

The Evolving Post Disaster Shelter Approach in India

Experience of Uttarakhand Floods, 2013

The Platforms

- Sphere India's Shelter Sub-committee:
Coordination of post disaster shelter relief.
Members: Sphere member organisations
- The Shelter in Emergencies Forum: Open,
informal reflection on issue of shelter in
emergencies. Hosted by rotation,
membership open to NGOs, academia,
individual experts

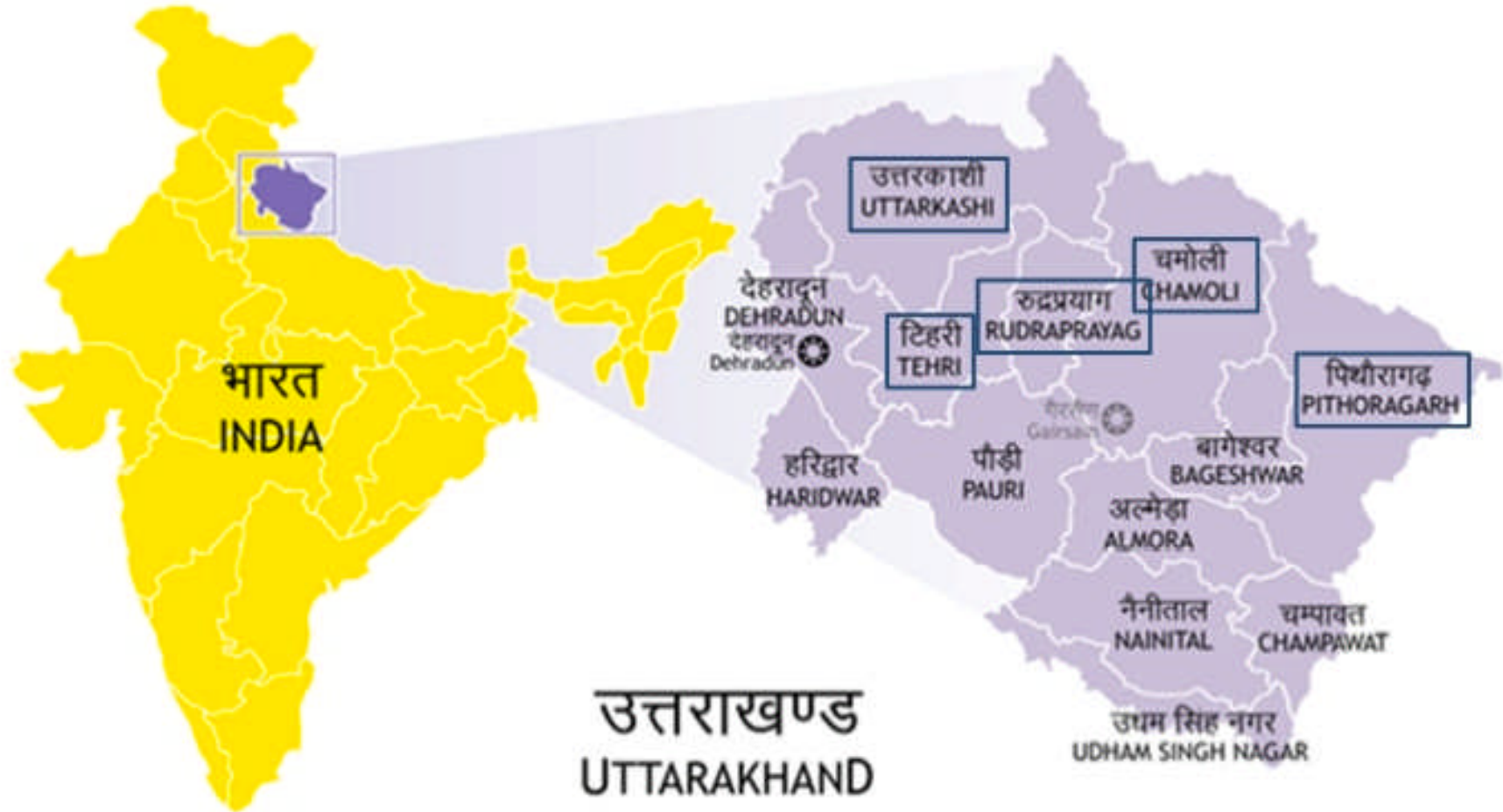
Activities of Shelter in Emergencies Forum

