



## INDIA: FLOODS

**DREF Bulletin**  
**No. MDRIN001**  
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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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, targeting 10,000 beneficiaries (equivalent of 2,000 families) in four states. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by November 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation by 28 February 2007. In the meantime, development of this operation is to be reported in a DREF Update with detailed information and plan of action. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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### Background and current situation

Floods caused by heavy monsoon rains have swamped large parts of western and central India, including the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, and Orissa. Of these, the first three have been the worst affected. The prime minister of India was set to visit the flood ravaged areas today but has postponed his visit due to the large-scale relief programme being carried out in Gujarat.

#### Gujarat

Surat district in Gujarat has been rated the worst affected, with the army, navy and air force being deployed to carry out major search and rescue operations in the district. According to the latest media reports, water levels have receded in many parts of Surat district; however, certain areas of the district have been completely cut off from the rest of the state. The government is making efforts to reach those still trapped. Those unaffected by the floods are helping out by running community kitchens and organizing local rescue teams.

Power and water supply remains disrupted in about 60 percent of Surat city but authorities have restored train services between Mumbai and Surat.

#### Andhra Pradesh

In Andhra Pradesh, flash floods caused by the overflowing of the Krishna river has led to local authorities evacuating more than 50,000 people in the Krishna district to relief camps. The state government is on high alert

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and is fully prepared to evacuate more people in case the current situation deteriorates further. The strain of rising vegetable, petrol and kerosene prices due to high inflation is exacerbating the situation.

The key causes of these flash floods have been heavy rains and unplanned releases of water from dams. This was proven when, according to Red Cross sources, severe flooding started afresh last night after the Godavari river overflowed as a result of a large volume of water released from the Maharashtra dam.

### **Maharashtra**

According to Red Cross sources, the state of Maharashtra has been able to control the flood situation. While relief work has stopped in Nanded district, it continues in the rest of the districts. The only visible challenge is the movement of a large volume of people moving temporarily to higher ground. Tracing services by the Maharashtra branch have not been necessary so far as population movement has so far been local. In total, seven districts have been affected - Nanded, Chandrapur, Vashim, Kolhapur, Sholapur, Thane and Aurangabad.

Two incidents of boats capsizing because of overloading occurred in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. None of the occupants survived.

### **Chattisgarh**

According to Red Cross sources, the state had witnessed major civil unrest between tribal and naxalite groups in the district of Bastar about two months ago. Population movement ensued among the tribal groups, with about 30,000 tribals shifting to areas near the highways for safety reasons. Their problems have been compounded by the devastation caused by the floods in Bastar district and as a result of this; the tribals are presently living on the highway.

### **Orissa**

Two districts have been affected by floods and according to latest reports from the Indian Meteorological Department, heavy rains are predicted in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and north coastal Andhra Pradesh. The government is taking all precautions and has requested the IRCS state branch in Orissa to be on alert. Rumors of cyclones led to people being evacuated to cyclone shelters but as no cyclone occurred, people have returned to their homes. The level of preparedness remains high in the state.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been coordinating at a national level with government authorities and United Nations (UN) agencies through various forums and exchanges of information. Furthermore, the IRCS disaster management centre has been vigilant on the situation at all times and has been sharing information within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement at regular intervals. In the previous update, a consolidated review of the IRCS national headquarters action was provided.

All state branches in the affected states - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Chattisgarh - have been working around the clock to the most vulnerable in their respective states. All the IRCS district branches in the affected districts have been very active. Details of the relief work has been continuously reported on the DMIS entries and subsequent information bulletins.

According to the latest report from the Maharashtra state branch, one mobile medical unit (MMU) of IRCS has been touring the government run relief camps and has so far treated 2,000 patients. The state branch has also provided an unspecified number of kitchen sets and around 2,000 food packets and water pouches.

According to Red Cross sources, around 200,000 people have been evacuated by the authorities and 200,000 people have been provided with medical treatment in relief camps in Chandrapur district in Maharashtra. The state branch has also approved medicines worth INR 50,000 (CHF 1,375) for the district.

In Kolhapur district, the government has evacuated about 14,000 families and the IRCS has provided 5,000 kitchen sets and blankets through local resource mobilization.

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In Bandara block, Sholapur district, the government has evacuated 30,000 people and the IRCS district branch has been able to provide 500 packets of milk and 1,000 packets of biscuits. Medical treatment has been provided to 200 patients. The state branch has further approved medicines worth INR20,000 (CHF 550).

In Varshim, about 40 villages have been affected. The district branch has set up medical camps in the worst affected villages, including Vakalipur (a village which had totally submerged in water). There are 4,800 affected families in this village. The state branch has despatched a consignment of 500 kitchen sets for the Vakalipur village.

Kalyan block in Thane district is submerged but the state branch is in constant touch with the affected communities. Relief in this area is yet to start and the sub-district branch has requested 100 kitchen sets for the worst affected families.

Flooding in Aurangabad district started yesterday. Since 40 percent of the village of Pailhmar is submerged, 5,000 people from this area had been shifted to relief camps in Aurangabad. The district branch has so far distributed 500 packets of food, which lasts for three- four days, but there is a need for 6,000 more of such food packets. This is being looked into by the district branch. Additionally, 1,000 rotis (local bread pieces) were distributed among the affected communities through the community kitchen. The state branch has approved INR20,000 for food distribution in the district.

In Yeotamala district, the district branch has distributed 500 packets of food which will serve about 200 people. This was also carried out through the community kitchens.

## **The needs**

The IRCS national headquarters is presently looking at a two-fold plan to combat the situation:

1. Commissioning an assessment as soon as possible, to identify further relief and recovery needs. A cross-sectoral team has been suggested for this.
2. Structuring a national response of IRCS on the current situation, based on the detailed plan of action from the affected state branches, which the IRCS national headquarters is awaiting receipt of. An initial amount of INR200,000 (CHF 5,500) has been advanced by the IRCS national headquarters to the Gujarat state branch.

The Federation's India delegation has been closely liaising with the IRCS national headquarters since the beginning of the disaster and has been playing a crucial role in coordinating with various components of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

The India delegation has also agreed to lend support to the relief activities of IRCS in the following categories (also see the budget breakdown below).

- Dry ration (rice, dal, atta tea leaves etc)
- Basic medicines (available over the counter)
- Replenishment of about 2,000 non-food family packs distributed during the emergency (as disaster preparedness stock)
- Operational cost for implementing this plan

The respective state branches identified 10,000 beneficiaries (equivalent of 2,000 families) in four states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh) in initial consultations with their district/sub-district branches, local authorities and community leaders.

In the forthcoming DREF update, more detailed figures and a plan of action will be produced on the basis of further assessment of this on-going disaster.

**DREF Budget**

	<b>Total CHF</b>
<b>Family Packs</b> - 2000 @37.25 includes: Bedsheets, dhoti, sarees, kitchen sets, blankets, towels, etc. and inspection costs.	74,500
<b>Dry Rations</b> - 2000 @5 includes: rice, dal, cooking oil, tea leaves, sugar, etc.	10,000
<b>Medicine</b> includes: available on counter	3,000
<b>Operational and Distribution Costs</b>	6,000
<b>PSR</b>	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>

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*This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.*

*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.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*