

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

28 July 2005

*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 over 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 16/2004; Operations Update no. 9; Period covered: 1 April to 30 June 2005; Appeal coverage: 99.2%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached revised budget and contributions list](#)) ([click here for live contributions list](#))

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,982,000 (USD 2,352,706 or EUR 1,929,189) for ten months to assist 250,000 beneficiaries.
- Operations update 7 reduced the number of beneficiaries to 200,000 due to low appeal/request for assistance coverage and delays in implementation, leading to a change in the vulnerability of targeted beneficiaries.
- Operations Update 8 extended the operational period by three months to 31 August 2005.
- **This operations update revises the budget down to CHF 2,034,911 and extends the timeframe by another two months (to 31 October).** The budget revision is based on the funding situation and changed activities, while the timeframe extension allows for the completion of the disaster mitigation and capacity building components.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 16,279 (USD 12,579 or EUR 10,417)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:**

[South Asia Regional Appeal 05AA051](#)

[Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 2005-2010](#)

#### Operational Summary:

As outlined in Operations Update 8, the emergency phase of the operation assisted 37,350 families (approximately 186,750 people) with emergency relief (food and non-food items) in the states of Bihar and Assam. In addition to assistance provided through this appeal, approximately 300,000 people received some form of health care from various Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) district branches in the two states. For example, district branches in Bihar raised over CHF 171,000 in cash for the medical component and medicines worth CHF 75,000.

There are proposed changes to the mitigation phase. In Bihar, it is intended to increase the number of raised tube wells, following a recent IRCS and Federation assessment.

Outside of this appeal, the Bihar state branch has indicated plans for the construction of a flood platform on Indian Red Cross land in the Muzzaffarpur district. On the identified land, there is an IRCS health clinic and one tube well, and the site is located near a highway to provide good accessibility during the flood season. The area has been used in previous flooding seasons and has accommodated 2000 to 3000 people.

In Assam, the planned construction of a flood platform has not progressed and it has been decided to cancel this activity. The lack of progress to date and given that the current 2005 monsoon season would hinder construction, it would not be possible to complete this activity even by the new extended operational

period of 31 October 2005. The construction of the flood platform will be facilitated and funded under the Indian Red Cross Society's annual disaster management programme. It is proposed to replace this activity with construction of tube wells and replenishment of disaster preparedness stocks. Twenty tube wells will be constructed at already existing facilities such as schools and health centres, which can be used as shelters during floods.

As part of the revised mitigation and preparedness plan, 4000 family packs will be procured to replenish disaster preparedness stock of non-food items, which were used during the emergency phase of the 2004 floods.

The change of the IRCS leadership, resulting from the previous secretary-general's resignation in March, led to a transitional period in the national society, whereby the implementation process included a transfer of funds from the national headquarters to the branches.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background

The north-eastern states of Assam and Bihar were severely affected by heavy flooding in June/July 2004 as a result of the monsoon. More than 30 million people were affected and infrastructure was heavily damaged. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 60 per cent of crops in affected areas were destroyed.

On 27 July 2004, the Indian Red Cross Society and the Federation launched a request for assistance, seeking to assist 250,000 beneficiaries with food and non-food relief items. The operation includes a disaster mitigation component, aiming at improving local capacities to cope with this recurring disaster. In the course of the operation, the number of beneficiaries was revised down to 200,000 people, due to reassessed needs in Assam, following initial delays in the distribution of relief items because of inaccessibility to some areas in that state.

## Operational developments

With the emergency phase complete, the national society is focusing on completing the mitigation element and replenishment of disaster preparedness stock. Revised mitigation proposals received from the Bihar and Assam state branches have been approved by the secretary-general of the IRCS.

A disaster preparedness capacity building workshop was carried out in Patna, Bihar. A follow up/monitoring visit was also carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of tube wells installed during the 2002 floods operation. The wells have been fully utilized and maintained by communities, and there is a great demand for more raised tube wells by the community and the IRCS district branches leaders.

