



The European Commission allocates €130,000 to bring relief to the victims of the floods and landslides in India's northern State of Uttarakhand

The flash floods and resulting landslides in the northern state of Uttarakhand have caused the death of almost 900 people, though it is still anticipated that this will increase as greater clarity becomes available on the fate of the missing.

In addition to the huge damage to infrastructure and the annual pilgrimage season, hundreds of villagers have lost their homes and other assets such as agricultural land, livestock and employment opportunities. Additionally, many of the affected villages remain cut off, rendering detailed assessments impractical.

People are reporting that essential food items, including milk, vegetables and other commodities are unavailable in the affected region, and that there is a shortage of safe drinking water.

Meteorologists predict more rain for the northern Indian states in the coming weeks and months which could further exacerbate the current situation and hamper any relief operations.

The European Commission is providing €130,000 (approximately one crore rupees) to bring immediate relief to some 5,000 most vulnerable households in need of basic items. The aid is being channelled through the Indian Red Cross Society which is operating with funding through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Background

The European Commission has signed a €3 million humanitarian contribution agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Funds from the DREF are mainly allocated to “small-scale” disasters – those that do not give rise to a formal international appeal.

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund was established in 1985 and is supported by contributions from donors. Each time a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society needs immediate financial support to respond to a disaster, it can request funds from the DREF. For small-scale disasters, the IFRC allocates grants from the Fund, which can then be replenished by the donors. The contribution agreement between the IFRC and the European Commission enables the latter to replenish the DREF for agreed operations (that fit in with its humanitarian mandate) up to a total of €3 million.

For more information:

Commissioner Georgieva's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/georgieva/index_en.htm

The European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm

Contacts :

Arjun Claire (+91 8130331119)

Gunjan Chanana (+91 11 49 49 65 56)