- Conceived in 2012
- Two formal meetings in 2013
- 1st hosted by SEEDS – theme ‘owner driven reconstruction’
- 2nd hosted by CARE in response to 2013 Uttarakhand (UK) Floods
- Joint assessment mission to Uttarakhand, along with Sphere India
- Process of coordination handed over to Sphere India Shelter Committee after evaluation and strategy discussion

Thinking on UK Floods - Glimpses

UK Joint Shelter Assessment



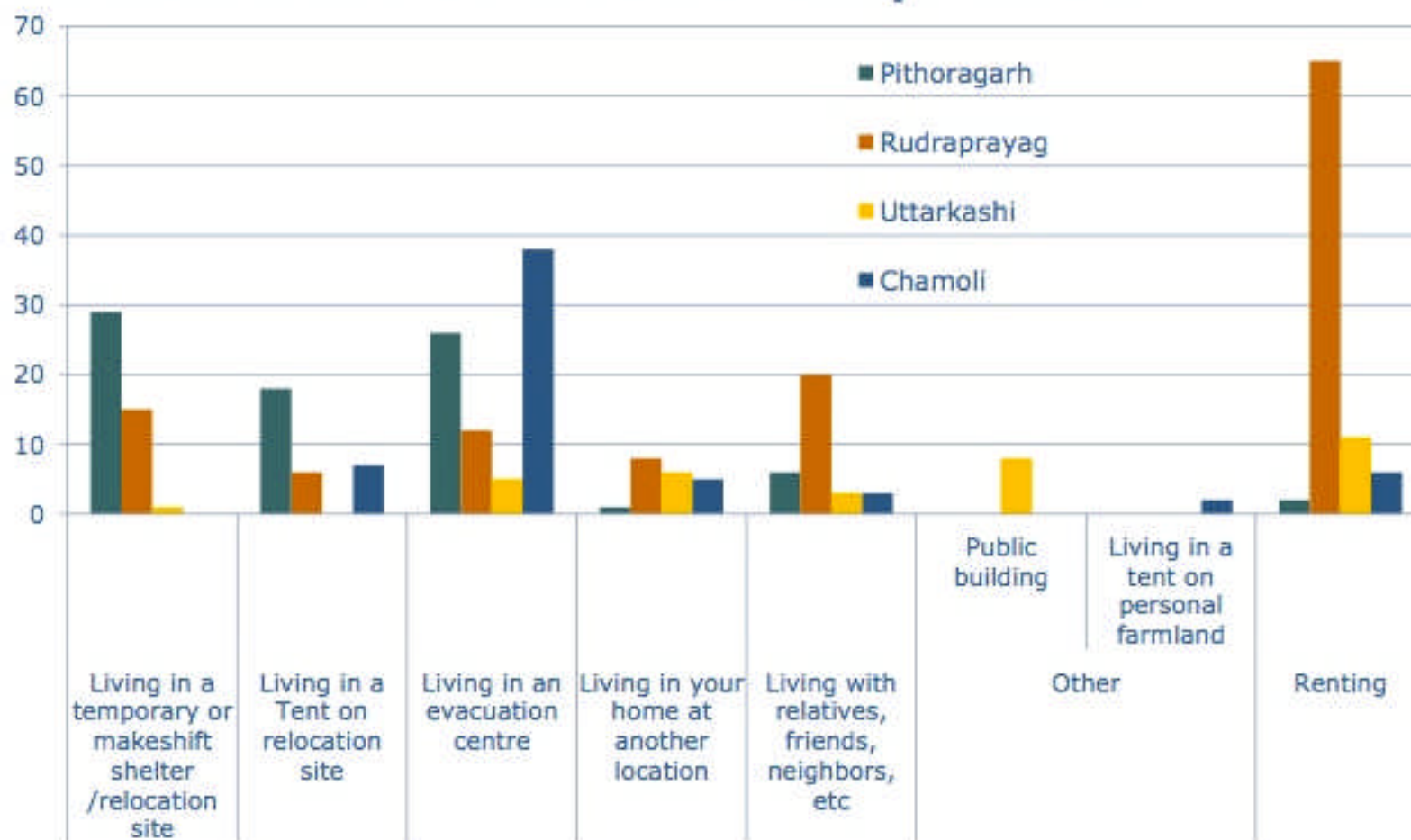


UK Joint Shelter Needs Assessment



UK Joint Shelter Needs Assessment

Situation of those displaced



UK Joint Shelter Needs Assessment



UK Joint Shelter Needs Assessment

Shelter Priorities

Priority	1	2	3	Ranked
Want to move out of communal shelters	57	9	5	5
Want to return home	75	38	17	3
Need materials and tools to repair or rebuild houses	118	108	55	1
Need skills/labour to repair or rebuild houses	11	121	102	2
Need basic household items (NFIs)	25	45	83	4
Need land to rebuild	34	0	0	6

