

# 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/BIHAR AND TRIPURA: FLOODS

Date 25 June 04

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/04) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

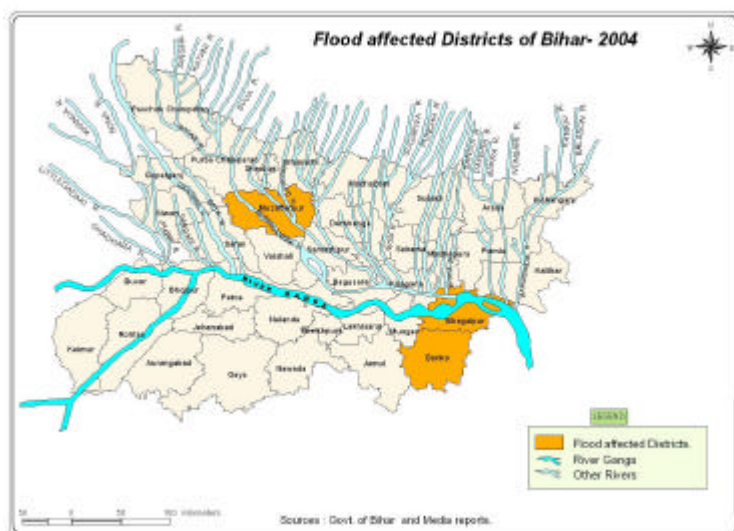
- In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr Vimala Ramalingam, Secretary General, email: vimalaramalingam@indianredcross.org, phone +91-11-23716424, fax +91-11-23716441/2/3
- In India: India Delegation contact Azmat Ulla, Head of Delegation, New Delh, email:- ifrcin65@ifrc.org, phone +91-11-23324203, fax+91-011-23324235
- In Geneva: Regional Department, contact Jagan Chhapagain, Regional Office, Asia Pacific department, email:- jagan.chhapagain@ifrc.org, phone+41 22 7304316, fax + 41 22 733 03 95

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>

### The Situation

#### Bihar

Floods have wreaked havoc in the state of Bihar, particularly in the northern plains, claiming over 30 lives and displacing over 125,000 according to Red Cross sources. The districts affected include Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Banka, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and Sheohar. Government of India-UNDP sources have reported that torrential rains over the past few days and the release of water from Lakhimpur reservoir has resulted in the rise of water levels of rivers – Chanan, Gerua and Cheer. The situation is particularly critical in Jagdishpur and Goradi blocks of district Bhagalpur with the connecting highway inaccessible at several places. The low lying areas of Banka district are also now in a critical situation and 100 low lying villages in



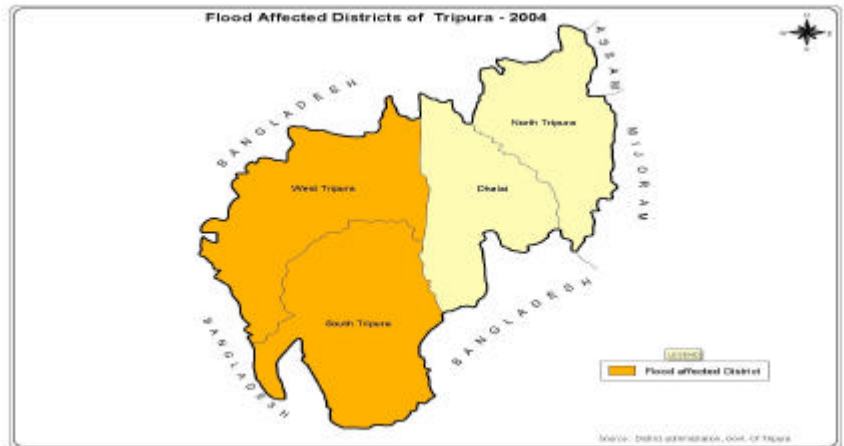
Source: UNDP

Muzaffarpur district have also been severely affected.

Further flash floods have resulted from a release of water from the bordering country, Nepal, into the Bagmati River. According to media sources, the government has sanctioned a relief operation in the flood-hit areas worth Rs 250 million, for relief and rescue operation.

## Tripura

According to UNDP sources, incessant rains in the state for past four days have resulted in overflowing of two rivers, Howrah and Khowai. Two districts in, Tripura (out the total four districts in the state) West Tripura and South Tripura, have been affected with flooding of low lying areas. The situation is critical in West Tripura district and is likely to worsen with monsoon being active over the state. In West Tripura district a total of three subdivisions, six blocks and 25,000 families have been affected. 55 relief camps have been opened by the West Tripura local government.



Relief supplies for two days have been distributed to the affected victims. One death has been reported.

Source: UNDP

According to Red Cross sources the state government has sought for help from the army in rescuing the flood affected people and moving them to safer places. More than 10,000 people have been removed to temporary relief camps from the low lying areas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and Federation disaster management team has been closely monitoring situation and are on alert. Respective state based IRCS National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members are assisting their respective state branches in information collection/analysis and also planning for relief distribution. They have however been put on alert should a full scale NDRT be deemed necessary in future.

**Tripura** - The state branch has already started relief work through distribution of dry food that is flattened rice, molasses, biscuits etc. The distribution has carried out among 600 families in Agartala consisting of 2400 people. The state branch has requested for additional relief material from national headquarters.

**Bihar** – The state branch has distributed 15000 kilograms of beaten rice and 350 tarpaulins besides organising health and first-aid camps. The state branch has deployed 20 boats for rescue operations to help the marooned people. The local branches are assisting the state operations with volunteers.

At the moment, the needs for additional relief material as requested by the respective state branches will be met through the disaster preparedness stock prepositioned in the regional warehouses in Kolkata and Bahadurgarh.

*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.*

**[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)**