

DISASTER RELIEF REPORT: SAUNDANA VILLAGE FLOOD RESPONSE

Initiative for Nurturing Dreams, Inspirations and Aspirations (INDIA) Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the humanitarian crisis in Saundana village, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, following the devastating 2025 floods, and outlines the relief efforts undertaken by INDIA Foundation to support affected families.

1. BACKGROUND: SAUNDANA VILLAGE

Location: Saundana Village, Tehri Garhwal District, Uttarakhand

Pre-Disaster Profile:

- A prosperous agricultural community known for its economic vitality
- 60-70 families engaged in commercial farming
- Primary crops: Ginger, fresh coriander, and peas
- Major supplier to the entire state
- Described as having "fields that produced gold" due to agricultural prosperity

2. DISASTER IMPACT: 2025 FLOODS

Scale of Destruction:

- Complete devastation of the village infrastructure
- Multiple rivers affected: Song River (major river extending to Haridwar) and Chikwadi River
- Flooding so severe the area became isolated like an island
- Well-constructed homes, comparable to urban Dehradun standards, were completely destroyed

Losses Sustained:

- **Human Impact:** Families displaced, difficulty evacuating residents
- **Livestock:** Complete loss of animals
- **Property:** Houses swept away, with debris scattered across mountainous terrain
- **Daily Essentials:** All household items and belongings lost
- **Livelihoods:** Agricultural lands and crops destroyed

Survivor Testimony: "The water came with such force that not only livestock but all daily necessities were swept away like straws. We could barely save our children."

3. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE GAP

Promises Made:

- Government committed to relocating the village to a safer location
- Assurances of rehabilitation and resettlement

Current Reality:

- Promises remain unfulfilled, "buried in files"
- No concrete action taken
- Approaching monsoon season poses imminent threat
- Danger remains unchanged
- Families living in fear of recurring floods

Critical Concern: The upcoming rainy season represents a "ticking time bomb" with the same hazards present and no protective measures implemented.

4. INDIA FOUNDATION INTERVENTION

Organization Profile: Initiative for Nurturing Dreams, Inspirations and Aspirations (INDIA) Foundation

- Deeply rooted in Uttarakhand's communities
- Focus areas: Education, Environment, Livelihoods, and Women's Empowerment
- Operates with sensitivity to local needs

Immediate Relief Provided:

Winter Survival Supplies:

- Essential materials to help families cope with harsh winter conditions
- Addressed the critical need for shelter and warmth
- Villagers described the aid as "life-saving, not just material support"

Assessment and Planning:

- Foundation team conducted comprehensive village survey
- Objective: Understand future support requirements
- Approach: Holistic assessment to identify ongoing needs

5. COMMUNITY IMPACT

Before the Disaster:

- Self-sufficient farming community
- Economic contributors feeding the state
- Prosperous households with quality infrastructure

After the Disaster:

- Hands that once fed the state now raised in need of help
- Complete dependency on external assistance
- Loss of dignity and self-reliance
- Trauma from loss of homes, livelihoods, and security

6. KEY FINDINGS

1. **Immediate Crisis:** Families lack basic shelter and winter protection
2. **Government Failure:** Promised relocation and rehabilitation not materialized
3. **Recurring Threat:** Imminent danger from upcoming monsoon season
4. **Community Resilience:** Despite devastation, villagers maintain hope
5. **Effective NGO Response:** INDIA Foundation's intervention provided critical life-saving support

7. CONCLUSION

The Saundana village disaster represents a humanitarian crisis requiring urgent attention. While INDIA Foundation has provided critical immediate relief, sustainable solutions require coordinated efforts between government authorities, NGOs, and community stakeholders.