UK Joint Shelter Needs Assessment

Challenges

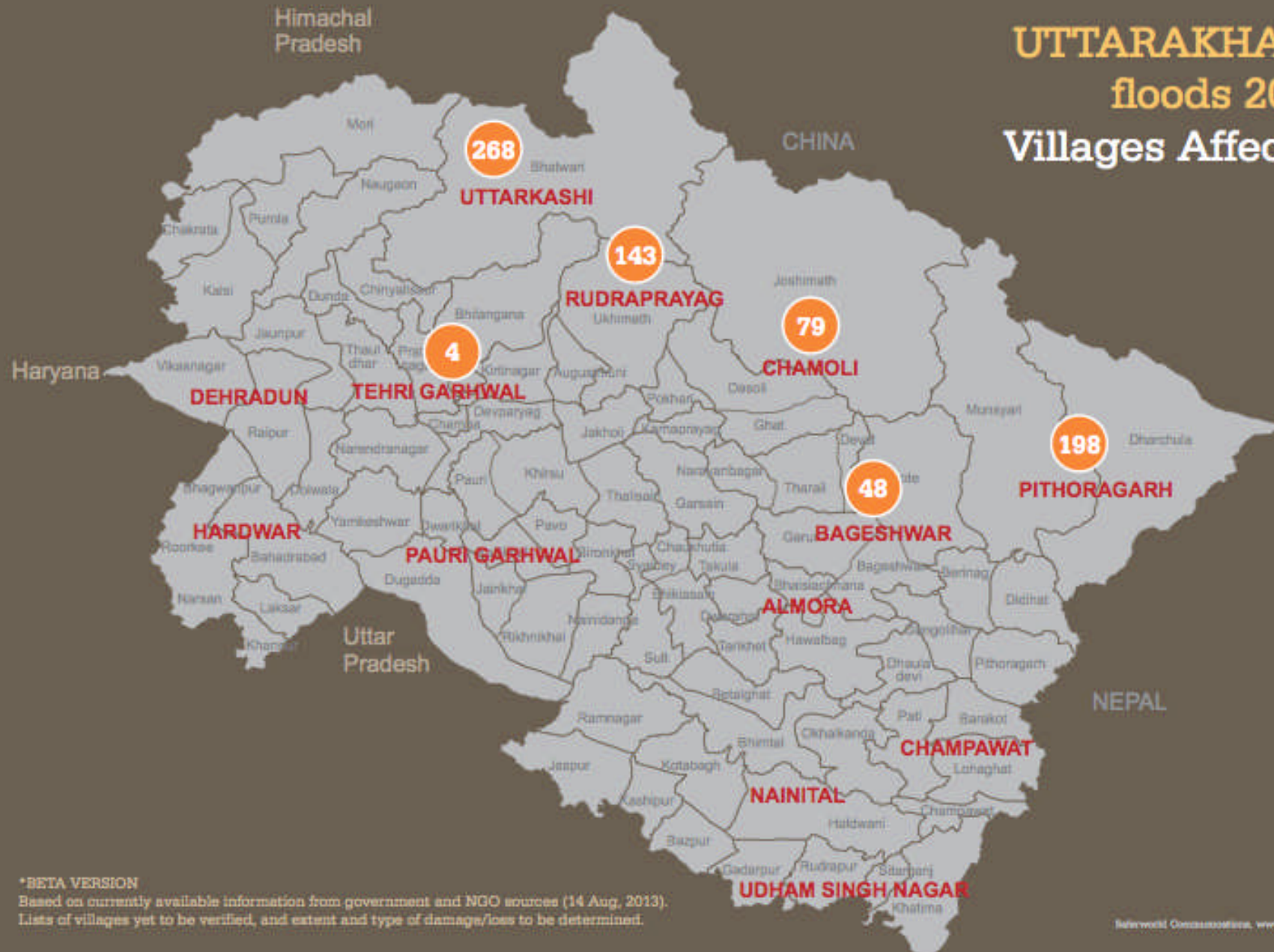
Priority	1	2	3	Ranked
Materials/tools for repair are not available	89	37	17	3
Materials/tools for repair are not accessible (not enough money)	124	19	40	1
Skilled/labour for repair not available	42	71	64	5
Skilled/labour for repair not accessible (not enough money)	42	46	111	4
There are potential grievances on land issues	114	6	6	2
No land to rebuild	35	0	0	6



the unheard voices
Uttarakhand flash floods 2013



UTTARAKHAND floods 2013: Villages Affected



*BETA VERSION

Based on currently available information from government and NGO sources (14 Aug, 2013).
Lists of villages yet to be verified, and extent and type of damage/loss to be determined.

