

## 2013 Uttarakhand Floods Disaster Response Programme

### Fourth Progress Report (October –December, 2013)

During the review period (October – December, 2013) People's Science Institute (PSI) and its partners focussed most of their attention on the construction of temporary shelters. In addition to 59 shelters completed up to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 105 new shelters were built during this period. On the request of a group of civil society representatives in Bageshwar district, 8 rooms for two schools were constructed at Kuwari, a very remote village in the Pindar valley. After construction of 15 shelters in Munsyari block of Pithoragarh district we received a confirmation for 25 more shelters that had been verified earlier in the same region.

Thus till December-end 164 shelters were built while the construction of 42 shelters was in process. We plan to complete the second phase by the end of January 2014. The delays are mainly due to the decision to build toilets along with the shelters, design improvements, the remote locations of some of the villages, damaged roads and administrative hindrances. We feel gratified, however, that along with our partners we have been able to reach deserving people in some of the remotest villages.

With the completion of Phase-II nearing, the focus is now shifting to Phase-III, i.e., to livelihoods rehabilitation. Livelihoods rehabilitation and development pose the biggest disaster response challenge especially in the case of families whose basic livelihood assets have been destroyed or who have lost earning male members in the disaster.

The selection of 17 villages in two clusters (Madhyamaheshwar Ganga valley in Rudraprayag district and Talla Danpur in Bageshwar district) for Phase III has been completed so far. We will work in these villages with funds coming primarily from the Star TV campaign.

#### **I. Construction of Temporary Shelters**

Construction work continued in Chamoli, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh and Tehri Garhwal districts during the review period. We revised the construction target to 206 units out of the 253 approved for construction by PSI's staff and volunteers -- including 23 classroom units for four schools -- since permission to build at two locations was not

given by the district administrations of Rudraprayag and Pithoragarh. Table 1 summarizes the construction status up to Dec 31, 2013.

**Table 1: Status of the construction programme, December 31, 2013**

P.O.	Block	District	Requests Recd	Units Approved	Units Built	Units under constr.	Toilets Built	Toilets To Be Built
MKA	Agastyamuni	R'pyg	38	18	18	0	4	0
PSI	Thatyur	T.G.	14	14	14	0	12	0
PNVS	Ukhimath	R'pyg	100	17	0	0*	0	0
JANDESH	Joshimath	Chamoli	50	33#	16	17##	16	0
JANDESH	Joshimath	Chamoli	25	25	25	0	25	0
JANDESH	Karnaprayag	Chamoli	33	8**	8	0	8	0
Jago Him.	Tharali	Chamoli	40	22	22	0	17	2
KSS	Kapkot	B'war	34	23	23	0	23	0
KSS	Kapkot	B'war	18	16	16	0	12	0
Mahila Haat	Almora	Almora	7	7	7	0	3	4
Himal Prakrati	Munsiyari	P'garh	40	40	15	25	13	27
Arpan	Dharchula	P'garh	50	30	0	0*	0	0
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>449</b>	<b>253 (206)</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>33</b>

**Note:** R'pyg = Rudraprayag, T.G. = Tehri Garhwal, B'war = Bageshwar, P'garh = Pithoragarh

\* Permission for land not granted

\*\* Almost the entire village was wiped out by a cloud burst in July 2013. PSI agreed to build 33 units. But after 8 were constructed the district administration brought in another agency to undertake construction.

# 16 shelters out of 33 will be constructed under the supervision of PSI. The remaining 17 shelters will be given only GI tin sheets for home and toilet units. Construction is not possible owing to the far location of the villages which is 20Km walk.

## These remaining 17 shelters are being built by the community with their own designs and GI tin sheets provided by PSI. PO Jandesh is supervising the construction.

All the shelters constructed in this period were double- sloped units. Currently 42 shelters are under construction in Munsiyari (25) and Joshimath (17). The work in Joshimath has been delayed due to the remoteness of the villages. Construction material has to be carried by the beneficiaries either on mules or on their own backs. Some villages like Uchou Gaur are 32 km away from the nearest road head where the material can be unloaded.

