

# 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

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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

**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.**

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*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

Over a month of torrential rain has 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.

### The British Red Cross response

The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) released £100,000 (CHF 248,814, USD 205,145, EUR 149,376) from its Disaster Fund to deliver immediate assistance, and launched an urgent National Floods Appeal on 24 July 2007 for people affected by the unprecedented and devastating floods. The Floods Appeal has now raised around £500,000 (CHF 1,236,068, USD 1,022,611, EUR 745,376). The latest floods information is available at the following BRCS link <[floods information sheet](#)>

Near Bristol, volunteers have packed around 400 food parcels – each containing enough food for one person for a week - donated by Charity of the Year partner Tesco. These will be distributed to the most vulnerable people affected by the flooding. In Tesco stores nationwide, Charity of the Year collection boxes are being emptied and re-branded with a National Floods Appeal label. Co-branded appeal posters are also being distributed.



*Photo: young people are provided with sleeping bags and emotional support by British Red Cross Volunteers in Kassam Stadium, Oxford (photo courtesy of British Red Cross).*

The BRCS has been working in all 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. Thousands of homes are reportedly still without power and water. 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.

In Oxford, Red Cross volunteers are spending a fourth day providing support at Kassam Football Stadium, where up to 200 evacuated residents are currently seeking shelter. Evacuee numbers increased suddenly late last night as 200 more homes in Oxford were evacuated. Volunteers have also been helping some of the most vulnerable evacuees, including elderly people forced to leave nearby care homes. Since last night, evacuees have included children and toddlers, many who were wet up to the knees from their escape from their homes.

The following reports from the **Quedgeley Red Cross Centre** (dated 25 July 2007) and **Gloucestershire** provide a useful view of the types of vital assistance delivered by the BRCS.

In **Quedgeley**, to date total distributions are as follows: some 1,035 beneficiaries have received:

- 15,874 litres of water.
- 35 food parcels.
- 55 hygiene kits.

The BRCS emphasis remains on individuals who are unable to access the bulk distribution points. In operational terms this means door-to-door delivery. The BRCS branch continues with Gloucester City Council (GCC) to be jointly responsible for this beneficiary group (vulnerable channel).

<u>Current Distribution Assets:</u>	<u>Stock on hand:</u>	<u>Stock in bound (for distribution):</u>
1 – UNIMOG vehicle.	75,000 Litres Bottled Water.	60,000 litres Bottled Water.
6 – 4-by-4 light vehicles.	4,800 toilet bag kits.	Hygiene Items (local procurement).
3 – Light Boats.	50 Hygiene kits.	450 kg Self-Heating Meals.
6 – Coast Guard 4-by-4.		400 1-Person 7 day food parcels.

In **Gloucestershire**, where up to 350,000 people have now lost their water supply, Red Cross volunteers are distributing more than 23,000 litres of water (donated by Tesco). Over the past few days, the supermarket has donated water, snacks, clothing and hygiene products. And in Castlemead, the Red Cross' all-terrain UNIMOG vehicle has provided 2,500 litres of water for local residents.

The BRCS has been requested by the strategic coordinating (Gold) group managing the emergency response to the flooding in the county of Gloucestershire to take charge of the arrangements to distribute food, water and essential supplies to 'vulnerable' individuals in Gloucester and Cheltenham. The 'Vulnerable People' group - a sub group of Gold - has identified those deemed particularly vulnerable and a concerted effort to distribute vital supplies starts in the morning.

To enable the BRCS to take on this significant piece of humanitarian work, additional mutual aid has been requested in the form of 4x4, building on assistance and vehicles already provided. The workplan, phase 1, involves a massive distribution programme commencing at 0800 hours in the morning and extending for four days, planned to be completed at 2000 hours on Sunday 29 July. The vehicles and crews will be working from 0900 to 2000 hours daily during this four day period to get as much vital supplies out to those who need it. Plans are being made to determine what needs to be done after phase 1 has been completed.

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