SESSION 5 – FLASH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

SCENARIO 5 – FERTILIZER PLANT

You receive the following email from the local Programme Officer of the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC):

Esteemed OCHA Colleagues,

We have just received reports from some citizens that people in the village of Tiwad are complaining about skin and eye irritation. They have been experiencing this since shortly after the earthquake, and they claim the effects have been getting worse since then.

A local NGO responding in the area has confirmed these claims, but have not been able to diagnose the source(s) of their complaint. We are trying to get more information about the problem, but access to the village is difficult and they do not have mobile coverage.

We request assistance from UNDAC to determine the source of this problem and provide an assessment report back to us on how to remedy the situation.

Regards,

Ailime Shrestha

DDRC Programme Officer

You travel to the site and pass through many villages and small towns surrounded by agricultural fields. On arrival at Tiwad you find many people complaining of the skin and eye irritation. Others are also complaining of their throat burning or are ill. A water sanitation NGO representative tells you they do not know what is causing this issue, but there is a fertilizer plant nearby.

You ask the NGO representative to take you to the fertilizer plant and you find that there is severe damage to the building caused by the earthquake. There are also two small creeks that run by the plant and on either side of Tiwad. You ask if villagers use the creek water as a drinking water source and are told that some do, but that his NGO has set up a small-scale sodium hypochlorite granule water disinfection unit the villagers use to disinfect both water they collect from the creeks and from a well nearby. The disinfection unit is undamaged from the earthquake.

* What do you include in your report?
* Who do you coordinate with? How?
* What are your findings and recommendations?