

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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 2001

Appeal no:21/2001
25 July 2001

THIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SEEKS CHF 1,220,225 IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST 156,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR THREE MONTHS

The Situation

More than 60 people have died and 8.2 million people are affected as severe flooding continues in the state of Orissa, along India's eastern coast. On 23 July, the government stated that almost 400,000 people were still trapped in marooned villages. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported the same day that 8,000 villages are cut off.

Latest reports from local media indicate that 12,925 villages have been destroyed. Dry food parcels are being dropped by the airforce but additional relief efforts are being hampered by the lack of boats. The local media reports that some areas have been waiting more than a week for basic relief items.

The Bramhani and Baitrain rivers continue to cause concern and there is a heavy rainfall alert for Balasore, Bhadrak and Kendrapara districts. There has been a gradual decline in water levels in the Mahanadi delta but in these areas there is a new threat of health epidemics.

Seventeen districts have been affected, the worst being Puri, Cuttack, Khalahandi, Bolangir, Kendrapada, Koraput, Jagatsinghpur and Jajput. Communications have collapsed in many areas. Parts of the national highway remain waterlogged and railway tracks have also been affected.

Water sources are tainted and many people are without food. Diarrhoea has killed four people and the state government confirmed that eight people had died from gastroenteritis and 1,925 cases had been recorded in total. There are also reports of a number of deaths from snake bites. Health services have been badly hit with the flooding of 211 health centres and 168 feeding centres.

The government provided the following information on 23 July:

Amount of rainfall during monsoon as of 18 July: 395.04 mm

Districts affected: 24

Talukas (blocks) affected: 171

Villages affected: 10,649

Population affected: 6,980,000

Number of deaths: 62 (media reports 77 fatalities)

Cattle lost: 420
Crop area affected: 461,000 hectares
Crop damage value: INR 249,453,000 (CHF 9,111,898)
Houses damaged: 32,739

One relief worker drowned and another was reported missing when their boat, carrying a team of medics and NGO volunteers, capsized near Delan in Puri district.

The heavy rain has led to flash floods over most of the state and water levels in many areas have risen by more than a metre since 8 June in the country's second poorest state.

The government released 55 of the 64 reservoir sluice gates in the Hirakud water reservoir after it threatened to give way and this added to water levels in many parts. Some 33,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed. Twenty four gates of Hirakud still remain open. High tides - up to 2.6 metres - also exacerbated the situation and prevented water from flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

Many flood victims are still recovering from the devastating cyclone of 1999. The clay and thatch houses rebuilt over 20 months ago have in many cases been wiped out.

State response

The government, army and navy continue to evacuate people from low-lying areas and air drop emergency food packages to stranded populations.

Fifty-six police force platoons and 600 home guards have been deployed to monitor embankments. Another 1,300 home guards are on standby. The state relief commissioner has provided 85 boats as well as food grains, medicines, disinfectants, and 500 tons of cattle feed to affected areas.

Additionally, the Orissa state has provided INR 400 per beneficiary (CHF 15) as well as 1,000 halogen tablets per district, and essential medicines and vaccines to prevent the spread of epidemics. INR 50 million (CHF 1.82 million) was released as an advance from the calamity relief fund for various relief and rescue activities. Kitchens have also been opened in Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Puri, Khurda, Boudh, Jajpur and Kendrapara.

Central government response

On 18 July, the prime minister announced an initial INR 1 billion (CHF 36.5 million) for relief/rescue operations. The agriculture minister visited Orissa on 19 July to survey the flood-affected areas from the air. The Ministry of Water Resources is monitoring dams. Eight army columns and five helicopters are taking part in the relief operation. The Krishni control room of the National Disaster Management Division in New Delhi is monitoring the situation round the clock.

The Needs

The most urgent needs are provision of shelter, food, essential medicines, clean drinking water and sanitary measures to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases. Food security is precarious, particularly because most victims are fishermen and farmers. Relief efforts have been severely hit because of a shortage of boats.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Response

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), government and armed forces have already cooperated in one major relief effort. The Orissa state branch prepared dry food packages - provided by the government - for 10,000 families which were then dropped by the air force to isolated communities. The Red Cross branch also provided another 2,000 families with relief materials.

The Orissa state branch responded quickly to the crisis. On 11 July the branch, together with the Spanish Red Cross based in Orissa, mobilised three assessment teams focusing on Kakatpur and Astraranga blocks in Puri district, Balikuda and Kujanga blocks in Jagatsinghpur district, and Mohalkapada block in Kendrapada district.

The Red Cross began an interim relief operation on 13 July for the worst affected coastal block of Kanas in Puri district, providing 258 families in six villages with plastic sheeting, high calorie biscuits, water purification tablets, clothing, candles and match boxes.

