

India Drought Response

Overview

Droughts have been a common phenomenon in India over the past 15 years. However, an increase in the severity and impact of the disaster has been observed in recent years. In 2016 alone, **330 million people in 7 states** within India were affected by drought.

With agriculture being a key source of livelihood in India, the lack of rainfall from the disaster has devastating implications on the country:

- Acute water shortages
- Crop failure and loss of livestock
- Inadequate access to food
- Lack of employment opportunities in agricultural and related sectors

These have taken a toll on the well-being of children and their communities. Households are in debt and bondage and are left without options for survival, driving many to suicide.

In response to the situation, World Vision extended support to **14 districts in 5 states**, including “worst-affected areas” such as Marathwada and Bundelkhand. Interventions focused on providing relief to vulnerable households and farmers through food kits, water tanks and livelihood support.

Humanitarian Relief Efforts – Highlights as of FY16

Food Security, Nutrition and Health

- **20,472 families in need** received food kits containing at least a month’s supply of dry rations such as wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, biscuits and proteins such as lentils
 - Female-headed households, HIV-affected households, households with pregnant women, disabled persons in particular, received priority support
 - Children under 6 years old received iron supplements to support growth
 - Pregnant women were provided with screening for anaemia



Some food items in the food relief kit distributed to families affected by the drought



People affected by the drought receiving relief aid at the World Vision relief distribution camp in Lalitpur

Economic Livelihoods



- **161 vulnerable households** provided with Cash for Work to ensure that they have sufficient income to feed their families
 - Through the Cash for Work programme, small ponds and an irrigation canal were constructed to mitigate the lack of rainfall
- **39 families** who are dependent on livestock farming as a source of livelihood received fodder for cattle to prevent further loss of livestock from the drought

Men working to construct an irrigation canal through the Cash for Work programme

Water Access

- **21,213 households** provided with access to clean drinking water through 500 – 1,000 litre water tanks distributed to the villages, reducing the distance villagers have to travel for water

“Every year during the drought, our water sources dry up and we often have to travel 4km to get clean water for drinking and bathing. There are five of us in the house and I find it difficult to provide sufficient water for all of us. With the water tank provided by World Vision, we now have a daily supply of water for drinking and bathing.”

– Ramanamma, 58 year old woman living in Tellagunta village, Nellore district



Villagers at Nellore district receiving water from a World Vision water distribution point

Emergency Preparedness & Resilience

- **50 communities** equipped with knowledge on drought mitigation and management strategies, strengthening their capacity to cope with the yearly drought crisis

Real Help, Real Hope



Avadrani and her son, Somath, were delighted to receive relief aid during the World Vision relief distribution in their village. Avadrani's husband had passed away and she is the sole provider of her family. She shared, "It is not easy find work as I have to compete with men for work that involves physical labour. I'm grateful to World Vision for the relief package. This will help to feed my son and I for at least another month while the drought lasts."



Chunni Lal, 38, lives in an area severely affected by drought. He does manual labour for a living and has to source for jobs to earn income on a daily basis. The drought has made it difficult for him to find work and earn sufficient income to feed his children. Now that he has a food kit, it will provide him and his children with sufficient food to eat for the next couple of months.



Arti, 12, Urmila, 13, and their grandmother, Kuwar Bai, 58, belong to the Sahariyan tribe, known as one of India's most impoverished communities. Their family's main source of income comes from selling "Achar", a local fruit for S\$1.05 per kg. However, due to the drought, many trees have dried up and yield is much less. This decreases the already limited income that they earn from selling "Achar". Relief provided by World Vision has given them hope and they believe that with World Vision's assistance throughout the drought season, they will have enough food to survive on.