### **Construction of improved shelter designs**

Shelter owners and local masons approved the double-sloped ( $\wedge$ ) roof shelters constructed at Sama village (Kapkot block) in Bageshwar district. It takes two days to build one shelter instead of one day in the earlier model, but these are more suitable for snowfall areas. The new design is similar to the double-sloped traditional local houses and therefore favoured by the beneficiaries.



*Double roof model at Tharali*

### **Construction of shelters in groups**

If enough plain land is available for construction then 2-3 families can construct their units as a group. This saves material which can be used for constructing kitchens or cattle sheds depending on the requirements of the owners. Five groups of two units each were built in Channan village (Tehri Garhwal district).



*Construction of shelters in group of two families*

### **Continuing Innovations**

Smokeless chulas were installed in some units in Kapkot block. They increase the efficiency of wood burning and reduce smoke-related health hazards. Women in mountain homes are at high risk due to prolonged exposure to smoke.

As an experiment PSI fitted burlap on the inside of GI sheets in one shelter in Channan village to provide insulation. The burlap was then coated with cement. The beneficiary family and other



*Smokeless chula installed in the shelter of Uttam Ram at Kapkot*

villagers say that the jute insulation helps raise the inside temperature. Physical measurements of the temperature showed the insulated unit to be about 5°C warmer.

With inputs from the people and local masons in Thatyud block (Tehri Garhwal district), the round eucalyptus poles were replaced with square sections on the roof. These were joined with J-hooks for stronger support, improving the overall sturdiness and appearance of the shelter. Eleven such houses were constructed in Channan.



*Jute insulation inside a temporary shelter*

### **Construction of shelters for schools at Kuwari:**

Two schools in Kuwari village in the Pindar valley (Kapkot block) -- located in a very remote area accessed by trekking almost 30 km from the road -- were badly damaged after the June 2013 disaster. Neither school was functional for several months. On the request of local residents PSI and its local partner KSS built 8 rooms for the two schools.

## **II. Participatory Livelihoods Rehabilitation Planning and Implementation (Phase-III)**

### **Selection of Clusters and Villages**

The Kalimath cluster that was initially selected by PSI's partner MVDA was allotted to Tata Relief Committee and Himmothan Society by the district administration. After field visits and another survey in December 2013 PSI and MVDA selected a cluster of nine villages in the Madhyamaheshwar Ganga valley in Rudraprayag district.



*Cluster level meeting*

The recent disaster affected the villages badly as the economy of the villages was mainly dependent on the Kedarnath yatra. Details of the selected villages are given in the table below.

**Table 2: Details of Madhyamaheshwar Ganga valley cluster, Rudraprayag district**

S. No.	Panchayat Name	Village Name	Total Hholds	SC / OBC	Human death toll	Animal deaths	Houses/ dhabas damaged	Agri. land lost (ha.)	Other losses
1.	Gaundar	Gaundar	50	-	5	8	5 shops and 10 temp. shelters	5.0	2 water mills, 2 gharats,
2.	Ransi	Ransi	105	-	1	11	20 dhabas 28 temp. shelters	2.0	2 pipelines 2 gharats 1 drainage channel
		Tarsali	45	-					
3.	Uniyana	Uniyana	80	-	3	20	25	1.40	-
		Paundar	70	-					
4	Raun Lek	Raun Lek	155	100	5	14	32	2.0	3 pipelines
		Chakchoki / Thapondi	114	14	1	2	11	2.10	3 pipelines
5.	Bedula	Bedula/ Timli	80	-	18				
6.	Burwa	Burwa	115	25	4	6	12	1.26	pipeline, canal
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>13.76</b>	

The second cluster is in Talla Danpur valley of Kapkot Block in Bageshwar district. This area has witnessed many landslides in recent years. The massive rainfall in June 2013 and later, aggravated the problems. The area is remote. Since most of the attention after the disaster was focussed on the yatra routes, this area remained neglected. Hence there is a great need for rehabilitation work here. The valley is rich in flora and fauna. Trekking routes to the Pindari glacier provide scope for community-based tourism. Field visits in October and December 2013 helped finalize the villages and explore livelihood options in the valley. Details of the selected villages are given in the table below.



