

News Bulletin (No. 1)

IAG GO – NGO Coordination Wayanad Landslide

Date: 21st August 2024

Time: 10:00 AM



BACKGROUND

On 30th July 2024, a devastating landslide struck Mundakki, Chooralmala, in Vellarimala Village, Meppadi Panchayat, Vythiri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala. Triggered by continuous and intense rainfall, the landslide caused significant destruction, claiming lives and damaging infrastructure.

The impact of the landslide has been severe, with 231 bodies recovered and 212 separate body parts found, underscoring the tragedy's magnitude. Additionally, 397 people were injured, with 75 still receiving medical treatment, while 129 individuals remain unaccounted for, and search and rescue efforts continue, as of August 21, 2024.

Local authorities and humanitarian organizations are working together to meet the basic needs of the displaced population, provide psychosocial support, and plan for long-term rehabilitation. The damage extends to homes, buildings, infrastructure, and agriculture, affecting the broader community.

GO – NGO COORDINATION UPDATES

In response to the landslide disaster in Wayanad on July 30th, the State IAG convenor immediately contacted the District IAG convenor to assess the situation and coordinate relief efforts. District IAG members, including the Pulse Emergency Team Kerala, were already on the ground delivering critical assistance, while Donatekart and Amazon Disaster Relief collaborated with the District IAG to address urgent needs, ensuring the timely delivery of essential supplies for the rescue operations. Recognizing the need for a more structured response, the KSDMA appointed a State Project Officer on August 1st to oversee coordination between the government and NGOs.

On August 2nd, following discussions between the State IAG convenor and Sambasiva Rao IAS, a decision was made to establish a dedicated GO-NGO Coordination Desk under the District IAG. This decision was further supported by detailed discussions with the Sub-Collector, focusing on enhancing relief and rehabilitation efforts through improved coordination. The GO-NGO Coordination Desk was identified as a crucial tool for rebuilding affected communities by ensuring seamless collaboration between all stakeholders.

A core committee was formed to oversee the operations of the Coordination Desk, consisting of two members from Sphere India (the technical team coordinating the GO-NGO initiative), along with representatives from UNICEF India, Wayanad IAG, and DDMA. With the approval of the DM Commissioner and the District Collector, the Wayanad IAG GO-NGO Coordination Desk was officially established at the collectorate on August 2nd. The desk was created to streamline and enhance the coordination between government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with the primary goal of ensuring effective collaboration and communication among all stakeholders. This unified approach was designed to enable a more efficient and organized response to the challenges faced by the affected communities in Wayanad.



GO- NGO Coordination Desk, SEOC



Landslide affected area :
Chooralmala

Recognizing the importance of continuous communication, the desk coordinated with the DDMA information officer to ensure that daily updates were available on the DEOC website. These updates may soon include detailed information on relief camps and the overall impact of the situation, further enhancing transparency and accessibility of information.

To facilitate the management of support requests, information, and volunteering, the desk meticulously documented all interactions through a logbook and a Google Sheet. This systematic approach allowed for efficient tracking and follow-up on all requests. Additionally, a form was disseminated to capture interest in supporting various interventions in Wayanad, ranging from immediate to long-term needs. The desk also compiled data from organizations willing to contribute, documenting their sectors of intervention and contact details in a dedicated Google Sheet. Currently, over 80 responses from humanitarian agencies, institutions, and individuals have been captured, and the sheet is being updated daily.

On August 4th, approval was obtained from the district administration for the content (in both Malayalam and English) that would be disseminated to the public to announce the establishment of the IAG GO-NGO Coordination Desk and the activation of the IAG control room. The IEC materials were disseminated through KSDMA social media channels. The IAG Control Room was officially opened on August 5th to facilitate coordination between government agencies and NGOs.

On August 6th, a briefing and coordination meeting was held with the Sub-Collector to discuss the functioning and assistance provided through the IAG GO-NGO Coordination Desk. Discussions were also held with A Geetha IAS, the coordinator of the Help for Wayanad Cell (GoK), regarding the desk's activities. The consolidated aid received through the GO-NGO Coordination Desk was submitted to the Help for Wayanad Cell for further distribution and management.



