

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

INDIA: 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 over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

With the south Asia monsoon season in its final stage, much of the Indian subcontinent still remains affected by the floods, with the worst affected states being Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chattisgarh. At least 818 people have died in the country since the floods began.

Bihar

The second phase of the floods began in the first week of September with heavy rainfall affecting 21 out of 38 districts in the state. The cultivation of the main crops of maize, paddy and banana has been damaged in several districts.



All major rivers in the state are flowing above the danger level in some parts of the state with the levels expected to rise even further in the coming days. The Ganges River reached its highest level since 1975.

The floods have come with their share of logistical difficulties as the main national highways have been submerged, causing the disruption of transportation and communication.

Damage details:

- No. of districts affected – 21;
- No. of villages affected - 3,392;
- Population affected - 4.55 million;
- Total area affected - 9.47

(including farmlands);

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- Houses damaged - 16,913;
- Loss of lives – 142.

Orissa

The State of Orissa has been reeling under severe floods since the end of August, with 23 of its 30 districts affected so far. A decline in the capacity of the Mahanadi River system caused the heavy flooding in the delta region as well as in some parts of western Orissa.



Roads and communication infrastructure have been badly hit in some parts of the state. Breaches at several places along the river embankments have led to sand casting on agricultural fields, aggravating the plight of farmers. Since the embankments are made from alluvial soil, there is a threat of high seepage leading to their gradual weakening. Due to the contamination of drinking water sources, diarrhoea cases are likely to increase.

Damage details

- No. of districts affected – 23;
- No. of villages affected - 6,792;
- Population affected - approximately 3,5 million;
- No. of human lives lost – 58;
- Livestock lost - 2,226;
- No. of houses damaged - 122,641;
- Crop area affected 379,800 hectares of paddy and 52070 hectares of non-paddy land.

Uttar Pradesh

At least 34 people in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh died within 24 hours even as flooded rivers showed signs of receding, and the state government declared 20 districts as flood-affected. According to the latest reports, over 20,000 homes have been destroyed due to floods in the state and about 616,000 people evacuated to safety. 746 relief centers have been set up.

Himachal Pradesh and Chattisgarh

At least 43 people, mostly labourers, are feared killed and 15 injured in flash floods caused by a cloud burst near Solang in Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh in last week of August. There was a major loss to the state with a considerable number of buildings and residential colonies being washed-out, all within a span of 3 minutes. Flash

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floods have also affected the neighbouring state of Chattisgarh following the release of water from the Hirakud Dam in Orissa

Non Red Cross response:

2,840 volunteers trained under the National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) programme of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (assisted by UNDP) have provided valuable service during the flood response activity. Medical and epidemic team have been deployed in the most affected areas.

Overall, the government has inaugurated an inventory database (the India Disaster Resource Network or IDRN) to be used for mobilizing specific equipment and human skills for emergency situations. This online information system can be accessed from the district states to the national level authorities enabling disaster managers to identify and channel the resources within a very short span of time.

The Government has delivered the following relief for the affected population in the state of Bihar:

- No of relief camps – 227;
- No of health camps – 393;
- No. of veterinary camps – 174;
- Wheat distributed -56 tons;
- Cooked food distributed - 2 tons;
- Polythene sheets distributed - 153,000m.

Catholic Relief extended support of Rs 640,000 (CHF 18,823) to the flood affected people in Bihar.

In Orissa, UNICEF, CARE, EFFICOR and the Indian government have jointly distributed the main relief and food packets for the affected population. As a response to the disaster the Danish Embassy has released a grant of CHF 30,000 through Actionaid for emergency relief aid to Orissa.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Bihar

The Indian Red Cross has released the following items for the flood affected victims: kitchen sets with buckets (2,000), sarees (2,000), dhotis (2,000), PVC rolls (200), assorted clothes (2,000), cotton blankets (2,000), medicine, emergency rations (500 kg), water purification tablets(700,000), Cholera kit (1), and New Emergency Health Kit (1).

Orissa

The Indian Red Cross responded by distributing emergency rations (240 kg), water purification tablets (290,000), sugar (150 kg), flat rice (2,110 kg), salt (210 kg), dhotis (300), sarees (300), plastic tarpaulins (5,000 pcs), ORS packets (30,000) and assorted medicines. In addition, German Red Cross provided flat rice (3,250 kg), sugar (600 kg) and salt (200 kg), while the American Red Cross donated 200 litres of milk and 200 kg of Chhatua for the affected population.

The Red Cross assistance provided in **Himachal Pradesh** consisted of: woollen blankets (500), assorted clothes (1,000), ground sheets (10 rolls), kitchen sets (50) and emergency rations (100).

In **Chattisgarh**, the Red Cross state branch distributed: plastic sheets (150), bed sheets (500), cotton blankets (500), kitchen sets (250), mosquito nets (50), assorted clothes (1,500), water purification tablets (50,000) and assorted medicines.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation 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.

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>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.