A second relief operation by the Orissa Red Cross branch in the western district of Kalahnadi on 16 July reached 870 villages in 13 affected blocks, assisting 35,000 people. The state branch supplied 2,500 plastic sheets, 2,400 dhotis and sarees, 5,100 oral rehydration solution packets and 48,000 water purification tablets.

On 19 July the district Red Cross branch in Puri provided 500 tarpaulins, 600 dhotis, 600 sarees and 50 cartons of emergency rations. The following day, cooked mixed rice, bread, 200 gm sugar, 100 gm salt, candles, match boxes, water purification tablets and five packages of oral rehydration salts were distributed to 1,000 families in Kantilo in Khandapar block of the Nayagarh district.

The Indian Red Cross national headquarters has provided: 410 tents; five motor boats; 15 rubber boats; 330 rolls of plastic sheeting (8m x 485m); five rolls of plastic sheeting (30.5 m x 7.32 m); 2,000 blankets; 500 towels; 12 metric tons of BP5 high energy biscuits (donated by the Danish Red Cross); 520 tarpaulins; and 1,030 articles of clothing.

The Spanish Red Cross supported the Orissa state branch to assist a further 750 families with emergency relief packages on 25 July.

Twenty-three Red Cross cyclone shelters, constructed as part of the German Red Cross Orissa disaster mitigation programme and located along the coast, continue to be used as flood relief shelter distribution points for emergency relief materials.

Local communities, Red Cross volunteers and district authorities were able to put their disaster preparedness training to good effect. In addition, the German Red Cross supported the relief effort with DEM 7,000.

The Proposed Operation

Objectives and Activities planned

The IRCS, supported by the Federation and the Spanish Red Cross (SRC), will assist at least 156,000 affected people (26,000 families) in Orissa over three months. The Federation and SRC are supporting the IRCS operation through a joint effort. The Federation's objectives are to assist the IRCS Orissa branch to:

- 1) deliver relief to 11,000 families in Banki block in the district of Cuttack and Birdi block in the district of Jagatsinghapur;
- 2) assess the current and future health risks in the most affected districts and respond to the needs; and
- 3) replenish disaster preparedness stocks used in the initial relief distribution and provide additional contingency stocks for other flood affected states.

The SRC's aim is to work with the Orissa branch and deliver relief packages to 15,000 families in the district of Puri. They will concentrate on the following district blocks: Kanas, Brahmagiri, Astaranga, Kakatpur, Gopa and Nimaparao.

Relief distributions

Objective 1: To distribute emergency rations, BP5 high-energy biscuits, to marooned and unassisted communities within the next two weeks.

The Indian Red Cross and Federation are transporting 24,000 packages of emergency rations (donated by the Danish Red Cross) from the disaster preparedness warehouse in Gujarat. Orissa Red Cross volunteers will distribute to people still requiring urgent assistance.

Objective 2: To provide 11,000 families with relief packages.

The IRCS has transferred funds to the Orissa branch to locally procure the outstanding items for relief packages. The family packages comprise: clothing, candles, matches, rice, dahl, oil, and salt, oral rehydration salts, soap and water purification tablets. Orissa Red Cross volunteers will deliver the relief packages by boat, four-wheel-drive truck and other possible means.

Objective 3: To prepare for a potential response to floods in other states.

The IRCS and Federation will be reviewing the extent of flooding in other regions and stocking relief supplies for up to 5,000 families in West Bengal and Chattisgarh.

Water sanitation

Objective 1: To provide water purification tablets for 26,000 families and other affected communities.

Six million water purification tablets are being transported from the IRCS's Gujarat warehouse to Orissa. One million will be distributed in 26,000 relief packages and two million will be given to other agencies providing flood relief in Orissa. The remaining three million will be stocked.

Health

Objective 1: To assess the current and near future health risks to the affected population and implement appropriate action.

A Red Cross medical team is assessing the situation and will make recommendations in the next two to three days to assist the affected population. The assessments will gather information from health sectoral meetings with the UN and other agencies, field visits, and discussion with local doctors.

Two emergency health kits, with the capacity to serve 10,000 people for three months, are on standby in Bhuj pending a call from the assessment team.

Shelter

Objective 1: To provide 10,000 families with temporary shelter.

The Federation has procured 11,000 tarpaulins in Delhi to be transported to Bhubaneswar to be used as temporary shelter until flooding subsides. The tarpaulins will be distributed to affected families by either boat or four-wheel-drive trucks.

Logistics

Objective 1: To provide transportation for volunteers and delegates working in the affected regions .

The IRCS national headquarters has sent two four-wheel drive trucks, five motor boats and 15 rubber boats to Orissa, to arrive on 25 July. They will be used for relief distributions and volunteer and delegate travel to the affected districts.

Objective 2: To transport relief goods to Orissa from IRCS warehouses and local and international suppliers.

The IRCS, the Federation's Indian operations centre, SRC, the Federation regional delegation and Federation headquarters in Geneva are working in coordination to procure and transport relief supplies and preparedness warehouse stocks. Delivery time depends on availability, source of procurement, and method of transport.

