



### Minutes of the Emergency Coordination Meeting,

#### Leh Flash Floods

**Date:** 11 August 2010

**Time:** 3 PM-5:30 PM

**Venue:** Sphere India Secretariat, Bldg.3, Apt 401, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

**Chaired by:** Mr. N M Prusty, Chairperson, Sphere India

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In continuation of its efforts to streamline agency responses to the flash flooding in the Leh region, the Sphere India Secretariat called for the second Emergency Coordination Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The Meeting was held at the Sphere India Secretariat.

The agenda for the meeting was as following:

- ▶ Update on the existing situation
- ▶ Share the findings/minutes of the emergency coordination meeting held on 10th August 2010 in Leh
- ▶ Further Action

All present were briefed about the current situation and logistics to send any relief material, this was followed-up by updates from agencies working on the ground in Leh and discussions on what should be the next steps.

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#### **Current Situation: As of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010,**

- ▶ Over 167 dead, 400+ missing (Media Reports)
- ▶ Worst Affected Area:
- ▶ 27 Villages in Leh Identified **so far**
- ▶ 2 Blocks in Kargil have suffered partial damage
- ▶ No information available on the status of remote villages which are still inaccessible

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#### **Brief of Emergency Coordination Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in Leh**

- ▶ 35 representatives of various NGO's & INGO's attended today's meeting
- ▶ A control room is being established in Leh to facilitate coordination
- ▶ Local NGO group: Laddakh Volunteer Network reconstituted
- ▶ Response mapping (who's working where and on what) of humanitarian agencies going on



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- ▶ Use of Common Assessment Format stressed upon
- ▶ URS team is meeting district administration in the afternoon today
- ▶ With winter approaching in last week of October, shelter is emerging as the top priority
- ▶ **Next Emergency Coordination Meeting in Leh is scheduled for tomorrow. Details are as following:**

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010

**TIME:** 6 PM

**VENUE:** Laddakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) Office (Karzoo, Leh)

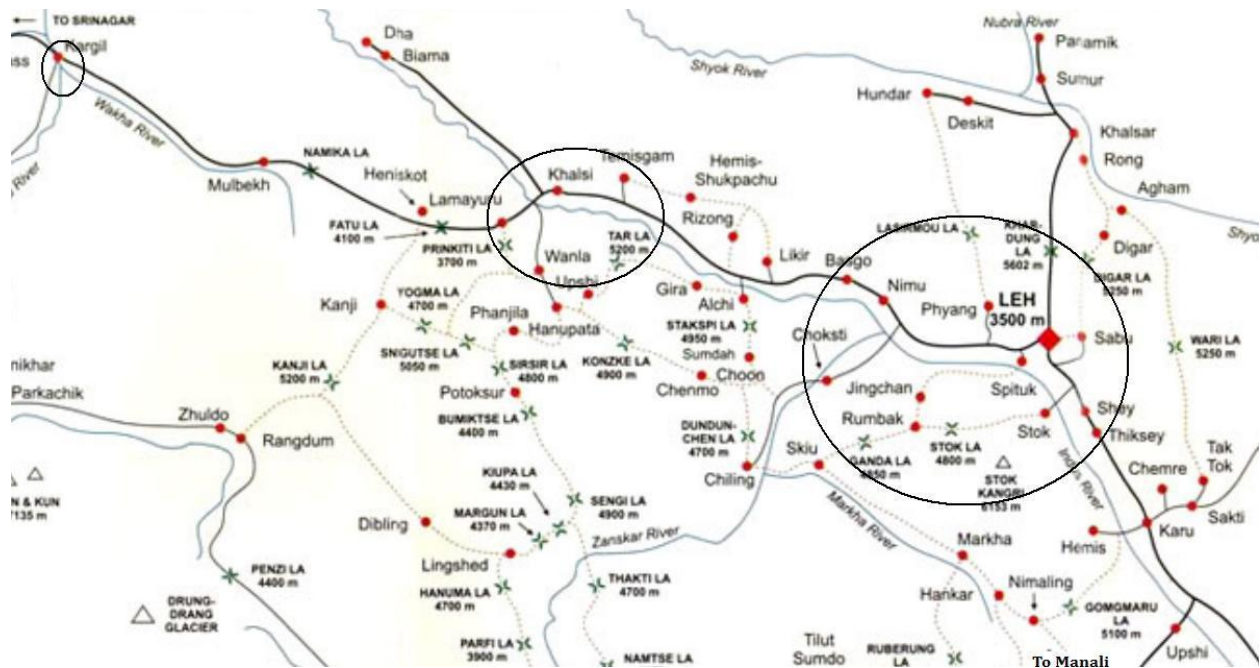
### Map of Leh-Laddakh





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### Map of Affected Area



### PRAGYA

PRAGYA has team working in the field since day 1 and shared the on ground assessment with the group which can be summarized as:

- ▶ There are a total of 8 relief camps in and around Leh at the moment. These camps are being run by various army agencies, like The BRO, the ITBP etc. The camps seem to have an adequate supply of food, medicines, and clean water.
- ▶ Most pressing needs as per their assessment is the following:
  - Clothes, Jackets etc.
  - Blankets
  - Poly sheets
  - Thermocol sheets
  - Emergency lights, torches
  - Batteries
  - Hygiene products – soap, detergent, sanitary napkins, towels etc.
  - Baby food
  - Masks for volunteers
  - Utensils for the baby food



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- Plastic bottles and buckets with covers to store water.
  - Air tight containers to store food items.
  - Water filters for villages far from the relief camps.
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### **Tsering Samphel (Ex Member, National Commission For Scheduled Tribes, Govt. Of India)**

Mr. Samphel, was kind enough to share his familiarity with the region with the participants, briefly he explained the ground situation (Physical location of villages, accessibility and the local customs). Moreover he also expressed the following concerns:

- ▶ There are several remote villages which are inaccessible in normal course of time might be affected and there has been no information on the damage caused in these places.
- ▶ There might be people and laborers struck on the Leh-Manali national highway.
- ▶ The area between Sabu village and Leh town is inhabited by more than 2000 families and is the worst affected and the current estimate of casualties might go up twice/thrice once the debris is cleared.
- ▶ Some families have children as survivors who are studying outside as such they will require psychosocial as well as financial support to overcome this tragedy

He also pointed out that with the winter setting in by mid October the priority should be to:

- ▶ Construct temporary shelters before Oct 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ Reconstruct bridges to access the remote areas
  - ▶ Arrange firewood to keep the house's warm
  - ▶ Provide following items:
    - Stove
    - Kitchen Equipment
    - Bedding (At least 3 blankets per person)
    - Woolen Clothes such as Jackets, Woolen yarn, etc.
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### **UNDMT**

Naghma from UNDMT shared the UN response with the group. To summarize:

- ▶ WHO has offered assistance to the GOI and on approval has dispatched medical relief material to the affected area which can cater to the medical needs of 10000 people for the next 3 months
- ▶ Unicef has provided technical support with 2 water purification plant on request from NDMA
- ▶ RedR teams are carrying out assessments
- ▶ WFP has offered assistance to the GOI and is awaiting approval from the GOI to intervene
- ▶ On request of GOI, UNFPA has dispatched 5000 dignity kits catering to the needs of women



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### Salient features of Discussion

- ▶ Participants agreed that there is a dire need to prepare a prioritized list of relief material based on the assessments
- ▶ As the information available is still sketchy about the total number of population affected, it was decided the group will await more credible information from the emergency coordination team based in Leh before going into the affected area
- ▶ The participants also agreed that there is a clear need to work in close coordination with the district administration and the Army and Paramilitary forces to access the remote areas, carryout damage/need assessment
- ▶ **As the assessment being carried out are in very limited area, the group decided that a Multi Sectoral, Multi Agency Assessment should be carried upon in the beginning of the next week by the humanitarian agencies**
- ▶ **Based on the inputs of several humanitarian agencies & assessment teams, the agencies which are planning to go in the field were advised to check:**
  - **As the access to affected area is still very limited, agencies are advised to coordinate beforehand with the emergency coordination team at Leh and New Delhi on the areas they are planning to visit for undertaking any assessments**
  - **With the winter approaching fast, following items should be the top most priority:**
    - **Shelter,**
    - **Winter Clothing**
    - **Livelihood**
  - The team members going to the affected area are physically fit as the oxygen level is low and it may make them sick, burdening the already stressed medical infrastructure in Leh
- ▶ It was decided that a representative group from Sphere India and member agencies will meet the Resident Commissioner, J&K and brief him about the efforts of the humanitarian organizations and seek his feedback on the prioritized list of relief material needed in the affected areas.
- ▶ The group reasserted the need to strengthen the coordination among the humanitarian agencies responding to the Flash Floods in Leh

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### Humanitarian Agencies Response (Information still being collated):

Please see attached Annxure A





### List of Participants

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