UTTARAKHAND floods 2013: NGOs Responding

UTTARKASHI

1. Caritas India
2. CASA
3. Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)
4. Catholic Relief Services
5. Centre for Environment Education, Himalaya Initiative
6. Christian Aid
7. DCA
8. Disha
9. Doctors For You
10. Eficor
11. Emmanuel Hospital Association (CHD Musocle)
12. HelpAge India
13. LWSIT
14. Oxfam
15. PCI
16. Plan India
17. Pragya
18. Save the Children
19. Tear Fund
20. United Way of India
21. World Vision
22. WSPA

TEHRIGARHWAL

1. ActionAid India
2. Aquaphus DM
3. Catholic Relief Services
4. Emmanuel Hospital Association (CHD Musocle)
5. Habitat for Humanity India
6. PCI
7. Save the Children
8. United Way of India

PAURIGARHWAL

1. Caritas India
2. Catholic Relief Services

PITHORAGARH

1. ActionAid India
2. Care India
3. Manav Seva Sanathan- SEVA
4. Pragma
5. United Way of India



CHAMOLI

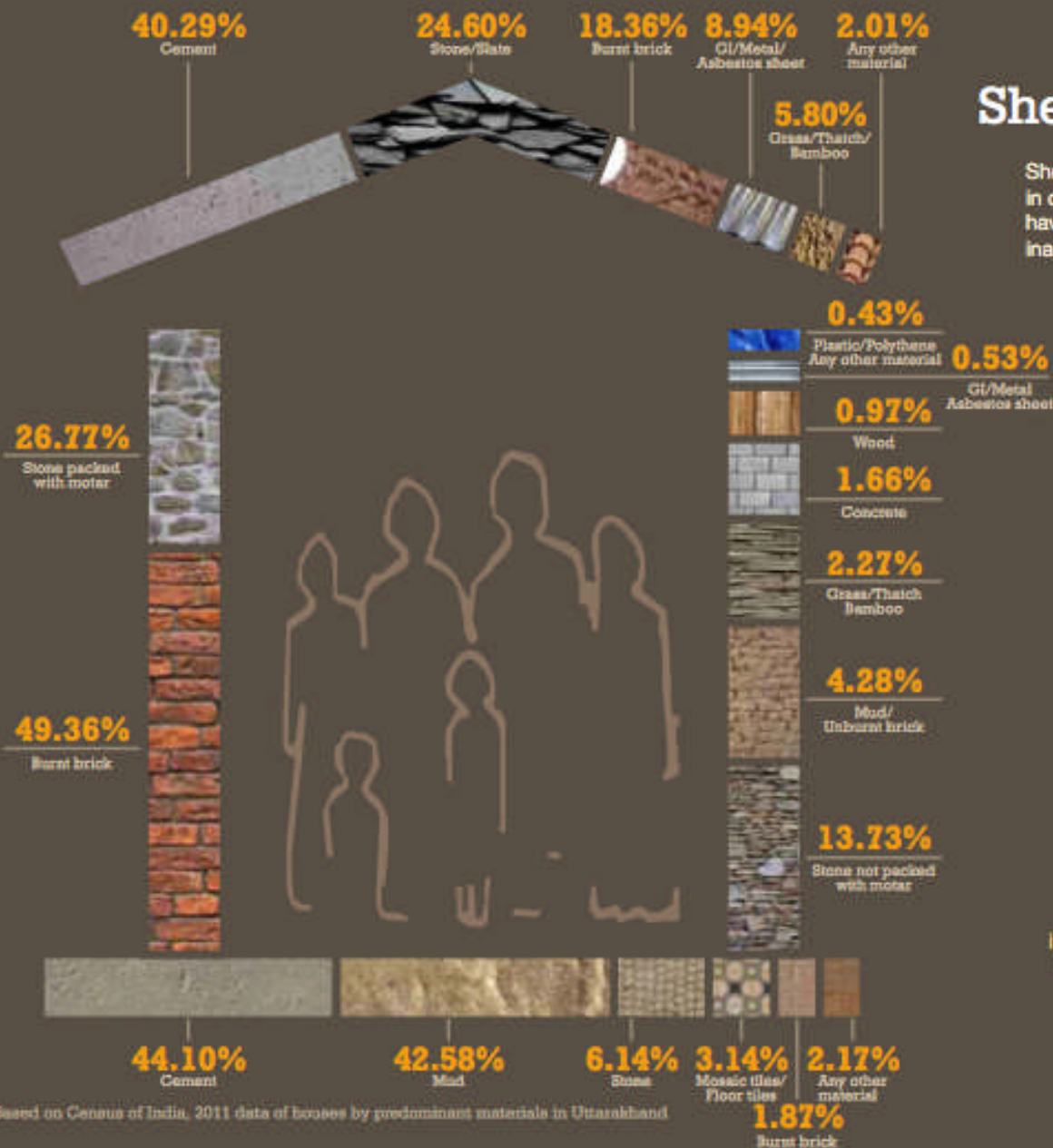
1. ActionAid India
2. ADRA
3. Akshaya Ghazi Shilpi Federation (AAGAAS Federation)
4. Care India
5. CASA
6. Catholic Relief Services
7. DC
8. DCA
9. Doctors For You
10. Eficor
11. Gramin Sadharan and Shramik Sewa Sanathan (GRASS)
12. Himalayan Paryavaran Aarakshi Mahila Samiti
13. Jai Nandadevi Swamigal Bhikshan Sanathan (Jandesh)
14. LWST
15. PCI
16. Plan India
17. Pragma
18. Save the Children
19. SEEDS
20. Tear Fund
21. United Way of India
22. World Vision