The desk played a pivotal role in mobilizing resources and support by activating a dedicated IAG Control Room phone, ensuring that all stakeholders had access to contact details. Furthermore, it coordinated with IAG Wayanad to distribute registration forms to organizations interested in joining the IAG, enhancing the collaborative network within the district.

To keep stakeholders informed and engaged, the desk organized an IAG Wayanad meeting on August 12th, where updates from the IAG GO-NGO Desk were shared, and the contributions and responses of members and other active organizations were reviewed. This meeting also facilitated future planning and collaboration efforts.

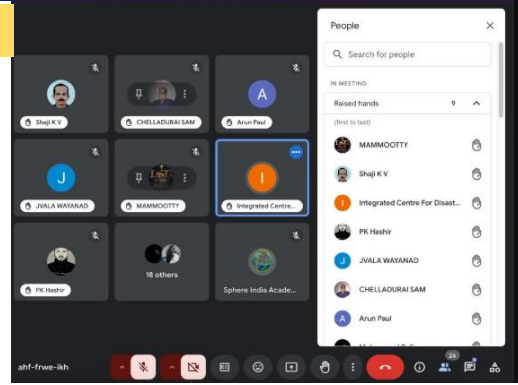
In addition to these coordination activities, the desk conducted a site visit to the warehouse with the Amazon team to assess current operations and discuss potential improvements. Meetings were also held with officers from various departments, including the Education Department, to discuss emerging needs and gather suggestions for further action.

On August 17th, a crucial meeting was held with the District Collector and department heads to discuss the upcoming needs assessment process for individual affected households. It was decided to adopt a sector-wise questionnaire approach, using the Sphere India Household tool as a model. Sphere India was confirmed to actively participate in this process, ensuring that the assessment aligns with established humanitarian standards and practices.

On August 19th, the IAG GO-NGO Coordination Desk in Wayanad facilitated a virtual meeting of solidarity to honor the incredible humanitarians who have extended their helping hands to Wayanad through the IAG GO-NGO Coordination, highlighting the importance of unity and collaboration in times of crisis. The same day, the desk held a meeting with the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department to assess the current status of women and children in affected areas and discuss future plans. The meeting focused on identifying how the GO-NGO desk could contribute to ongoing and future initiatives, with a commitment to working closely with the WCD to strengthen connections between NGOs and the department, ensuring that essential needs are met effectively and that vulnerable communities receive the support they need.

Humanitarian Responses

- In response to the landslides in Wayanad, IAG Wayanad organized a meeting on 1st August 2024 with all responding organizations currently working in Wayanad, as well as those planning to respond. An executive committee meeting was held on 3rd August with support from the DEOC, followed by a follow-up meeting on 10th August.
- After devastating landslides in Wayanad, telecom providers BSNL, Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea have rapidly restored connectivity to support rescue operations and aid the affected communities.
- A IAG GO – NGO Coordination desk at the District Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) has been established to manage requests and ensure timely updates and needs assessments. The focus is on preventing duplication of efforts among the 1,300 plus NGOs which expressed their desire to respond to the Wayanad disaster.
- **IAG Wayanad** organized a meeting with key stakeholders to improve NGO coordination, align efforts with community needs, and plan sector-specific actions, with updates shared via bi-monthly newsletters.
- The IAC Committee also met on 31st July morning and activated the URS. Link to URS 5W Matrix: http://tiny.cc/URSMapping_Wayanad
- **Humanitarian Aid International (HAI)** is collaborating with Shreyas and CCC, for community-led responses, provided tailoring machine, cleaning materials and disinfectants, masala items, 800 steel plates and 1000 steel glasses. They will be providing WASH support, back to home kit, and back to school kits, and planning for long-term support.
- **Bal Raksha Bharat** is working with Kudumbashree to assess needs and plans to distribute hygiene and shelter kits.
- **EFICOR** Coordinating with local volunteers and provided 50 mattresses, 50 blankets, and 50 plastic mats.
- **Doctors for You** Set up two mobile medical units, provided urgently needed medicines, 15 mortuary freezers, and are planning to support the health department in the coming weeks.
- **Reliance Foundation** is providing milk in tetra packs and fruits for children and other vulnerable population across all the relief camps.
- **Joint Voluntary Action for Legal Alternatives (JVALA)** is Providing WASH support and tent kits.
- **UNICEF India** is coordinating with IAG Wayanad and other responding organizations for , supporting rapid needs assessments and to set up help desk volunteers.
- **World Vision India** is planning to support 1500 families with Non-Food items including hygiene kits value of Rs.5740/- per kit



