

## KASHMIR FLOODS - 2014: Support Trust Floods Response

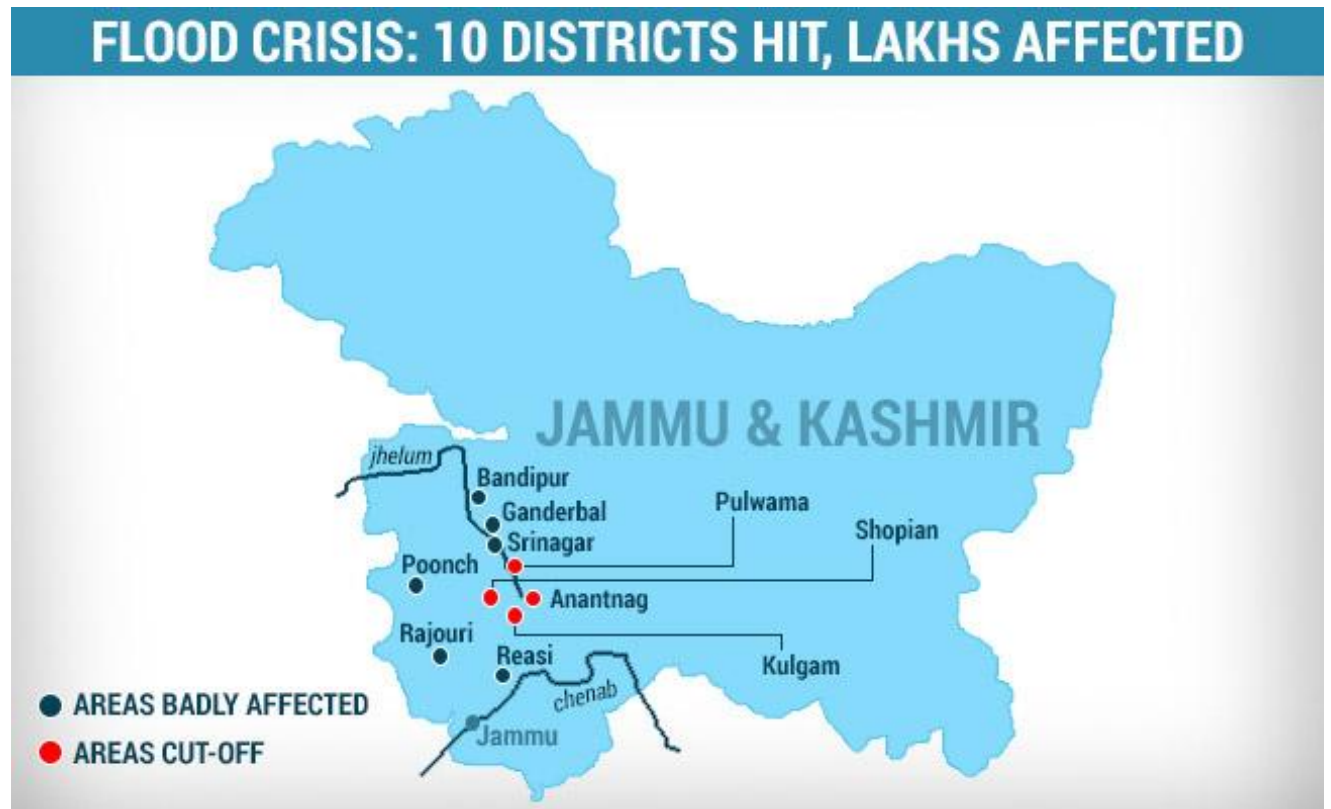




**In memory of those who lost their lives, and in dedication to their families,  
and the thousands of people across J&K who survived and were affected  
by the devastating floods of 2014.**



## MAPS OF THE KASHMIR FLOODS



**Overview of the crisis:**

Jammu and Kashmir experienced heavy monsoon rains that began on September 2, 2014 and lead to unprecedented widespread flooding and landslides across the state. Banks of the river Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi and many other streams were burst. The worst affected districts are Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Budgam, Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi. Links of Kashmir Valley were disrupted and the 300- km- long national highway was closed for vehicular traffic from the 7th September as a result of landslides and floods. As many as 60 major and minor roads have been cut off and over 30 bridges washed away, hampering the relief and rescue operations. Except for connectivity between Srinagar and North Kashmir's Ganderbal district, all other districts of the valet including Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Badgam, Baramulla and Bandipora were cut off.

**Background:**

Heavy rainfall has caused:

- Flash flooding with localized damage across the state,
- Landslides, which impacted on communities and road connectivity
- Widespread flooding in the Jammu & Kashmir Valley.

Flood waters from Jhelum River breached embankments in many low-lying areas in Kashmir, including the capital Srinagar and Tawi River in Jammu forcing people to move to safer places. 280 people have been reported dead in Jammu and Kashmir. As per the preliminary information of Government 9,814 residential houses were fully damaged and 23,763 partially in Jammu region. The preliminary information available from Kashmir says that 103,938 pucca houses are fully damaged, 64,176 pucca houses are partially damaged, 7,372 kuccha houses are fully and 9,220 kuccha houses are partially damaged. Over 234 relief camps were installed in the state and 23,900 people were rehabilitated from the Jammu region only.