RUDRAPUR

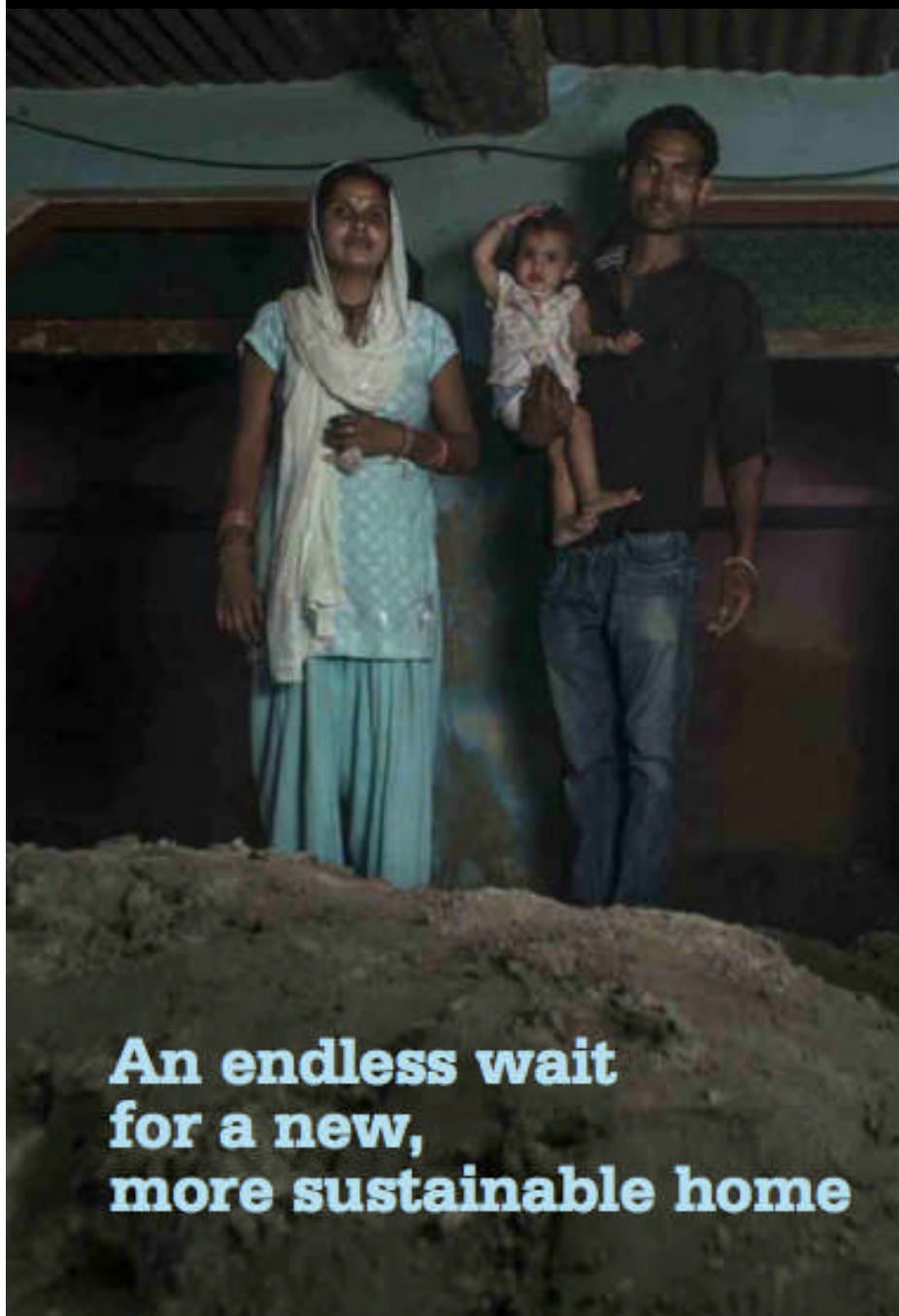
1. ActionAid India
2. ADRA
3. Aquaphus
4. Care India
5. Caritas India
6. CASA
7. Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)
8. Catholic Relief Services
9. Christian Aid
10. DCA
11. Eficor
12. Habitat for Humanity India
13. Help a Child of India
14. HelpAge India
15. HUMAD
16. IGSSS
17. Jeevan Niman Education Society
18. OXFAM
19. PCI
20. PFA Dehradun
21. Plan India
22. Pragma Society
23. Save the Children
24. SEEDS
25. SHARD Society
26. Shree Swamiji Bhikari Samiti
27. Tear Fund
28. United Way of India
29. World Vision
30. WSPA