The IRCS Bihar state branch, based on consultation with national headquarters findings, has proposed to construct 70 instead of the originally planned 30 tube wells. This decision is based, in part, on the findings of disaster management teams from national headquarters and the Federation delegation on the effectiveness of tube wells constructed in 2002 in Bihar. Outside this operation, the state branch has requested support to construct a state-level warehouse for storing disaster preparedness stock.

A new activity under this operation is the procurement of 4000 family packs of non-food items to replenish part of the disaster preparedness stock released in the emergency phase (10,000 family packs were sent to each state branch in Assam and Bihar).

The further extension of the operational timeframe to 31 October 2005 is due to a combination of factors. The change of leadership in the national society led to a slow-down in implementation, including a transfer of funds to branches. The extended timeframe will realistically allow for the completion of the tube well construction and the disaster preparedness stock procurement.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact**

**Operational goal: to meet the urgent needs of 40,000<sup>1</sup> worst-affected families in Assam and Bihar for food, shelter, family packs and medical services, to ensure improved quality of water over a period of four months and to prepare to meet the longer-term needs through necessary capacity building and disaster mitigation initiatives over a further period of eleven<sup>2</sup> months after the emergency phase.**

### **Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective<sup>3</sup>: A total of 40,000 flood-affected families (approximately 200,000 people) in Assam and Bihar to receive supplementary food items and non-food family packs as well as shelter material during the emergency phase.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

This phase of the operation is complete. In the 18 most-affected districts of Assam and nine most-affected states in Bihar, 37,350 families (approximately 186,750 people) have received food and non-food family packs as well as shelter material. The remaining items for 2,650 families have been kept as disaster preparedness stock at the Assam branch. Please see Operations Update no.8 for further explanations and details ([http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?04/160408.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/160408.pdf)).

### **Disaster Mitigation and Capacity Building**

Since the last operations update, proposals have been received from the IRCS Assam and Bihar state branches and endorsed by the IRCS leadership.

As a part of the ongoing disaster management programme, a disaster preparedness capacity building workshop was held over 10-12 June at the Bihar state branch, with participation from 20 of the district branch representatives. The workshop was organized with the following objectives:

1. improve knowledge of the disaster management cycle and disaster preparedness priority areas;
2. assess local hazards, vulnerabilities and map disaster preparedness capacity of the district branches using the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis and the *Well Prepared District Branch* questionnaire;
3. improve understanding of IRCS disaster management activities, resource generation and volunteer management; and
4. build a common understanding on response preparedness.

The IRCS and the Federation disaster management team combined the workshop with a visit to one district, viewing existing tube wells and also proposed sites for the new wells. A follow up and monitoring visit was done on maintenance needs of the existing tube wells so they can continue to serve the targeted communities.

The IRCS Bihar state branch has also requested the national headquarters to increase the number of tube wells from 30 to 70. These new allocations of tube wells will again be strategically located in the flood-prone areas. The

<sup>1</sup> Reduced from the original 50,000 to 40,000 due to a reduction of targeted families in the Assam distribution plan

<sup>2</sup> Increased from nine to eleven months as per Operations Update 8 & 9

<sup>3</sup> The objective is a combination of the emergency relief objectives as originally outlined in the request for assistance and operations updates 1 – 5

visit covered Patna and Muzzafarpur, and included meetings with the district collector in Muzzaffarpur and the chief secretary to the Bihar government in Patna, as well as community members and IRCS personnel.

**Objective 1: Twenty raised tube wells to be constructed in flood-prone areas in Assam and 4000 family packs to be procured for the replenishment of IRCS general disaster preparedness stock.**

### **Progress/achievements**

The Assam state branch sought a further extension to allow for the flood platform's completion. The state branch cited recent bad weather and flooding for the latest delays. The extension of the timeframe was of major concern for the national headquarters because of previous delays in the implementation of the project. The national headquarters discussed with the Assam state branch about changing the mitigation element to constructing 20 raised tube wells. It is also proposed that the difference in allocated funds between the flood platform construction and the tube well construction be utilised for purchasing disaster preparedness stock.

To accommodate these changes, the objective has been revised from the original plan to construct a flood platform, five raised tube wells and five raised latrines in Assam. The flood platform construction is therefore cancelled and will be incorporated under the annual disaster management programme.

