

DREF Bulletin



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDIA: FLOODS

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 10 September to 9 October 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 250,000 (USD 207,641 or EUR 151,515) allocated from the Federation's DREF on 9 August 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for three months, and will be completed by 9 November 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 8 February 2008).

Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Programme Summary:

The floods across India this year have resulted in huge human and monetary losses for the country. To date, 3,311 people¹ have been killed and an estimated 57 million people² have been affected by the floods. A total of 12 states have been affected, including the state of Uttar Pradesh in the north, which is not a flood prone state but saw one of its worst floods in history this year. Approximately 214 districts have been affected, 6,371,115 hectares of crop-land destroyed, and 103,293 livestock lost across all the affected states.

The fresh wave of floods in the states of Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar, during the reporting period, reiterated the fact that the monsoon season is not over as yet and the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters and state branches need to closely monitor the situation.

Under the DREF plan of action, the request for quotations for the purchase of disaster preparedness stock has been issued and the deadline for submitting the quote is 12th October. Meanwhile, instead of replacing two water and sanitation units in Bihar, the IRCS dispatched these to Orissa, in light of fresh floods (the fifth wave this monsoon season) that hit the state. The units are functioning, in coordination with local authorities.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see contact details on last page.



An IRCS public health specialist interviewing affected community members in Raigada district of Orissa, during a flood review visit.

¹ Source: Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, India (9 October 2007)

² Source: Indian Red Cross Society

Background and current situation

During the reporting period, the states of Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar witnessed very heavy rainfall leading to flooding in some districts. This resulted in loss of life and brought the cumulative figure of the number of people killed so far during the south-west monsoon season this year, to 3,311.

West Bengal:

Due to the fresh spell of heavy rainfall, nine districts in West Bengal were severely affected by floods and 17 human deaths (six in Murshidabad, three in Burdwan, two each in Hoogly, Bankura and South 24 Parganas, and one each in Medinapur and Birbhum) were reported.

Details of damages due to floods in the most affected states, as of 28 th September (Source: UNDP)			
States affected	No. of people affected	No. of villages affected	No. of houses damaged
West Bengal	4,934,555	10,173	230,159
Orissa	2,585,000	3,111	-
Assam	10,867,000	10,245	-
Bihar	22,637,000	10,843	-

Orissa:

The flood situation has been particularly grim in several districts of Orissa. The fresh spell of rainfall in the state severely affected Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

Assam:

Flooding led to six human deaths (three each in Kamrup and Barpeta districts) in the state.

Bihar:

A total of five people have been reported killed in Samastipur district.

Gujarat:

Six people were killed, three in Amreli district, two in Valsad district and one in Kheda district.

Uttarakhand:

A number of landslides have been reported in the state, which have disrupted traffic/pedestrian movement in the state. Three people have been killed in Almorah district.

Weather forecast

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the outlook for the week ending on 11th October is that a well marked low pressure area over northeast Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood, currently over Bangladesh, will cause widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over east India and the northeastern states, West Bengal and Sikkim during the next couple of days. Heavy rainfall is also likely over east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Konkan, Goa and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Government response

State	No. of relief camps*	No. of people in relief camps*	Number of medical teams deployed*	Number of boats deployed**
Bihar	1,673	1,005,637	609	7,277
West Bengal	2,273	341,528	793	250
Orissa	977	158,743	773	136
Kerala	7,475	1,398,771	-	-
Assam	64	74,420	517	-

* Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

** Source: UNDP

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As mentioned in the previous update, a national task force under the leadership of the IRCS Secretary General was formed on 27th June, to monitor and mobilise resources to effectively respond to the flood situation, as well as to ensure updated information that could be shared with the partners. This taskforce has been meeting regularly and is keeping all the stakeholders informed.

Regular monitoring visits to the affected districts were undertaken by staff from the IRCS national headquarters. This included a visit by the IRCS Secretary General, together with a joint team comprising Federation and IRCS

members, to IRCS's state branch in Orissa, to review the current flood situation there. The disaster preparedness officer from the IRCS national headquarters also visited Bihar to review the flood situation and the ongoing disaster risk reduction programme in the state.