**Table 3: Details of Talla Danpur valley cluster, Bageshwar district**

S. No.	Panchayat name	Village Name	Total hholds.	Human deaths toll	Animals deaths	Houses damaged	Agri. land lost (ha.)	Other losses
1.	Bareth	Kaflani	35	-		-	0.24	Pipe line, canal, access path
		Bareth	155	-	2	2	1.20	Pipeline, canal, access path
		Bhani-Reetha bagar	30	-	7	5	0.38	Pipeline, canal
2.	Naukundi	Harsing a bagar	72	-	1	1	0.56	Pipeline, canal, access path
		Uladi dhar	62	-	6	2	0.70	Pipeline, canal access path
3.	Siri	Siri	70	-	3	3	0.40	Pipeline, canal
4.	Sama -do-	Sile Sama	37	2	2	2	0.30	Pipeline, canal
		Sama	66	1	1	1	0.20	Pipeline, canal, access path
		<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3.98</b>	

The livelihoods rehabilitation phase is a 3-year programme. PSI will work in two stages as described below.

- Nov '13 – June '14:** Community-led livelihood planning will be done in the selected villages. Dedicated livelihoods development teams (LDTs) will facilitate the local communities to prepare livelihood development plans. They will use a participatory approach based on PRA exercises and household surveys to assess the needs, resources and capabilities of each family in the village.
- April '14 – October '16:** The livelihood development plans will be implemented through village level institutions. Livelihood activities are likely to include on-farm and off-farm activities and management of common pool (natural) resources.

### Meetings with POs

PSI organized an initial meeting on August 26, 2013 with potential POs for Phase-III to discuss the prospects of working in disaster-affected areas. It was attended by 5 POs, all of whom were involved with PSI in constructing temporary shelters. They presented their organizational profiles, their prior work experience and the work done by them following the June '13 disaster. Possible livelihood options in potential clusters were also discussed.

A number of field visits and information gathering was done to finalize work areas and the partners for Phase III. Out of the 5 potential POs, Kapkot Sewa Samiti (KSS) and Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA) were selected for Phase III.

A second partners meet was organized for the two POs on December 3, 2013 to finalize the clusters and villages which could be selected for the livelihood development programme. The meeting included discussions on the overall framework of Phase-III and the roles and responsibilities of the POs, LDTs, PSI staff, etc. The clusters and villages were also discussed and criteria were set for the selection of villages.

#### **Meeting with the Star TV and Dasra Team**

A meeting with STAR TV – a major donor for Phase III and their consultant Dasra, was organized on November 23, 2013. Its primary aim was to discuss the Phase-III programme, the various activities and timelines for the project. At the meeting PSI confirmed that it would work along with local POs in two clusters of about 15-18 villages with STAR TV funds.

#### **Training programme for LDTs**

A training programme has been scheduled for the LDTs from January 16<sup>th</sup> – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. It includes classroom sessions and field exposure. It will give the LDTs insights into the Phase-III programme and train them to use specific tools for data collection. It will also include discussions on the livelihood options in the area. As a part of the training programme we will complete one micro plan with inputs from all the participating LDTs and resource persons.



*Partners' meet*



*Madhyamaheshwar Ganga valley*

### *Disabled Dhanoli Devi Gets Priority*

*Dhanoli Devi, 65, is a Scheduled Caste woman from Deorada village near Tharali market in Chamoli district. During the past 4-5 years she has lost most of her eyesight and is barely able to see.*

*The June 2013 floods in the Pindar river washed away large portions of upper Tharali. Several houses and shops were destroyed or severely damaged. Dhanoli Devi's house was completely destroyed. Her family was shifted to a relief camp.*

*Due to her weak eyesight it was not possible for Dhanoli Devi to live in the relief camp. Her husband Gopal Ram repaired his cattle shed and shifted the family to the cattle shed.*

*PSI's partner organisation Jago Himalaya visited the place and saw their condition. It recommended the family for the construction of a temporary shelter. After verification PSI team built a temporary shelter with an attached toilet.*