UTTARAKHAND Shelter building materials

Shelter construction materials and technologies play a key role in determining vulnerability levels. Unfortunately, recent trends have led to increased vulnerability through poor siting and inadequate knowledge and skills.



Traditional construction with earth based materials and indigenous knowledge based technologies was resilient and sustainable. New materials and technologies, through their insensitive application, have tipped the balance. Shelter interventions need to be sensitive to these issues.



**An endless wait
for a new,
more sustainable home**

“

We need a new home, as soon as possible.
Somewhere far away from the river.

– Amit, GIC relief camp, Bhatwari, Uttarkashi

Amit's family of four (his one-year-old Sonu, his 58-year-old father and his wife, Poonam who was three-months pregnant) ran in the dead of night. They stumbled over the poorly-lit, newly built stairs, onto the roof; then jumped parapets and darted over four ceilings of corrugated tin to get to the road. Standing at a relatively safe distance with thousands of other Valmiki colony residents, they watched the Bhagirathi swell to astonishing levels. A few hours later, the home he'd built just two years earlier sank beneath the river. He'd spent Rs. 25,000 on the land title alone and many more thousands on the construction.

At a loss for ideas, Amit turned to the shelter provided by the local administration at the Girls Intermediate College. Initially, he and his family spent their nights at the shelter and the day scooping out lumps of wet, grey sand from their living-cum-bedroom. Now they wait, tired from scooping endlessly. At the time, the Uttarkashi District Magistrate's office was still deciding where all those displaced by the floods could be moved, so that the college could restart.

The 500-odd houses on the left bank of the Bhagirathi that is called Valmiki colony technically still stands. But it has become unlivable.

The river brought with it accumulated silt and clay, depositing roomfuls and taking away anything that may have mattered in exchange; food grain, important documents, money, bed linen and clothes.