### **Impact**

While it is still early to measure the impact of the appeal objective, it is worth noting that flood platforms previously constructed have been well used. The raised platform in Nalbari district, undertaken during the 2002 floods operation, has been well appreciated by the local community, the state government and other agencies. The platform was used extensively during floods in 2003 and 2004. It also serves as a community space during non-flood times and has promoted community integration at various levels. There is good recognition by the community that the platform is an IRCS-provided facility, helping to raise the profile of the national society. The tube wells have also been well utilised by the community.

The planned 20 raised tube wells will be constructed in existing facilities such as schools and health centres in the flood-prone areas. The facilities can be used as shelters during the flood season.

### **Constraints**

The process of finalizing the flood platform proposal proved to be a lengthy and slow exercise. This, combined with the latest monsoon season, meant there was little likelihood of completing the construction within the extended timeframe of this operation. The IRCS and Federation therefore modified planned disaster mitigation activities to cover the completion of raised tube wells and procurement of DP stock instead. The drafting and approval process, especially within the current IRCS transitional period, will be reviewed to speed up operations.

**Objective 2: Seventy raised tube wells to be constructed in the most-affected districts of Bihar.**

### **Progress/achievements**

The sites as mentioned earlier have been identified and a detailed proposal has been sent by the state branch. The national headquarters has reviewed and approved the proposal. The disaster management team viewed existing tube wells and examined new sites in a recent visit. The sites have been well selected by the district branches and the local authorities have been kept informed on all developments. The sites are on public land, so no approval from the government has been sought.

The community was consulted before selecting the sites and they have been party to the site selection process. The proposal submitted by the Bihar state branch outlines that the following four districts will be covered – West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur. The state branch has increased the total number of tube wells from 30 to 40, allocating ten to each district. During the recent IRCS national headquarters and Federation disaster management team visit, the state branch requested an additional 30 tube wells be constructed. The proposal for this new request is awaited. To reflect these new developments, the number of tube wells to be constructed under the original objective has been increased from 30 to 70.

### **Impact**

While it is still too early to measure impact under this objective, past experience shows that the provision of tube wells promotes social integration, in addition to the obvious benefit of providing water supply. People from various social strata use the wells. The villages that are covered by the installation of the tube wells have access to safe drinking water throughout the year, contributing towards a decreasing morbidity rate.

### **Constraint**

The process of finalization of proposals, consideration and approval by national headquarters and release of funds has been sluggish. This has been due in part to the change of leadership in the national society. Given the further extension of the operational timeframe, the IRCS is confident of completing these tasks.

### **Objective 3: Disaster response capacity of IRCS in flood-prone areas to be further improved through lessons learned and documentation.**

#### **Progress and achievements**

The element of capacity building is being addressed through the ongoing disaster management programme. This operation is being used as a useful tool to address strengths and weaknesses of the national headquarters and its branches.

The recently concluded disaster preparedness capacity building workshop in Patna (Bihar) is an example of disaster preparedness measures by the national headquarters, as it was held before the arrival of the monsoons. The workshop was attended by participants from 20 districts, including floods-prone districts. During this workshop, the participants were exposed to different concepts of disaster preparedness such as contingency planning and other issues. Another such workshop is planned in July for the remaining districts in Bihar.

The state branch is also proposing (outside of this operation) to build a state-level warehouse in Bihar, which will be used to store disaster preparedness stock and will not only serve Bihar but also neighbouring states.

#### **Federation Coordination**

In the wake of floods, the Federation, together with the IRCS, regularly participated in interagency meetings convened by the UNDP and the government of India. Alongside such external events, coordination support has been provided to the national society in re-routing stocks that were being procured, for it to reach the most vulnerable in the shortest time possible. There has been regular monitoring of the situation.

The floods in Bihar state provided opportunity to deploy two water and sanitation units. These units, both trailer mounted and provided by US Agency for International Development (USAID), had been rehabilitated by the Federation and the IRCS through in-country efforts during 2004. The same units were mobilized in the wake of the tsunami disaster, for use in the two most affected districts of Nagapattinum and Kanyakumari, under the overall coordination of IRCS. In-country water sanitation-trained staff were mobilised to use the equipment, helping to fulfill drinking water needs of those affected.

#### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and Initiatives**

Distributions of relief goods undertaken received prominent media coverage and there was good national society visibility. The national society promoted a high degree of transparency in aspects related to beneficiary selection as well as relief items distribution. The non-food items procured followed the specifications outlined in the IRCS relief items catalogue. This assured uniformity and high quality, while maintaining accountability.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent principles are regularly disseminated through all community-based trainings and the construction of tube wells.

#### **National Society Capacity Building**

Throughout the operation the Federation has supported IRCS capacity building at national and state branch level. Resources including the national disaster response team and state-level youth members and volunteers have been well mobilized, and they have learnt from the emergency operation and gained valuable experience.

A participatory action learning report is being used to refine and improve disaster management practices and is being fed into future planning. This is a result of a real-time participation action learning study that was

undertaken late last year, supported by the Federation and British Red Cross Society. The study team, comprising of an external consultant, representatives from the Indian Red Cross Society's national headquarters and state branches as well as Federation delegation disaster management staff, visited flood-affected areas. It concluded that areas with some history of disaster mitigation projects were better able to cope in disasters.

The operation provided an opportunity for an integrated approach between programmes such as disaster management, health, organizational development and humanitarian values, especially demonstrated in the recent disaster preparedness capacity building training in Bihar.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

With the emergency phase over and the mitigation phase to begin, communications directly related to this operation are currently static. However the raised tube well construction will present opportunities to reinforce various disaster preparedness and response messages to communities and officials. The recent meetings by the IRCS and Federation disaster management team with government officials in Bihar was used to reinforce the national society's goals and strategies in relation to disaster management.

[Revised budget and contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

**REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY - Version 2  
INDIA FLOODS - PIN518**

Appeal No.

04EA016

TYPE	REVISÉD VALUE IN CHF
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	
Shelter & constructions	288,284
Clothing & textiles	448,823
Food & seeds	338,407
Water & sanitation	56,099
Medical & first aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & tools	288,528
Other Relief Supplies	166,288
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>1,586,429</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
Telephone Equipment	136
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	131,652
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>	
Distribution & Storage	240,410
Transport & vehicle costs	4,218
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
Expatriate staff	510
National staff	38,181
<b><u>WORKSHOPS &amp; SEMINARS</u></b>	
External Workshops & Seminars	205
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>	
Travel & related expenses	6,814
Information Expenses	4,213
Administrative & general expenses	22,143
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>448,482</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>2,034,911</b>

LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)

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**NETT REQUEST**

**2,034,911**

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# India - floods

ANNEX 1

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE No. 16/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

27/07/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,034,911	TOTAL COVERAGE 99.2%				
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID	150,000	USD	189,675	23.08.04	PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES, TRANSPORTATION	
AUSTRIAN - RC	35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04		
BELGIAN - RC	220,000	EUR	339,020	03.09.04	NON-FOOD ITEMS (7000 FAMILY PACKS), FIELD ADMINISTRATION COSTS	
BRITISH - RC	25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)	
BRITISH - RC	24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)	
CANADIAN - RC	25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04		
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA	250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04		
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH	132,376	HKD	21,418	30.07.04	PROCUREMENT OF FOOD ITEMS F/1500 FAMILIES FOR 1.5MONTHS	
DANISH - GOVT	334,992	INR	9,313	28.10.04		
FINNISH - RC	200,000	EUR	305,800	10.08.04		
IRISH - RC	60,086	EUR	93,284	04.10.04		
IRISH - GOVT	75,000	EUR	114,675	28.07.04		
JAPANESE - RC	114,700	USD	145,035	06.08.04		
MONACO - RC	3,000	EUR	4,658	12.10.04		
PRIVATE DONORS			6,338	16.09.04		
PRIVATE DONORS			5,656	20.01.05		
SPANISH - RC	30,000	EUR	45,870	11.08.04		
SWEDISH GOVT/RC	1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>			<b>1,873,307</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>92.1%</b>	

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT		5,205,256	INR	144,706	28.10.04	4'150 FAMILY PACKS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>144,706</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>	