IAG Wayanad coordination meeting on 10th August 2024



IAG Wayanad boosts NGO coordination and community-focused action plans.



Discussion with the Sub-Collector regarding the "Back to Home" kit.



Meeting with Vendors and donors on 15-08-2024

- **Wayanad Social Service Society** is conducting camp support, counseling, food and essential supply distribution, providing hygiene kits for rescue workers, community radio services, and rehabilitation, and planning to distribute hygiene and shelter kits.
- **Manav Seva Sansthan (SEVA)** is planning to distribute hygiene kits and shelter kits in wards 10, 11, and 12 of Meppadi Panchayat.
- **Keystone Foundation** is Engaged in search and rescue operations, with volunteers active in collection centers. They supplied 10 cleaning kits and 15 kitchen kits, helping families maintain hygiene and prepare meals as they rebuild their lives.
- **ICDM** Provided mobile charging stations for rescue officials.
- **ADRA** is conducting field visits and assessments, planning to provide food rations, hygiene kits, and mid-term and long-term support. It has distributed tarpaulin sheets and dry food rations in Chundakkuni and Puzhamkuni Wards of Noolpuzha Panchayat.
- **PULSE Emergency Team Kerala** Engaged in search and rescue, camp support activities, and planning to support government agencies with camp management, WASH support, and damage assessment.
- Trained professionals affiliated to the Kerala wing of the Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists (IACP) are extending a helping hand to the survivors of the devastating landslides. .
- **United Way Bengaluru** is planning to focus on mid-term and long-term rehabilitation, including revamping public buildings, community halls, health infrastructure, and livelihoods.
- **ESAF** provided relief materials to two camps, medical ambulance services with trained staff, childcare at camps, and are planning to continue with medical relief, psycho-trauma counseling, and work in association with concerned authorities.
- **Indian Red Cross Society** is assisting with search and rescue operations, managing dead bodies, collecting relief materials, and distributing them to those in need.
- **SEEDS India** is providing Food, Non-Food Items (NFI), Hygiene kits, Psychosocial Care, Transitional Shelter, and School Restoration support in the affected areas.
- **Rise Against Hunger India** have identified the 200 household affected by Landslide and supporting them with Family support kits (Hygiene kits, Basic Utensil, Trapline, Basic household clothes, Mats etc).
- **WDRF** is involved in camp support, providing food and essential supplies, and assisting with cleaning efforts.