The IRCS, from its own resources, has cumulatively released non-food family packs worth approximately CHF 1,701,839 to the 12 affected states in the country.

Developments of the DREF plan of action

The table below indicates the breakdown of items proposed for procurement as disaster preparedness stock replenishment and other operational costs associated with the current floods response:

Items	Total cost (CHF)
Procurement of family packs (5,100 packs, at approx. CHF 39.51 each)	201,501
Operational cost at IRCS for relief distribution	9,350
Operational cost at 2 state branches for relief distribution	14,198
Local purchase of bleaching powder in Andhra Pradesh	1,000
Loading and unloading of 2 water and sanitation (watsan) units to Bihar	1,648
Inspection cost	3,092
Visibility material (banners and flags)	250
Flood review visit to Orissa and future review visits	2,711
Sub-total	233,750
Programme service recovery (6.5% total)	16,250
Total	250,000

1. Work has begun on the procurement of family packs. The IRCS requested the partner national societies to undertake joint procurement, if possible with the Federation, to provide better rates and quality (based on experience).

After having reached a consensus on the DREF budget and the placement directions for pre-positioning the disaster preparedness stock at the IRCS's regional warehouse in Bahadurgarh, requests for quotations were released on the same day, i.e. 24th September. As agreed with the British Red Cross, joint bidding was undertaken for non-food relief items (approximately 9,500-10,000 family packs). A procurement committee has been formed, with representatives from the Federation's India office and South Asia regional delegation, the IRCS and the British Red Cross. The tender closing date is 12th October and the review period for tender and selection will take two weeks. Purchase orders will be placed by the end of October 2007.

2. The operational cost provided to Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, for supporting the volunteers, and packing and distribution of material, has been utilised.
3. Bleaching powder has been procured and utilised in three neighbourhoods in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
4. The two watsan units, which were sent to Bihar but were broken during transit, have been sent for repairs. The IRCS started the process of claiming the insurance money. Meanwhile, due to fresh flooding in Orissa, two watsan units have been deployed in two most affected districts Balasore and Bhadri in the state. Handing over has been done through the training of rural watsan engineers, to ensure that the local authorities can work these units wherever there is a need.
5. The visibility material has already been printed which includes 29 banners and flags which are being used by the IRCS headquarters during transport of relief material to publicise the aid provided by the IRCS.
6. As indicated in the last update, the flood review visit to Orissa was undertaken from 29th August to 5th September, by a joint Federation and IRCS team, which included the IRCS Secretary General. The visit helped the IRCS national headquarters and the Federation in outlining more critical needs than those that were documented earlier. For example, looking at increased dissemination of health education and hygiene practice literature. The team visited the cholera hit Raigada district, where unhygienic practices have worsened the outbreak.

Coordination

The Federation's India office has been closely liaising with the IRCS national headquarters since the beginning of the disaster and has played a crucial role in coordinating with various components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Knowledge sharing and coordination meetings have been taking place with partner national societies, regarding their response during the recent floods. The last coordination meeting called by the national society on 4th October gave a good picture of the IRCS achievements in terms of flood response and efficient use of resources.

The IRCS's suggestion for combined procurement between the Federation and the partner national societies was accepted by the Federation and the British Red Cross, and was facilitated by the Federation taking a lead role in the procurement of non-food items. Further, the American Red Cross has shown an interest in procuring one watsan unit and is working closely with the Federation to finalize the specifications and carry out the procurement with Federation support.

Other developments not directly related to DREF funds

The British Red Cross intervention related to repair and replenishment of three watsan units, under the disaster preparedness component of IRCS's 2006-2007 disaster management programme, has been initiated. Progress has been made by repairing and pre-positioning six, instead of the initial planned three, watsan units within the same timeframe. As planned with the British Red Cross, one more watsan unit will be procured with the same funds. The IRCS is planning to develop a dedicated national level watsan team.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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