

HIHT RELIEF WORK

The tough terrains of Uttarakhand are often posed with natural calamities viz. floods, earthquakes, landslides, cloudbursts etc. Once again nature displayed the power of its fury with a heavy downpour for days that resulted in landslides and flash floods washing away virtually everything that came in its way. Immense loss of life and property was reported from all parts of the mountainous regions as vehicles, homes, shops, hotels, roads and bridges were swept without leaving a trace. The Kedarnath and adjoining areas were particularly the worst hit by the havoc as they were cut-off from the rest of the state. Thousands of pilgrims were stranded as the 'Chardham & Hemkund Sahib Yatra' come to a grinding halt as the *Dev-bhumi* Uttarakhand witnessed its worst ever disaster.

The Institute had earmarked 250 beds in the Hospital exclusively for the victims of this calamity with everything (Investigation facilities, Treatment, Surgeries and Medicines) provided free of cost. 340 victims were brought to the hospital. A team of doctors along with 4 ambulances worked at the Jollygrant Airport for providing primary treatment to those who were airlifted. A team was sent to the Kedar valley to help the Government Agencies with DNA sampling. Another team of doctors was stationed at Rudraprayag for providing health facility to the victims.

The Institute decided to adopt 50 villages in the affected area. In these 50 villages, the Institute will work on issues related to health, education, water and sanitation and livelihood. Children who have become orphans due to the calamity will be adopted for furthering their education.

The Institute had implemented the drinking water scheme in 165 villages out of which in 28 villages (22 affected majorly and 6 with minor damages) the scheme has been damaged by the calamity. The institute has decided to re-construct the water scheme in these villages.

As an immediate measure, relief packages consisting of food, utensils for families, schools, community at large in addition to first-aid and medicine kits are being provided. The interventions being undertaken are healthcare (delivery facilities at HIHT for high risk mothers, health camps, package for chronic diseases, package for people with disability), education (scholarship & school health), & livelihood (fruit trees/fodder, farming tool kits etc).