Pulse Emergency Team Providing Food items in Flood affected area



ESAF Conducting Child oriented activities for affected children



Shreyas is providing relief materials in camps

- **Neethi Vedhi** has started field visits and initial counseling for Adivasis and migrant laborers, and plans to visit relief camps, interact with Adivasi families in affected villages, and engage with migrant laborers and their families.
- **Voice Trust Trichy and Thomson Reuters**, in collaboration with Wayanad Social Service Society, is providing camp support, food and essential supplies, hygiene kits for rescue workers, and plans to distribute hygiene and shelter kits.
- **Caritas India** is conducting assessments, providing camp support, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) related assistance, with plans to distribute WASH and shelter kits.
- **KAPS** is coordinating with social work colleges in the region, involving faculty and students in the response efforts. They are supporting the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and its team by providing social work students to manage help desks at Kalpetta and Sulthan Bathery. They are also planning psychosocial assessments, support, and social work interventions.
- **Charity World Trust** is supporting relief camps by providing food, essential supplies, and hygiene kits for rescue workers. They are planning further distributions of hygiene kits and shelter kits.
- **Pavithra Divya Jyothy Ashramam** is providing camp support and transportation assistance for officials at the Meppadi camp.
- **Reliance Foundation** is supporting relief camps with milk, fruits, psychosocial support, and Jio phones with one-year recharges. They have also contributed 700 units each of kitchen kits, cleaning kits, and personal hygiene kits, and are planning to provide livestock support to affected communities.
- **Art of Living and Biocon Foundation** is providing essential supplies like masks, gloves, and sanitizers to the relief camps.
- **United Way Mumbai** is monitoring the situation and planning to focus on mid-term response and long-term rehabilitation based on the needs.
- **HSI** is also assessing the impact on animals and livestock and have reported that 18 cattle sheds are destroyed, 3 poultry farms are destroyed and 8 acre of green fodder is lost. 363 large animals, 3310 fowls and 109 Livestock farmers are affected. HSI has started supporting animals in the affected areas (Dogs- 19, Cats- 5 and Cattle- 22)
- HAM radio operators have set up a communication unit and are supporting smooth communication between the rescue teams and the centre. They have also supported NDRF in identification of houses for Search and Rescue through maps provided by volunteers from Open Source Community Mapping groups.
- **RIGHTS** is building the capacity of frontline communities with its partners.



Sphere India and Amazon met with the District Collector to discuss future coordination.



Sthree Shabdham :waste cleaning in the landslide area.




Nirman Foundation is providing support for cots for the rented houses.



Animal rescue and feed provision in landslide areas by HSI.

- Students from a Government Higher Secondary School at Meppadi are tirelessly volunteering in the relief camps, working diligently to assist survivors of the massive landslides that hit the high-range district with food and supplies.
- **Shreyas** is engaged in rescue work, camp support, counseling, food and essential supply distribution, providing hygiene kits for rescue workers, and planning to distribute hygiene and shelter kits.
- **HelpAge India** is providing mobile healthcare units with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and other volunteers.
- **Nirmaan Foundation** has generously donated 110 cots, 185 almirahs, and 60 tables, ensuring that families affected by the landslides have essential furniture to create functional and comfortable living spaces
- **Abhaya Foundation** has contributed 400 kitchen kits and 400 units of personal hygiene kits, providing extensive support to families by addressing their basic needs for food preparation and personal care.
- **Malabar My Legacy** has donated 400 units of cleaning kits, significantly aiding in the upkeep of cleanliness and hygiene in the homes of affected families.
- **KT Furniture** has supplied 50 cots, offering additional support to ensure more families have access to proper bedding for a comfortable rest.
- **Yuva Rashmi Library** has donated 17 cots, helping to meet the immediate need for comfortable bedding among displaced families.
- **Soorya Foundation** has provided 25 cots, 100 chairs, and 100 units each of kitchen kits, cleaning kits, and personal hygiene kits, making a comprehensive contribution to the well-being of the families by addressing a wide range of essential household needs.
- **Saudi Ernakulam Expatriates Federation (SEEF)** has donated 50 cooking stoves, ensuring that affected families have the means to cook their meals, which is vital for their sustenance and recovery.
- Saji, an individual donor, has contributed 10 cots, demonstrating personal commitment to supporting the recovery efforts by providing essential sleeping furniture.
- Shobha, an individual donor, has donated 3 tables, contributing to the furnishing of homes with essential furniture, supporting families in creating functional spaces for dining, studying, or working.
- **WASH Institute** is providing desludging services for emptying septic tanks at relief camps with two mobile septage treatment units, and planning to distribute WASH kits, dustbins, sanitary napkins/adult/child diapers, and steel plates.
- For More Information: http://tiny.cc/URSMapping_Wayanad



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