

UTTARAKHAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

UTTARAKHAND IS A DISASTER PRONE STATE

Range of Natural Disasters

- Flash Floods/Cloud Burst/Floods
- Earth Quakes
- Landslide
- Forest Fire





Joshimath Subsidence Jan 2023



Glacier Burst
Chamoli district - Feb 2021



Heavy Rainfall and Landslides
July 2020, July 2019, July 2017,
July 2016, July 2014





Uttarakhand Forest Fire April 2016



Kedarghati Floods June 2013 Being a tourism dependent state proper management of Natural Disasters is extremely important

Not only it leads to loss of life and property it also tarnishes the image of the State Outside

Some of the common reasons attributed to the poor state of Disaster Management in Uttarakhand are:

- Lack of Preparedness
- Inefficient Land use Planning (uncontrolled development)
- Poor response and coordination
- Inadequate investment in mitigation measures
- Corruption & Mismanagement
- Insufficient focus on climate change



GENERAL PERCEPTION OF STATE DISASTER RESPONSE

Features | Environment

Month later, rehabilitation eludes residents in India's Joshimath

As houses and roads began to crack, about 240 families were temporarily relocated and many others fled the Himalayan town out of fear.

source : ALJAZEERA

CIRCLE OF FIRE RAGES OVER 90 DAYS



Anger, fear, helplessness...: A swirl of emotions at ground

PIL claiming 'inaction'



DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Uttarakhand already has a well thought out disaster management plan

The formal organizational structure is in place with defined responsibilities

- State Disaster Management Authority/State Executive Committee
- State Disaster Response force (Two Companies Strong)
- Hazard Safety Cell
- District Disaster Management Authority
- Hazard Safety Unit

In-spite of a well laid plan and protocols the Uttarkhand Disaster Management is perceived as lacking



ACTIONABLES

Review of the existing disaster management plan and organizational framework

Identify and update deficiencies

Incorporate other States such as Gujarat, Orissa best management practices in Disaster Response

Incorporation of the International Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

> Incorporate the Build Back Better framework

Develop a separate Disaster Management Plan for large gatherings and important events

- Chardham Yatra
- · Kanwar Yatra
- · Ardh Kumbh

PREPAREDNESS

- Given the remote nature of some of these natural calamities Disaster Management has to be strengthened at the Panchayat level for timely response
- Disaster Management equipment should be readily available at the Panchayat level in disaster prone areas
- Early Warning System
 - So far early warning dependence is on central agencies such as IMD, CWC, GSI
 - Early Warning System should be developed and deployed at the State level to compliment the AWS of the Central Agencies
- Disaster Preparedness Drills to be held at regular intervals
- Color Coded Alert Levels should be implemented in disaster prone zones
 - Yellow
 - Amber
 - Red
- Mapping and survey of landslide prone areas
- Forest survey at regular intervals during the summer time
- Flood inundation maps for various scenarios to be developed



EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING DISASTER SITUATION

- Establishment of Disaster Control Dashboard in the CMO
- Real time/Near Real Time feed such as flood inundation map, landslide impact forest fire etc.
- Activation of the Disaster Communication Protocol
 - Communication within agencies as per Disaster Management Plan
 - Communication with general public in accordance with disaster communication policy
 - Liason Protocol with Central Agencies
 - Mobile App for communication and disaster response tracking for all stake holders of the disaster response team
 - Implementation of the Disaster Management Plan as per laid out protocols



RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

- Setup of emergency medical facilities
 - Easily Deployable Mobile Hospitals in remote area
 - Easily Deployable Mobile Units for Shelter
 - Portable Sanitation Facilities
- Mobilization of Civil Societies
 - Engagement of NGO's for on field work
 - Private Parties for relief

- Communication and IEC
 - Toll Free Number
 - Web Portal for Tracking of Missing Persons
 - General Information



LONG TERM REHABILITATION

- This is often the most neglected aspect of Disaster Management
- After saving a life it's the responsibility of the government to establish the status quo for residents living in a disaster hit area
- Rehabilitation packages (Cheques ranging from 4-5 Lakhs) are not enough to restore livelihoods
- Shortage of Resources is primarily responsible for States helplessness
- Innovative Funding Strategies for Post Disaster Rehabilitation Efforts
 - Decent Life Insurance Policy for inhabitants of vulnerable areas
 - Property and establishment insurance for residents
 - The subsidized premium for these schemes should be paid from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF)
 - Corporate CSR funds should be channelized to the SDRF
 - Implementation of a Disaster Management Cess on liquor sales etc for fund mobilization
 - Identifying and collaboration with International Donor agencies for grants and soft loans

