang area near Chungthang. The access to the area is blocked due to the washing away of the bridge.
- 22 unidentified dead bodies have been retrieved in Teesta River basin in West Bengal.
- On 08<sup>th</sup> October 01 dead body retrieved from Chungthang tunnel out of 14 missing persons

#### 3.1 District Wise Impact IN Sikkim

The cloudburst has led to extensive damage and disruption across these districts, affecting infrastructure, communication, and the lives of residents and tourists. Search and rescue operations are critical, and relief efforts are underway to provide support to those affected by this calamity.

**Mangan District:** Approximately 80% of Chungthang town has sustained severe damage. The water supply in Chungthang has been significantly disrupted. The GREF Crushed Plant and the Old Police Barrack at Toong have also been swept away by the flooding. Dzongu town has been completely cut off from the rest of the region due to the collapse of the Sangkhalang bridge. The Toong-Naga GPU is now entirely inaccessible.



- Chungthang town has been isolated due to the collapse of both the Toong Bridge and the Chungthang Bridge.
- The Chungthang Sikkim Urja Dam and nine bridges have been washed away.
- The old police barracks at the Toong Check-Post have sustained severe damage as well.
- Approximately 30,300 individuals have been adversely affected by the torrential water surge and approximately 3000 tourists are stranded in Lachen and Lachung and all are reported fine.
- Tragically, four human lives have been lost, with an additional 16 people reported as missing.
- A total of 28 families from Toong and Naga have been evacuated and provided accommodation in relief camps.
- 247 pucca/Kutcha houses were damaged.
- There is a slight landslide affecting the road connecting Toong and Naga.
- A Forest Department warehouse/store has been damaged.
- The Army has taken the initiative to set up satellite communication in Chatten, utilizing army vehicles positioned along the road.
- 14 persons were reported to be stranded in Teesta Hydro power project a tunnel in Chungthang. Rescue efforts by NDRF, ITBP, SDRF & Local administration are in progress.

**Gangtok District:** It has been reported that the Gammon Bridge (also known as Indrani Bridge) and the L.D Kazi Bridge, both of which span the Teesta River and connect Singtam Bridge to Aadharsh Gaon/Namchi district, have been completely washed away. Additionally, three sewage treatment plants and associated pipelines have been completely washed out. Both the Sneha Kinetic Powerhouses and the NHPC dam site have been submerged as well.

- The entire Singtam Lall Bazaar and IBM Area/Rangpo Town have been inundated by floodwaters.
- Tragically, there have been six reported deaths, with 20 people currently missing.
- Five injured persons were transported to Singtam Hospital, with one being referred to Gangtok for further medical attention.
- To accommodate the affected population, ten relief camps have been established.
- The SDRF has successfully rescued 1,025 individuals, and additional rescue operations are ongoing. In total, an estimated 20,000 people have been impacted by this calamity
- Search & Rescue started on 06.10.2023 at 8:00 am by NDRF, SDRF and Sikkim Police.
- Relief Camp has been set up at Labar Bhotay, New market Dikchu under the supervision of ADC (Dev). North.

- A contingent of 15 personnel from the SDRF, affiliated with HG&CD/Gangtok, was immediately mobilized for Singtam town, and an additional backup SDRF team from HG&CD is on standby.

**Namchi District:** It has been reported that both the LD Kazi Bridge and the Indreni Bridge have been washed away. Additionally, the water level has surged to the Melli playground.

- As of now, two casualties have been reported, with six people still missing.
- Approximately 5,570 people have been affected by these developments.
- To provide assistance and shelter, four relief camps have been established in the Namchi district.
- Search and rescue operations are currently being conducted jointly by the IRB, QAT, SDRF, and the Sikkim Police.

**Pakyong District:** The calamity has affected approximately 5,000 people thus far, with 58 individuals successfully evacuated. Additionally, 21 minor injuries have been reported. Both the Singtam and Rangpo sewage treatment plants, along with the sewage pipelines, have been completely washed out.