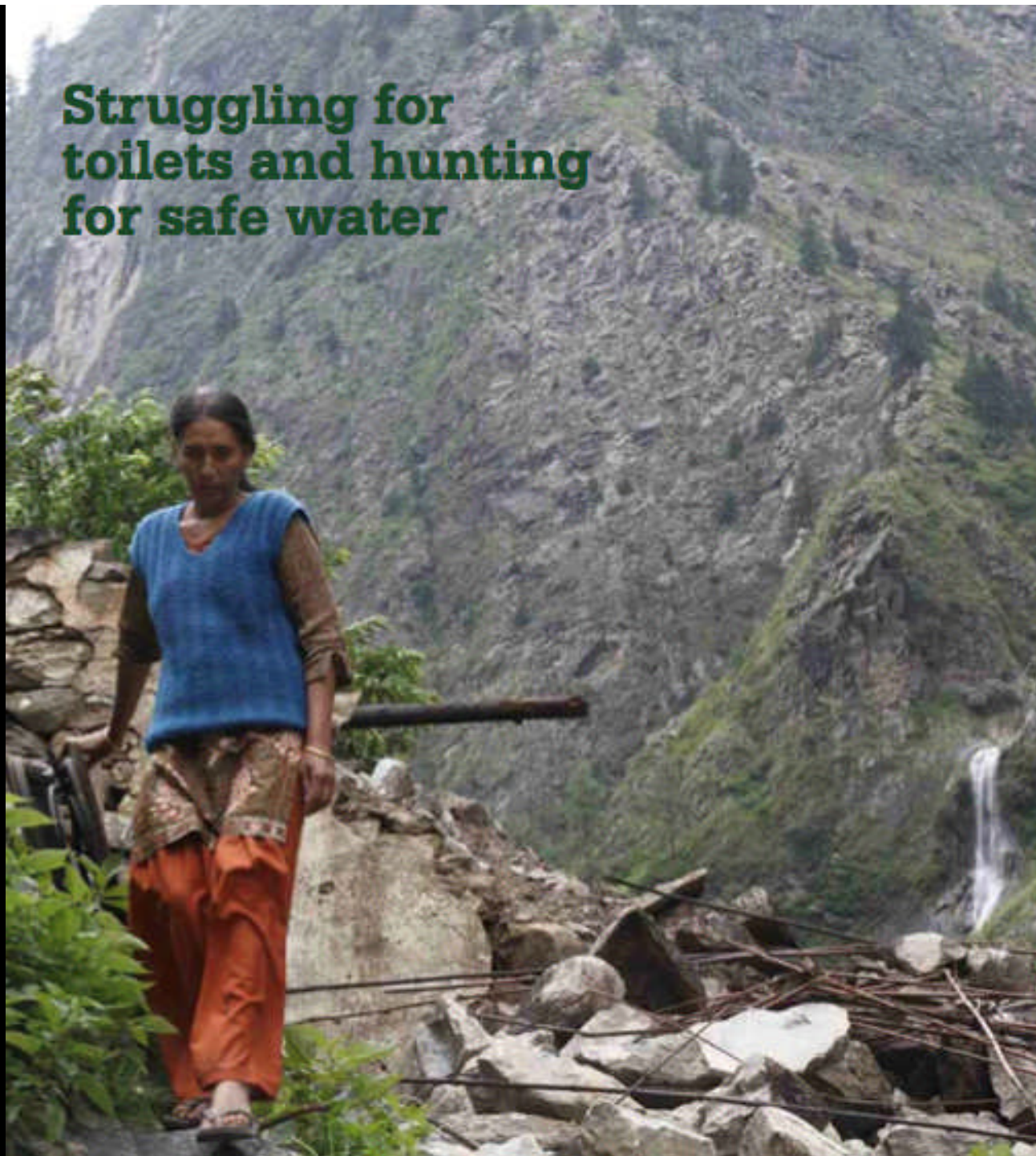
In fact, post these flash floods, the extent of damage seems to have jolted Uttarakhand awake to the dangers of climate change. More and more people across the state are worried about where they can build a house safely now. The flood plains area seems to be widening and increasing rainfall levels will enhance the risk posed by landslides.

The Himalayas are a relatively young mountain range and viscous soil underneath makes for very unstable bedrock. Amit and his friends at Valmiki colony are just a few amongst the many thousands affected across Uttarakhand who are starting to wonder. Without stronger, more weather-proof walls, can the Himalayas in fact be a viable dream home anymore?



**I feel like...
I'm not a student
anymore**

**Struggling for
toilets and hunting
for safe water**





How do we protect the children?

“

We are most concerned about our children's security now that we are living in the open in the forest. There was times when a lion came and ate a cow and a calf. We worry all the time about how to protect them.

– Kunwar Lal, father of 3, in Chandrapuri, Rudraprayag

Aside from recovery from the trauma, children's security issues are a growing concern for those now living in the open. In other cases, only young children have survived; having watched their entire families being washed away. Though unsubstantiated, there are several stories of these orphaned children being trafficked and exploited.



Marginalised and now left out...

“ We are Valmikis. We serve all communities. Now in this distress situation, if we are not helped then who will be? When we are disturbed, then who will take care of the society? Yet our story has never been shared in any media

– 48-year-old Munnu Singh Balmiki, Ward 4, Sangam, Nandprayag, Chamoli

A large number of affected families are valmikis – an extremely marginalised community who mostly work as sweepers. In the most remote places, where these groups are already relegated to the fringes of society, there is a desperate need to extend them a hand.

