

Situational Report Chennai Floods

December 2015

Situation Report No 2 – 5 December 2015

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Situation Overview

Background:

Chennai, India has been experiencing record-breaking rains and flooding since early November. Beginning on 1 December, the rain intensified again creating more flooding and causing thousands of people to be stranded and trapped. An estimated 188 people have died, and over 200,000 have been displaced ([source](#)). The NDRF and Indian military have carried out approximately 10,000 rescues ([source](#)). Chennai International Airport has been closed due to flooding but is due to begin limited flights on Sunday ([source](#)). Hospitals in Chennai have experienced shortages in food and diesel fuel to run generators. 14 people died in MIOT Hospital, possibly due to loss of power causing ventilator and oxygen failures. The situation is under investigation ([source](#)).

As of 4 December, floodwaters have begun to recede, and communications and power have been restored in some areas in Chennai ([source](#)). Other coastal areas in Tamil Nadu, however, have been impacted by flooding, and some have been cut off due to submerged causeways. Over 30 villages in the Villupuram District have been seriously impacted ([source](#)). Some districts in Andhra Pradesh have also been seriously impacted, including Nellore and Chittoor districts.

Volunteers in India have been actively using social media and the web to crowdsource and organize rescues and relief. Websites include <http://chennairains.org> and <http://bangaloreforchennai.com>.

Humanity Road's Situation Report No 2 includes updated information found in social media on underserved locations, hospital and medical information, communications network updates, and urgent needs found for vulnerable populations. Humanity Road's Situation Report No 1 (in PDF) and its real-time situation report, which contains lists of emergency numbers, social media accounts, maps, and other links, can be found here: <http://humanityroad.org/chennai-floods/>.

Urgent Needs - Vulnerable Populations

5 Dec:

- Food needed for blind students stranded inside a school in the Little Flower Blind School near Gemini Bridge. They need 250 food packets. ([source](#))

4 Dec:

- 50 children with cancer in urgent need of blood. Children's hospital near DonBosco Egmore. ([source](#))
- 120 old people without food in Palavakkam. See link for contacts: ([source](#))
- 500 kids need milk in anna adharsh colg. ([source](#))
- 500 kids 0-10yrs, 200 families. Need Milk, food, mats, blankets. Marakkanam near Tindivanam. ([source](#))

Communications

Communications Assistance:

4 Dec:

- A group of volunteers in Bengaluru, coordinated by Brave New World Communications, has created a website: bangaloreforchennai.com. The group has started a novel initiative to distribute fully charged mobile power banks in Chennai. People from around the world can order power banks to be delivered to Chennai. ([source](#))
- Virtual volunteers in Bengaluru are also assisting Chennai residents by topping up their pre-paid mobile phones and relaying messages. To help preserve battery life, volunteers are asking stranded people to message them their location and a list of contacts they want information communicated to. Thus those stranded don't have to make multiple calls. ([source](#))

Amateur Radio:

4 Dec:

- Local HAM radio operators in India are supporting #ChennaiFloods but have been hindered by lack of power and discharged batteries. Some have not been able to evacuate from flooded areas. They are working to become more organized as waters recede. Hams associated with the Indian Institute of Hams (IIH) have set up a station at the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board office in Jalabhavan, to assist in Chennai flood relief efforts. A net is working on 7.070 MHz, the repeaters are operational, and a control

room is being set up. HAMS are requested to monitor 7.070 but keep the frequency clear for emergency messages. ([source](#))

Public Health and Medical

Hospital Needs:

4 Dec:

- Urgent need of diesel in ESIC hospital in Ashok nagar. Ashok Pillar Main Road, K.K. Nagar, Chennai. ([source](#))
- 200ltrs diesel urgently required at VHS Hospital, Madhya Kailash, Chennai for running ICU. ([source](#))

Medical Assistance and Teams

4 Dec:

- Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute: Free medical service for flood-affected in Puducherry. Address: MGMCRI City Centre, near Balaji theatre and MGMCRI, Puducherry-Cuddalore Main Road, Pillayarkuppam (9585509995,9842111361, 9566664685 and Toll free 1800 425 1008). ([source](#))
- A team of 20 doctors from Bengaluru has been deployed to Chennai. The first team of 10 was due to arrive on Friday with a truck full of medicines and another truck with oxygen cylinders. ([source](#))
- DocsApp, a Bengaluru company, can book telephonic or online consultations with doctors. Those stranded with medical issues can book an appointment using the DocsApp mobile app, and a specialist with contact the patient within 30 minutes. ([source](#))
- Dialysis is available 24/7 at Kauvery Hospital, 199, Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai. Call 044 4000 6000. ([source](#))
- RYA Cosmo Foundation offering free consultations and medicines for the needy. Volunteers also welcome. No 380/2, Near Cinjara Pole, Kunnor High Road, Otteri, Chennai. 8am-8pm. Contact Nirmal Ranka +919841192500. ([source](#))
- Emergency medicines and baby products are available from Apollo Pharmacy. Free home delivery. Call 1860 500 0101. ([source](#))
- Lifeline hospitals offer free services. Call hospital: 42949494, 42454545. ([source](#))

Underserved Locations Outside Chennai Affected by Flooding

Tamil Nadu

Villupuram District:

Many villages across the district have been cut off as floods in the South Pennai, Manimuthar and Komugi submerged the causeways to those villages. As the water level in the Varaga rose, 35 villages, including Sathanur, Ulagalampoondi, Sithani and Kuthalampoondi near Vikrawandi, were badly hit. Nearly 700 families were moved to safer places. Production on salt farms in the area has been disrupted, and at least 50,000 tons of salt in Marakkanam has been washed away. This has resulted in thousands of workers becoming jobless. Agricultural fields have also been damaged. ([source](#))

[Photos](#) from villages in Villupuram showing flooding from Nov and Dec, via [Communities Rising](#).

Marakkanam:

4 Dec:

- About 3000 people are affected in Marakkanam. They need rice and blankets. It is still raining there. Arterial roads to nearby towns and cities are cut off. Power supply is erratic. (source-personal communication)
- 500 kids 0-10yrs, 200 families. Need Milk, food, mats, blankets. Marakkanam near Tindivanam. ([source](#))

Andhra Pradesh

Nellore District:

As of 3 Dec, in Nellore, Kaivalya and Kalangi, Pambaleru and Swarnamukhi Rivers were still furious. The National Disaster Response Force rushed in boats to shift people to safer places. ([source](#)).

4 Dec: [Video of rescue operation in Nellore](#).

Chittoor District:

Beginning on 2 Dec, Chittoor district received 50-160 mm of rainfall. Chief Minister Naidu directed district officials and health, water and sanitation officers to organise water purification and set up medical relief camps. As of 3 Dec, people of Sullurpet area were still stranded with their houses flooded ([source](#)). Gudur, Naidupet, Sullurpet, Venkatagiri are the worst affected towns. ([source](#))