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UPDATE: UTTARAKHAND'S ORPHANS AND WIDOWS NEED YOUR HELP



This village in Rudrapayag Dist. was totally cut off from the world for 12 weeks



Sudama's wife with a photo of her son

Many local women lost their sons or husbands while the men were ferrying pilgrims to Uttarakhand's religious sites.

July 5, 2013

Almost 3 weeks after heavy rains and landslides devastated Uttarakhand, thousands of villagers remain in grave danger. The pilgrims were evacuated, but **local people face food shortages, health problems, and lack of shelter in the monsoon.** Over 4,000 villages were affected – homes destroyed, crops ruined, families killed – and residents are waiting helplessly for rations to come by porter or helicopter. Our consultant, currently in Uttarakhand, reports of great suffering. He says the Army is trying to evacuate some villages but people refused to leave their broken homes, fearing loss of property or hoping for the return of missing loved ones, likely long-dead. Several thousand people are still missing.

IDRF will create a rehabilitation program with direct cooperation and implementation from local NGOs, which will help these communities rebuild in a sustainable way. The situation will take time to assess, because the **government has restricted NGOs' entry into the flood-affected areas.** Our consultant is attempting a preliminary survey but access is difficult. Secondly, because of the rough terrain and extensive damage to roads and communications infrastructure, the most remote villages – which will need the most rehabilitation – are out of reach.

These are the same local people who selflessly opened their homes to evacuating pilgrims, and they need our help now. **This tragedy compels us to come forward and extend maximum financial support. Please donate generously to help these people.** IDRF has consultants on the ground now, and we intend work directly with Divya Prem, Uttaranchal and other reputable local NGOs for relief and rehabilitation of the victims. IDRF has [25 years of experience in turning disasters into opportunities for long-term development](#), and we take pride in ensuring our donors' money is used properly. *All donations are tax-deductible in the US.*

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