- A total of 21 casualties have been reported in Pakyong district, including 9 from the Indian Army.
- Among the missing individuals, 63 are unaccounted for, with 13 of them being Army personnel.
- 574 pucca and kutcha houses are reported to have sustained damage
- Search & Rescue operations have started at Golitar by NDRF, Forest and Environment department, where 5 people have been trapped.
- The Relief Camp (Chantar Government Sr. Secondary School) has accommodated 1500 people.
- The Relief camp (Majhitar Government secondary School) has accommodated 49 people.

TABLE 1: NAME OF RELIEF CAMPS AND INMATES IN SIKKIM

District	Name of Camps	No. of Inmates		
		8/10/2023	9/3/2023	10/10/2023
Mangan	ITI Chaday	300	300	102
	Naga	500	500	276
	Barbotey Dikchu	115	115	115
	Community Hall Bob	150	150	150
	Phedang Primary School	185	185	185
	Chungthang Gumpa	50	50	50
	Chungthang Gurudwara	150	150	150
Gangtok	Dikch Govt. Sr. Sec. School	30	-	-
	Serwani Govt. Sr. Sec. School	200	-	-
	Singtam Govt. Sr. Sec. School	590	565	565

	Bihari Bhawan	650	650	650
	Food Preservation Factory	15	15	15
	Parnami Mandir, Singtam	64	64	64
	Thakurbari Mandir, Singtam	15	9	-
	Masjidm, Singtam	147	140	125
	Singtam Church	67	75	75
	Medhavi Skill University	12	45	45
<b>Namchi</b>	Parnami Mandir Namphing	427	427	427
	RECEP Primary School	25	25	25
	NHPC Primary School, Linkutar	31	31	31
	Melli Secondary School	109	109	0
<b>Pakyong</b>	Chantar Government Sr. Secondary School	1500	1500	1500
	Majhitar Government Secondary School	49	49	49
	Majhi Gaon	128	128	128
	Nepali Dharam Shala, Golitar	400	400	400
	Tourists Information Centre	30	30	30
	Eco Paradise	323	323	323

### 3.2 Impact in West Bengal: Kalimpong District

While the major impact of the flash flood was felt in Sikkim, it is crucial not to overlook the devastating consequences in West Bengal's Kalimpong District. The aftermath of the flash flood in the Teesta area has taken a toll on local households, with a significant number of them facing complete destruction. Relief efforts are underway, but urgent needs for essentials, healthcare, and safety persist.

- 48 households completely washed away.
- 79 households in ruins due to total damage.
- 42 households incurred partial damage.
- 77 houses fully damaged in Melli.
- 10 houses fully damaged in the Reang locality.
- 9 houses partially damaged in the Geil Khola area.
- The disaster has significantly impacted school children, with more than 300 students unable to commute to Kalimpong for school.
- There is a need for awareness on dengue and hygiene, as dengue cases persist in Kalimpong district, and flood-affected areas are vulnerable to waterborne diseases.
- Shelter homes lack safety for vulnerable groups like women, children, and adolescents due to shared facilities and inadequate security

### 3.3 Emerging Needs

#### For Sikkim:

1. Ensure a steady supply of essential medical equipment, including stretchers, first-aid kits, and emergency medical supplies to treat the injured and provide medical care in relief camps.

2. Distribute food packages, clean drinking water, and ready-to-eat meals to those affected, especially in isolated areas where access is limited.
3. Provide temporary shelter materials such as tents, tarpaulins, and blankets to those who have lost their homes or have been displaced.
4. Deliver hygiene kits containing soap, sanitizers, towels, and sanitary napkins to maintain hygiene in relief camps and prevent the spread of diseases.
5. Supply satellite phones and communication devices to maintain connectivity in areas with disrupted communication infrastructure.
6. Distribute portable generators and solar-powered lighting to ensure a continuous power supply in relief camps and medical facilities.
7. Provide warm clothing, including winter wear, for those exposed to adverse weather conditions, especially in higher altitudes.
8. Deploy trained counselors and mental health professionals to provide emotional support to survivors and those experiencing trauma.

