



Emergency Response to Ramban Cloudburst

2025



Executive Summary

In the early hours of 20th April 2025, a devastating cloudburst struck Ramban City and nearby areas, causing tragic loss of life, severe infrastructure damage, and widespread displacement. Rising to the call of duty, Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir launched an immediate and coordinated humanitarian response under the guiding framework of Rescue, Relief, and Rehabilitation (3R).



With nearly 30 dedicated volunteers working on the ground, the effort reached hundreds of affected individuals within hours, delivering life-saving assistance and essential supplies.



Background



In the early hours of 20th April 2025, between 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM, a devastating cloudburst struck Ramban City and its adjoining areas, including Seri, Pernote, Kela Morh, Balhote, Marog, Khanga, Cafeteria Morh, and several surrounding localities. This intense and sudden downpour triggered massive landslides, flash floods, and widespread destruction across the district, leaving behind a trail of devastation and despair.

The natural calamity led to the tragic loss of three lives, plunging families into mourning and the entire region into shock. Over **100 houses** were damaged, with many rendered completely uninhabitable. The storm also severely impacted the local economy, with more than **30 shops**—a vital source of livelihood for many—suffering substantial damage or total loss.

The disaster dealt a significant blow to the **region's agricultural sector**, as vast tracts of farmland were washed away or rendered unusable due to landslides and silt deposits. In addition, a large number of livestock perished or were injured, affecting not only food security but also the economic stability of numerous households dependent on animal husbandry. Related infrastructure such as sheds, feed stores, and irrigation systems also sustained considerable damage.

In total, **over 500 individuals** were directly affected—many of whom lost their homes, sources of income, and access to basic necessities. Roads and communication lines were temporarily disrupted, isolating several villages and delaying early intervention efforts.

3R Strategy: Rescue, Relief, and Rehabilitation



In response to the unfolding crisis, Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir, promptly activated their disaster response protocol. Drawing on years of experience in humanitarian service and community outreach, the organizations swiftly moved into action under their well-established 3R framework—Rescue, Relief, and Rehabilitation. This structured approach ensured that the response was not only immediate but also systematic and sustainable.

Within just a few hours of the disaster, trained volunteers—many of whom were local and familiar with the terrain—were

deployed to the most severely affected areas. Despite the challenges posed by blocked roads, ongoing rainfall, and disrupted communication networks, the teams navigated through difficult conditions to reach vulnerable families. Their first priority was to assess the ground realities, rescue stranded individuals, and move them to safer locations.

Rescue Operations

The devastating cloudburst that struck Ramban and its adjoining areas in the early hours of 20th April 2025 triggered an immediate emergency response. By 6:00 AM, nearly 30 committed volunteers from Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir were on the ground, navigating debris-laden roads and unstable terrain to reach affected families. Their primary objective was to evacuate people from danger zones, provide first-level trauma support, and safeguard livestock and household assets from further harm. The speed and efficiency of the response ensured that several families were moved to safer locations before conditions deteriorated further. This rapid intervention played a crucial role in minimizing additional casualties and stabilizing the situation in the initial hours of crisis.



Relief Measures

Once immediate threats were contained, the focus shifted to providing essential relief. On 20th and 21st April, volunteers distributed food, clean drinking water, and basic necessities to families who had been displaced or stranded. Given the agrarian profile of the region, attention was also paid to livestock care—50 bags of animal feed were delivered to prevent further economic distress for farmers whose animals had survived but were left without fodder. By 22nd April morning, with the support of **SEWA INTERNATIONAL** and **RASHTRIYE SEWA BHARTI** a large-scale, systematic distribution of relief kits began. These kits included rice, wheat flour (atta), edible oil, pulses, sugar, tea leaves, milk cartons, spices, besan, sooji, salt etc—covering basic dietary needs and ensuring food security for over 100 affected families for the following 30–40 days.



Rehabilitation Support

In the final phase of the emergency response, attention was turned to rebuilding lives and restoring normalcy. Families that had lost their homes or suffered severe structural damage received targeted rehabilitation support, including bedding, blankets, cooking stoves, utensils, clothing, and basic medicines. These provisions were critical in re-establishing a functional living environment for the most severely affected households. In addition to material support, volunteers continued visiting these families, offering emotional strength, assessing further needs, and helping re-anchor them into their daily lives with dignity and hope. This seamless transition from rescue to relief and finally to rehabilitation stands as a testament to the organizational coordination, human compassion, and unwavering commitment of Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir.



Conclusion

These action is a testimony to the unwavering spirit of Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir, whose timely and coordinated response to the Ramban cloudburst of April 2025 transformed despair into hope. From early rescue efforts in the rain-soaked hills to the distribution of critical relief and rehabilitation materials, the commitment of both organizations was defined by compassion, efficiency, and an unshakable resolve to stand with those in need.

The success of this mission would not have been possible without the selfless service of nearly 30 dedicated volunteers, and the resilience of the local communities. Together, they created a living example of how swift, community-driven action can make a lasting difference in the face of natural calamity.

As the people of Ramban begin to rebuild their lives, Sewa Bharti Jammu Kashmir remain committed to their long-term recovery and empowerment. This response is not the end—it is a step forward in strengthening the region's capacity to withstand future challenges, with dignity and hope.





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