A growing struggle for people with disabilities

“

Look at my feet. They are badly swollen. But I can't walk and no doctor has come here yet.

– 36-year-old Shiva Prasad Vaishnav, Chandrapuri, Rudraprayag

In 2012, Shiva Prasad Vaishnav fractured his backbone. He has been bedridden ever since. His wife, Anjana Devi, had to take over his postman job to support their three children. Shiva also owned several acres of farm land that have now largely been washed away. When the flood waters rose, Shiva was the last to be evacuated. Neighbours and family managed to carry him out to a safer location. However, he had to be left mid-way in the fields in the pouring rain. With great effort, the villagers finally managed to move him up the hill to where most are now sheltering. Shiva's condition continues to deteriorate, as access remains difficult. No doctors had yet visited and Shiva is unable to walk to the closest clinic.

It's a question that begs some thought. For all those with disabilities across affected areas, are there any specific plans in place?

Spreading the stories



INFORMATION GAPS IN UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand is a state in northern India, known for its scenic beauty and rich cultural heritage. The state is divided into seven districts, each with its own unique characteristics. The capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, which is a major city and a hub for education and industry. The state is also known for its tourism, with many beautiful lakes, rivers, and mountains. The climate in Uttarakhand is generally pleasant, with warm summers and cool winters. The state is also known for its agriculture, with many different crops being grown. The people of Uttarakhand are known for their hospitality and friendly nature. The state is a beautiful and diverse place, with something for everyone.

[illegible]

A GROWING STRUGGLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

As the U.S. population grows older, the number of people with disabilities is also increasing. In 2000, there were 54 million people with disabilities in the United States, up from 48 million in 1990. The number of people with disabilities is expected to reach 70 million by 2020. This is a significant increase, and it is one that is likely to continue for many years to come. The growing number of people with disabilities is a challenge for society, and it is one that we must address if we are to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a full and meaningful life.

Disabilities can be physical, mental, or emotional. They can be the result of a congenital condition, an injury, or a disease. Whatever the cause, disabilities can make it difficult for people to live independently and to participate fully in society. However, with the right support and resources, people with disabilities can lead successful and fulfilling lives. It is our responsibility as a society to ensure that we have the resources and support in place to help people with disabilities thrive.

HOW DO WE PROTECT THE CHILDREN?

“...the crisis is still unfolding...the crisis is still unfolding...the crisis is still unfolding...”

**A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
CONTINUES TO UNFOLD**

...the crisis is still unfolding...the crisis is still unfolding...the crisis is still unfolding...



These shanty towns, known as favelas, are the poorest slums in the world. They are made of cardboard, tin and other materials. They are built on steep hillsides and are often built on land that is not theirs.

MARGINALIZED AND NOW LEFT OUT

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**IN EMERGENCIES,
COMMUNICATION IS AID**

The logo for infoconnect, featuring the word "info" in a sans-serif font above the word "connect" in a stylized, rounded font. A line connects the two words, forming a shape reminiscent of a network or a signal.

Sound strange? Think about it this way: It's about getting the right information to the right people at the right time.

Stories are usually dictated by mainstream media, and we just accept them that follow. Finding the hidden stories is therefore critical. It provides information allowing people to spread themselves.

What do we need? The world could very significantly be made of all information that helps avoid duplication. A story that highlights a completely ignored village. Tips for communities in economic relief or compensation claims.

Fulfilling this information need can mean a person's future is made!



STRUGGLING FOR TOILETS AND HUNTING FOR SAFE WATER

"We're going to build a new house for our family."

"We're going to build a new house for our family."

**AN ENDLESS WAIT FOR A NEW
MORE SUSTAINABLE HOME**

For more information about the GreenSource program or to learn more about the benefits of green building, visit us online at www.greensource.org. Or call 800-967-2262. We'll help you find the right green building resources for your project.

The Needs Ahead

- Need for peace-time research and thinking on appropriate and contextualised shelter response processes and partnerships
- Quick flow of knowledge to responders during emergency phase – many government organisations and NGOs responding with inappropriate prefab shelter programmes
- Quick flow of information from affected areas – information is too little, inadequate and late
- Shelter information management

Scope for Cooperation between Forums

- Context-wise roster of shelter `informants`?
- A discussion group over email / social media?
- A repository of reports, presentations, talks?
Join an existing one?
- Joint advocacy with donors for appropriate shelter resource allocation

Thank You!