

# 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: ORISSA FLOODS

03 September 2003

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: nil.

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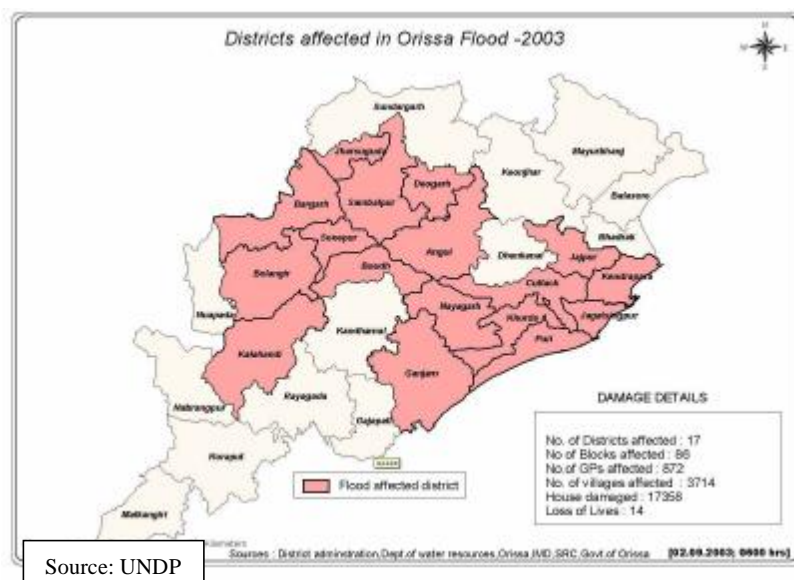
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### In Brief

**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

The eastern Indian state of Orissa has been affected by flooding since August 27. Heavy rain in the upper and lower catchment areas of major rivers and their tributaries has subsequently worsened the situation. Approximately 17 out of 30 districts in the state are affected. According to the latest information the flooding has affected over two million people in 3,714 villages. Some 14 deaths have been reported and over 17,000 houses have been damaged, while 148 have been destroyed. Approximately 320,000 hectares of agricultural land has been affected.



Evacuation measures have already started. Medical teams have been deployed in the worst hit areas and key locations. The military has been mobilized to assist in the severely affected districts. Hundreds of roads have been cut off while communication infrastructures have also been badly hit in many parts of the state, with the worst affected areas being Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Puri and Bolangir.

The Indian Meteorological Department forecast for the eastern zone indicates rain and thunder showers in most areas of Orissa.

A coordination meeting was held on 31 August 2003 with UN agencies and international/national/ other NGOs including the India Red Cross on the emerging flood situation. After the request from the Government of Orissa, the UNDP has provided 10,000 polythene sheets which have been distributed to the affected people. The government of Bihar has agreed to provide 250 tents and 1000 polythene sheets to the affected districts. Regular

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meetings between the Indian Red Cross and India Delegation, Disaster Management Team will be held to continue to closely monitor the situation.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

#### Orissa Red Cross state branch action:

- District Red Cross branches started mobilization of volunteers and resources to respond to the disaster.
- 7 boats, supplied to communities, are being used for evacuation and transport of relief materials.
- Multi-agencies (Red Cross, Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services and ODMM (local NGO)) made a joint assessment on 31 August and discussed intervention plans. The assessment report received by the Indian Red Cross NHQ revealed support was needed for the following items:
  - ✓ Baby food for 10,000 infants.
  - ✓ 20,000 tarpaulins/ PVC sheets.
  - ✓ 50,000 ORS packets.
  - ✓ 1 million water purification tablets.
  - ✓ Medicines for diarrhoea, gastroenteritis etc.
- Relief has been provided to the population evacuated to the Red Cross multipurpose cyclone shelters.
- Immediate steps have been taken to assist the affected population with the provision of cooked food, dry rations, water purification tablets and other essentials such as matches, candles etc.
- The Orissa state branch has provided the following resources in response to the situation: 200 volunteers mobilized for relief operations; 150 cartons of emergency rations; 300 polythene rolls; 200 pieces of PVC sheets; 3000 saris; 1000 dhotis; 2500 blankets; 200 boxes of assorted clothes; 10 rolls of canvas sheet; 3 cartons of water purification tablets; 5 steam pressure rice cookers; and 10 water balloons.

#### Indian Red Cross (IRCS) / Federation Coordination

Following a meeting between the IRCS and the India Delegation on 1 September, it was decided to put the IRCS control room at the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) on high alert. Another meeting on 1 September of the IRCS and India Delegation with SPHERE agencies was held to discuss broader inter-agency action to be taken.

The following items (valued at CHF 64,500) have been sent to the Orissa state branch in response to their request:

- 1.3 million water purification tablets 1.3 million.
- ORS – 30,000 packets.
- 5000 tarpaulins.
- Medicines for water borne diseases (12 items).

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://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.*

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