*"The tin shed has solved the problem of roof and kitchen. Now we feel secure," says Gopal Ram.*

*Dhanoli Devi is very happy with the toilet. She says, "Due to my weak eyesight it is very difficult for me to go out in the dark and cold mornings. Now we a toilet in our house. I feel very comfortable. I want to thank all those who helped my family."*



*Dhanoli Devi (65) is barely able to see*



*Inside Dhanoli Devi's shelter*



*Toilet constructed for Dhanoli Devi*



### *Security for Ramesh and his family*

Ramesh (35) is a progressive farmer from Sera Vijaypur village in Tharali block of Chamoli district. Many such villages along the Pindar river suffered heavy losses during the June 2013 floods. Twelve houses in Sera Vijaypur were badly damaged or destroyed. Ramesh first shifted his family to a relief camp and later into a tent distributed by the tehsil staff.



Now he has moved with his family into a PSI-built shelter with a toilet. He told PSI's Puran

Bartwal, "I will now use this shelter as a permanent home. During the last three months we were living a life of fear and insecurity. If you had not helped us we had no option but to construct a hut in the forest and move there. We are grateful to you for your help. Now we feel secure. The toilet is a major relief for our women, children and aged people."

### *Misery Chases Khayibhagad Families*

Seven Scheduled Caste families were displaced from their homes after construction began on a 25MW hydro electric project next to their village. Landslides following blasting in the area had made their homes unsafe. They were relocated to the banks of Saryu River in Khayibhagad.



On the fateful night of July 30, 2013 a huge landslide occurred there. The stream which used to give them water brought huge boulders along with it. The unsuspecting families were caught in nature's fury and lost their homes. Four members of one family died.

After the disaster four families were given temporary accommodations in a baraat ghar and an ITI building while three families chose to live in a rented place. But a month later the four families were asked to vacate the marriage hall and ITI building.

PSI and its local partner, KSS, have built temporary shelters with toilets for all the seven families at a safer location.

### III. Financials

The Programme's monetary receipts and payments till December 31, 2013 are summarized in Table 4. We continue to receive funds from concerned persons and well wishers. The total contributions that have come from the Star TV campaign are reported in Table 4. With the pace of construction of temporary shelters picking up, the disbursements also picked up during the review period.

**Table 4: Monetary Receipts and Payments for Uttarakhand 2013 Disaster Response (20.01.14)**

Sl. No.	Type of funds	Direct Donations to PSI Rs.	Star TV Campaign Donations Rs.	Total Rs.	Payments Rs.
1.	Indian funds	20,954,604.70	5,442,445.93	26,397,050.63	5,995,187.00
2.	Foreign funds	4,765,328.46	32,783,125.54	37,548,454.00	3,231,156.55
3.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,719,933.16</b>	<b>38,225,571.47</b>	<b>63,945,504.63</b>	<b>9,226,343.55</b>

The Programme expenses are detailed below.

**Table 5: Programme Expenses (20.01.14)**

SI. No.	Item	Total Budget*** (Rs.)	Total Expenditure (Rs.)	Balance (Rs.)	Remarks
1	Relief Material	625,000.00	597,420.00	27,580.00	
2	Temporary Shelters*	7,500,000.00	5,472,460.00	2,027,540.00	Only 206 to be built now. 164 units completed, 42 under constr.
3	Toilets**	1,050,000.00	1,139,756.00	(89,756.00)	133 completed, 33 under constr. A few more may be built later.
4	Training Workshops	100,000.00	106,615.00	(6,615.00)	
5	Meetings	60,000.00	19,870.00	40,130.00	
6	Phase III Training	140,000.00	-	140,000.00	Began on 15.01.14
7	Personnel	1,325,000.00	1,236,388.00	88,612.00	
8	Travel	310,000.00	393,056.00	(83,056.00)	
9	Miscellaneous	25,000.00	17,745.55	7,254.45	
10	Administration	250,000.00	243,033.00	6,967.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,385,000.00</b>	<b>9,226,343.55</b>	<b>2,158,656.45</b>	

\* For 250 units \*\* For 150 units \*\*\* Total budget till 31.12.13