

INFORMATION 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

UNITED KINGDOM: FLOODS

Information Bulletin no. 04/2007
(Glide no. FL-2007-000111-GBR)
30 July 2007

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

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further details related to this operation, please contact: in Geneva, Linda Stops, Operations Coordinator, International Federation; phone +41 22 730 4300; mobile: +41 79 217 3376; email: Linda.stops@ifrc.org

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 Situation

A lengthy period of torrential rain in July led to severe flooding across the United Kingdom (UK), bringing despair to hundreds of thousands of people by destroying homes and some livelihoods, cutting off access to drinking water and electricity, and causing major disruption to travel routes. While assistance activities continued, improved weather conditions provided hope that the worst was over, with latest reports indicating that river levels had stabilized across England, allowing residents of flooded areas to survey the damage and begin the cleanup.

The British Red Cross response

The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) has been working in all flood-affected areas since the flooding began, with volunteers managing rest centres, supporting the emergency services, and providing emergency goods and bedding to those evacuated from their homes. Throughout the affected areas, dozens of volunteers have been providing round the clock emergency cover for thousands of people evacuated from their homes. They are particularly targeting vulnerable and older people, who may have become isolated by the extreme weather and rising water.

The BRCS National Floods Appeal, issued on 24 July 2007, has now raised more than GBP 620,000 (CHF 1,510,989, USD 1,256,627, EUR 918,377). The latest floods information, and the BRCS response, is available at the following BRCS link [<floods information sheet>](#)

A four-person logistics emergency response unit, which normally responds to international crises, was been deployed to Gloucestershire to help local volunteers and staff to coordinate the delivery of emergency supplies in the area.

Environment secretary Hilary Benn, Member of Parliament (MP) visited Gloucestershire to view the work being done in the worst affected areas. During the visit he met with Red Cross volunteers and the beneficiaries being cared for at BRCS rest centres.

Food parcels – each containing enough food for one person for a week and donated by Charity of the Year partner Tesco – are still being distributed to the most vulnerable. The parcels include long-life milk and bread, tinned meat, fish and potatoes, cereal bars, torch and batteries, toilet paper, and hand sanitising gel among other items.

The following updates from the **Quedgeley Red Cross Centre, Gloucester, Avon, and Wiltshire** provide a specific view of the types of vital assistance delivered by the BRCS. In **Gloucester, Avon and Wiltshire**, the latest flooding update (27 July 2007) shows that the cumulative figures of those helped or provided items are: 1,985 people, 54,645 litres of water, 73 food parcels, 137 hygiene packs and 30 toilet packs. Forward planning is still ongoing for stock procurement (food and water) for the response into next week, liaising with agencies to assess for how long the response is likely to go. Mutual aid is being provided from Scotland in the form of administrative staff to relieve people working at the Warmley office. BRCS volunteers have:

- Distributed water/food to those in need in Gloucester.
- Taken calls for vulnerable people in need of water and matching requests with the supply.
- Packed food parcels in Warmley.
- Assessed plans into next week, and how to sustain the excellent response that has taken place this week.

The British Red Cross' flood relief and rescue team has finished its work in Gloucestershire and has now returned to its base in the Northern Scotland Area.

In **Quedgeley**, 18 Red Cross mutual aid vehicles and crew were deployed. To date total distributions are as follows: some 1,857 beneficiaries have received:

- 48,200 litres of water.
- 70 food parcels.
- 99 hygiene kits.

<p><u>Stock on hand (for distribution):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 118,000 Litres Bottled Water. • 5,100 Toilet bag kits. • 35 Hygiene kits. • 64 Food parcels. 	<p><u>Stock in bound (for distribution & stock replenishment):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50,000 litres Bottled Water. • Hygiene Items (local procurement). • 450 kg Self-Heating Meals. • 400 1-Person 7 day food parcels.
--	--

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)