**West Bengal (Kalimpong District):**

1. Urgent need for health and hygiene kits, baby food, and specific medications.
2. Basic necessities are urgently required for individuals whose homes were destroyed.
3. Additional essential items like torches, candles, blankets, sanitary napkins, and innerwear needed.
4. Provide immediate relief in the form of clothing, ration, and blankets to those affected by the flash floods in the Teesta area.
5. Dispatch medical teams and supplies to the affected households to treat injuries and provide medical care.
6. Distribute sanitation kits, including toiletries and disinfectants, to maintain hygiene in relief camps and affected areas.
7. Conduct disease awareness campaigns and distribute mosquito nets to prevent vector-borne diseases.
8. Provide school dress and stationery items to students who have lost their belongings due to the disaster.
9. Ensure that relief camps have access to adequate and nutritious food for all individuals, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

## 4. Humanitarian Response

### 4.1 Government Response

- The Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain in many places, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, in sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim over the next five days.
- The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary met on 04th and 09th Oct 2023 and reviewed the situation in Sikkim. The Chief Secretary, Sikkim participated in the meeting through video conferencing and apprised the Committee about the latest situation in the state
- ISRO has been requested to continuously monitor the South Lhonak Lake and Shako Chu Lake via Satellites for any abnormal changes at the Lakes and alert the State Government in time to prevent any further disaster.
- Scientific survey team of 10-12 officials and experts from NDMA has planned a visit to Sikkim to carry out investigations on cloud burst and flash floods
- Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang convened a review meeting with the Chief Secretary, Chief of Army Staff General (who has arrived in Gangtok), and other officials to coordinate relief and rescue operations with the armed forces.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has announced immediate government aid and support, along with the establishment of a transportation route on Monday.
- Additionally, Sikkim Chief Minister and all MLAs of the ruling party will contribute their one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for rescue, relief, and reconstruction efforts.
- Pictures of the dead have been shared with the Police Stations and Media for early identification by the kith and kin of the dead.
- 02 columns of Army have been deployed for rescue and relief operation in affected areas.
- More than 2000 tourists and many more locals civilians being given medical aid and sustenance in Lachung and Lachen.



FIGURE 3: ARMY OFFICIALS SET UP A HELPDESK IN AFFECTED AREA



FIGURE 4: CHIEF MINISTER VISITING RELIEF CAMP AT RANGRANG.



- Indian Army providing communication to civilians and all tourists to speak to their families for ensuring their mental well being
- 04 IAF helicopters carried out 59 sorties and airlifted approx. 515 tourists/locals from Lachen and Lachung towns and shifted to safer places in Mangan, Pakyong and Gangtok. Rescue efforts to airlift the remaining tourists and locals is underway. A total of 22310 kgs relief material also dropped at forward location of Lachung, Lachen and Chaten.
- 06 teams of NDRF along with QDA sets, Satellite phones and other necessary equipment have been deployed for rescue and relief operation. 03 teams have been kept on reserve in Siliguri, West Bengal.
- 03 Teams of NDRF are conducting search & rescue operation in Chungthang to rescue stranded persons in Teesta Hydro power project tunnel.
- 02 teams are conducting search and rescue operations at Rangpo, district Pakyong and Singtam, district Gangtok. Till now NDRF has rescued/evacuated 186 stranded persons and retrieved 22 dead bodies.
- 05 rescue teams of 180 personnel have been deployed for search & rescue operation and relief activities in Chungthang and other affected areas of Mangan district. 483 persons were evacuated via log bridge, rope way and by road

#### 4.2 Stakeholders Response

- Relief materials are being delivered to camps in the Rangpoo and Teesta regions. Local NGOs are providing clothing and food, but some areas are still inaccessible.
- ACT (Affected Citizens of Teesta), LTDC (Lachen Tourism Devp Committee), Save the Hills, Hayden Hall, Glenn Family, Helping Hand, Human Rights, QRT Local Team Darjeeling, and Ram Singh Thakuri Institution are providing relief materials in the affected area.
- Bhavishya Bharat is providing dry ration and essential medicines in Saffo and Salimpakyel, Shipgyer Panchayats in North Sikkim
- Aayom Welfare Society is distributing essentials such as sanitary napkins, diapers, clothes, medicines, and more in Singtam.
- Jhpiego's NISHTHA has established a relief and health camp in Naga, North Sikkim, where healthcare workers are providing services to the areas affected by the flash flood.