### **The scope and scale of the needs:**

The magnitude of the floods and the land consumed within weeks of the rains was phenomenal and so too was the scope and scale of the destruction. The overall number of flood-affected people grew rapidly. From 05 September 2014 to 30 September 2014, estimates of flood-affected people went from 400,000 to 10100000. By the beginning of September the floods have impacted the lives of over 10 million people, 09 million of whom were identified as in need of humanitarian assistance, approximately 75 percent of the population. The early needs of the flood-affected people were identified by the Support trust as access to healthcare, food, shelter, non-food items, and water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) facilities. An initial vulnerability assessment by Support trust and partners in the four most affected districts identified more than 4 million people as “extremely vulnerable” and in need of immediate assistance. Overall the four worst affected provinces were Srinagar, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama.



Following a Rapid Assessment Mechanism, a clearer picture of the vast extent and diversity of the relief and early recovery needs of flood affected people became apparent. Over 10100000 plus people were identified as in urgent need of healthcare, with district authorities overstretched, an identified health facilities



damaged, 280 deaths and tens of thousands of healthcare workers directly affected by the floods. Damage to sanitation infrastructures and an increased reliance on unimproved water .Sources due to the non-availability of safe drinking water were causing serious health problems, including acute diarrhea and sickness, as well as skin problems and infections, particularly among women and children. During assessments all families reported major concerns about the unavailability of food with markets being closed or inaccessible and limited food stocks. Many families were adopting coping strategies with seriously negative impacts, reducing meal sizes, skipping meals, going for days without eating, building up debts, and often women eating less than men.

#### **Relief and Early Recovery: the integrated approach**

Support Trust coordinated with the other local organizations to support national efforts to respond to the floods. Coordinated by Support Trust organized few local organizations aiming to strengthen the overall response capacity and effectiveness through promoting and enhancing partnerships and accountability, improving strategic field-level coordination and prioritization, and ensuring predictable leadership in terms of guidance, standards setting, and response coordination. While the majority of people needed life-saving assistance for many days into the crisis, in locations where the floods had come and gone just days from the onset of the disaster, some communities are returning to their homes to rebuild or repair the damage, restore community infrastructures and recover their livelihoods. This means the Support Trust and other humanitarian actors have to ensure both relief and early recovery support is being provided in parallel and in accordance to the diverse needs of flood-affected people. Adopting a two-track approach to relief and early recovery, implementing both activities at the same time and in accordance to the needs, the Support trust was able to adapt the response to the contrasted nature of the crisis.

Having planned this approach early, identifying objectives, outcomes, outputs, and indicators for all sectors for both relief and early recovery activities, the Support trust managed to establish a good link between relief and early recovery activities on the ground. 20 days into the response, with early recovery activities



ongoing in the majority of flood-affected areas, it seems the relief phase is over, and there is a need to work and focus more on the rehabilitation part.

One month on, with the emphasis of the response solely on recovery and repairing the damage inflicted by the floods, the Support trust remains committed to assisting the people of Kashmir, helping them rebuild their homes, recover their livelihoods, and restore community infrastructures.

The Support Trust plan set out the guiding principles to be implemented in early recovery activities, including:

- addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups,
- developing and restoring capacities,
- securing human development gains,
- reducing crisis risk,
- promoting independence and self-sufficiency/community participation,
- supporting self-sufficiency,
- establishing transparency and accountability,
- localizing support,
- And mainstreaming gender sensitivity.

## Our Intervention:

Support trust has been working from day one of the disaster. Support trust with the help of local donations and volunteers organized a medical camp near Sanat Nagar Gurdawara which served as one of the main camp for the displaced. Dr Lubna Khan one of the trustees arranged a boat and went for a mobile medical camp and distributed medicine & food among the people who were held up in their own homes due to floods. A team of specialized doctors from Aligarh University arrived and worked for the Support trust in different places. On day one the teams of local doctors were able to examine 580 plus patients. On the day twelve of the floods Support trust had catered to around 2500 plus patients. Support trust also reached to 150 families and supplied them with the hygiene kits & food packs.



Support trust intends to reach to two districts wherein 500 families, most affected and most deserving, will be picked up and the rehabilitated in phased manner with the support of different donors. Support trust has already started surveying the most affected areas of Srinagar and surveying of the other district Anantnag is at current going on. Support trust has started a vaccination programme today in which 132 people, including children were given Hepatitis A and Typhoid vaccines.



**Immediate interventions:**

Support trust has already started mass vaccination of the affected people and intends to reach to larger number of vulnerable people affected by the recent floods. Support trust is planning to work mainly on female & children health.



Support trust plans to distribute 10000 hygiene kits to the affected families in first phase. Support trust is also planning to distribute monthly food packs for 2500 families.

Support trust looks forward to other organizations & individual donors to support our on going mission .Thank you