Telecommunications

Objective 1: To provide telecom equipment and support Red Cross volunteers and staff working in the field.

The IRCS relief delegate and Federation assessment delegate are using mobile telephones to communicate from the field. A satellite phone is available for emergencies. The logistics delegate is on standby to offer support and equipment if required.

National Society Capacity Building

Objective 1: To strengthen the disaster relief and preparedness in national headquarters and state branches located in regions affected by floods.

The IRCS and Federation will replenish warehouse stocks that were used in initial relief efforts in Orissa. Procurement will also include 5,000 family packages as contingency stocks for Chattisgarh, and blankets and tarpaulins for West Bengal, also seriously affected by flooding. The DP stocks will be distributed as required.

Objective 2: To develop capacity of IRCS in disaster relief operations.

The assessment delegate, health delegate and incoming relief delegate will work closely with the IRCS relief coordinator from national headquarters, and staff and volunteers from the Orissa state branch to build the capacity of IRCS to address multi-sectoral issues in a relief operation.

Coordination

Daily coordination meetings continue between the Red Cross, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, and the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA). Efforts are geared to supplement the initiatives of state and district administration relief and rescue operations. Sectoral meetings are also being held to address urgent issues such as health needs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The entire logistics process from procurement through to distribution will be overseen by Federation personnel in cooperation with the Orissa state branch, IRCS national headquarters, and SRC.

The disaster preparedness delegate will make periodic and random visits to distribution sites and warehouses. Logistic and distribution reports will be made during and after the project. A review of lessons learned will be held with all stakeholders, including affected communities and local authorities.

Capacity of the National Society

IRCS national headquarters

The IRCS has changed significantly in the past few years. It is now focused on developing its disaster preparedness and management, institutional and organisational training and development, and administrative structures. With more than 650 branches, and over 12 million members, it is one of the largest organisations in the country.

The National Society has experience in major earthquakes and emergency rehabilitation because of a high incidence of disasters, the most recent being the Gujarat earthquake of 26 January 2001.

Orissa State Branch

The Orissa state branch is strong, largely because of previous disasters in the region including the 1999 cyclone that killed 10,000 dead and devastated many communities.

In 1995, the Orissa state branch of the IRCS implemented the Orissa disaster mitigation programme with cooperation and financial support from the German Red Cross, and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau. Twenty-three multipurpose cyclone shelters have been constructed from 1996 to 1999 at the most disaster prone sites along the coastal belt. Each shelter is designed for 1,500 people.

In 2000, the Orissa state branch opened a centre in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa, to train volunteers from disaster-prone areas in disaster management and preparedness, first aid and search and rescue. The state branch also has a high level of youth participation.

The branch responded impressively after the flooding, with volunteers putting together 2,500 emergency food packages, per day, to be air dropped to victims. When a local Red Cross assessment team visited affected villages, they distributed relief to those most in need.

The branch continues to play a key coordination role in the relief operation. This request for assistance has been prepared in consultation with the Orissa state branch and has been designed to work within their country.

Present capacity of the Federation

On 18 July a team of five delegates from the IRCS national headquarters, Federation and Spanish Red Cross were mobilised to Bhubanaswar, the capital of Orissa, to assess and implement the relief operation. The Head of Delegation of India operations is supervising the response while the disaster preparedness delegate is managing and coordinating. An assessment delegate, based in Bhubanaswar, is conducting a short term assessment and initial implementation of the field operation. The assessment delegate will be replaced by a relief delegate by 30 July.

An information delegate and information officer from the regional delegation have been based in Orissa for several days to provide daily updates to the India operation centre and to respond to national and international media. Red Cross interviews with international media, including CNN and BBC.

Federation delegates currently working on the India earthquake rehabilitation programme are on standby to be seconded on a short-term emergency basis to respond to ongoing needs. A health delegate is assessing current health needs, in cooperation with the ICRC's deputy secretary general of health programmes.

Future needs are to be determined and will be communicated to Federation headquarters in Geneva.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details. Please note that the amount requested has yet to include reallocations from existing relief funds for this region.

For further details please contact: Martin De Vries, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email:devries@ifrc.org.

All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX I
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	No.21 /2001	
Request for assistance - India floods 2001		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Shelter & constructions	271'000	
Clothing & textiles	275'000	
Food & seeds	132'000	
Medical & first aid	24'000	
Other relief supplies	177'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		879'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers	14'000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	82'280	
Technical support	24'630	
Professional services	27'315	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	67'000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff (2 delegates - 3 months)	60'000	
National staff	16'000	
Personnel (support costs)	6'000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	16'000	
Information expenses	10'000	
Administrative & general expenses	18'000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		341'225
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		1'220'225
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	Reallocations pending	
NET REQUEST		1'220'225