FIGURE 5: MEDHAVI SKILLS UNIVERSITY PROVIDING RELIEF ITEMS

- Caritas collaborated with Anugyalaya DDSSS (IDRRE team) and local NGOs to provide relief materials in affected areas of West Bengal. They also conducted a preliminary assessment to get an idea about the situation.
- Medhavi Skills University is providing relief service & Medical support to the affected community in Rangpo & Singtam, Sikkim
- ActionAid Association, SEEDS India, Save the Children, Tanyak, Change Alliance, IGSSS, CASA, and IAG West Bengal are actively monitoring the situation and are planning for a rapid need assessment. They are also providing relief materials in affected areas.
- Several organizations, including Kalimpong NGO network KaNGON, Red Cross Society Kalimpong and Darjeeling, Akash Co-operative Society Kalimpong, and Emotion Club Kalimpong, have supplied food, clothes, and other essential items to the affected villages of West Bengal.
- Sphere India has been diligently monitoring the situation and sharing regular Situation Report <http://tiny.cc/SitReps-SikkimFlashFloods>
- Sphere India facilitated an Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) committee meeting on 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and a second meeting on 07<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with representation from the IAG West Bengal, to facilitate the exchange of ground-level updates, and collaboratively formulate a unified response strategy. ([minutes](#))
- Following the IAC committee's decision, Sphere India has activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS) Matrix to streamline resource allocation and avoid duplication. [http://tiny.cc/URS\\_FlashFlood\\_Sikkim-WB](http://tiny.cc/URS_FlashFlood_Sikkim-WB)

## 5. Recommendations

### Health Sector

- Establish mobile medical units or camps near affected areas, equipped with essential medical supplies, including medicines for common ailments, first-aid kits, and medical personnel.
- Launch a public health campaign to educate the affected population on disease prevention, especially focusing on waterborne diseases like cholera and vector-borne diseases like dengue.
- Provide counselling services for trauma and mental health support, given the emotional impact of the disaster.
- Set up paediatric clinics with necessary medicines and vaccines for children, ensuring they receive proper healthcare.
- Establish health check-up camps for chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension, ensuring those with pre-existing conditions receive their medications.
- Ensure that tourists receive necessary medical attention and support during their evacuation.

### Water and Sanitation Sector

- Ensure a continuous supply of safe drinking water to relief camps and affected areas by repairing damaged pipelines and water supply systems.
- Provide temporary toilets and bathing facilities to prevent the spread of diseases in relief camps.
- Distribute hygiene kits containing soap, sanitary napkins, disinfectants, and basic toiletries to affected families.
- Implement proper waste disposal mechanisms to prevent environmental contamination and health hazards.

### Education Sector

- Provide school uniforms, stationery, and textbooks to students who have lost their homes and belongings.
- Offer counselling services to students dealing with trauma and emotional distress.

### Shelter Sector

- Ensure that affected individuals and families have access to safe and adequate shelter in relief camps or temporary shelters.
- Plan for the reconstruction of damaged houses and infrastructure in a resilient manner, taking into account disaster risk reduction measures.
- Implement measures to protect vulnerable populations, including women and children, from abuse, exploitation, and trafficking in crowded relief camps.

### **Food and Nutrition Sector**

- Provide balanced and nutritious meals to individuals in relief camps, with a focus on children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- Establish distribution points for food and essential items, ensuring equitable access for all affected communities.
- Assess and address the food security situation in affected areas, with measures like cash assistance or food vouchers for affected families.

### **Infrastructure and Connectivity**

- Expedite the restoration of damaged roads and bridges to enable the safe movement of relief personnel, supplies, and affected populations.
- Restore communication infrastructure to facilitate coordination and information dissemination.
- Address the shortage of petrol and diesel by facilitating fuel supply to affected areas, including hospitals and relief operations.

## **6. References**

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10. Secondary sources like Media, social media and Sphere India and state Whatsapp group

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