

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Floods caused by heavy rains have adversely affected parts of India, most seriously the states of Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Orissa is the worst hit with 350,000 people affected in the coastal areas. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been monitoring the situation closely. IRCS state branches are active in the affected states and supporting the government's relief work.

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The Situation

The flood situation caused by continuous heavy rains in the states of Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka and some parts of Maharashtra, looks grim.

Orissa

According to media sources, about 350,000 people have been affected in coastal Orissa, which was hit by flash floods triggered by torrential rain over 3-4 days prior to the time of reporting. The swelling of rivers (Subarnekhha, Jalaka, Baitarani and Buddha Balanga) has submerged large parts of three coastal districts - Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur. According to local media sources, in the worst hit Balasore district, floods have affected over 250,000 people and 181 villages have been cut off. The meteorological department of India has projected that heavy rains are likely to continue for a few days.

The district administration in Balasore has distributed 56,500 kilos of flattened rice and 58,100 kilos of other food materials to the flood affected people. The administration has been using boats to distribute relief material and 7 power boats and 51 country boats have been pressed into action. Two units of the Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force have been deployed for rescue work. Further, as reported by the media, the administration has identified more than 50 cases of diarrhoea and the state government has despatched a special medical team to the affected areas.

Gujarat

Eight districts in Gujarat have been affected by floods - Navsari, Vadodara, Bharuch, Anand, Kheda, Surat, Rajkot and Amreli. Owing to low pressure circulation over Gujarat, a cumulative rainfall of 690.53 mm was received as on 31 July and 23.39 mm of rainfall was received during the 24 hours prior to reporting. Purna river in Navsari district is flowing 23 feet above the danger mark and Dhadhar river in Bharuch district is also flowing above the danger mark, at 101 feet.

According to UNDP estimates, approximately 73,678 persons have been affected in the above-mentioned eight districts, with 5 persons reported dead. The administration is conducting surveys to assess the damage to houses and public property.

Infrastructure services have been affected by the floods with power supply affected in 822 villages and road connectivity affected due to inundation of a large number of roads managed by the state and panchayats (village administrative bodies).

There has been a Leptospirosis (bacterial disease affecting humans and animals) scare in flood-hit western Gujarat. The health authorities are battling an increasing number of suspected Leptospirosis cases with 50 cases having been identified as suspected Leptospirosis in western Surat.

Maharashtra

The flood situation continues to be critical in Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra. In Sangli district, over 75,000 people were evacuated following floods in the Krishna river. The army has been deployed in Shirol (Kolhapur) to evacuate about 10,000 people. There has been a slight improvement in the situation in Satara, Solapur and Pune districts, where 9 people had died earlier. The situation in Pune is improving with the discharge of water from Khadakwasla dam being reduced.

Karnataka

Waters of the Krishna and Bhima rivers in Karnataka continue to move closer to the danger mark following torrential rain in the catchment areas in Maharashtra and the release of water from the Ujjini and Veerbhaktal dams on these rivers. Administration is on alert in Shahpur, Chitapur, Jewargi and Afzalpur and is keeping a close watch on the flood situation. In Belgaum district, 11 villages have been submerged. At least 2,000 people have been evacuated and 68 villages have been cut off.

The Indian meteorological department has warned that widespread rainfall, with heavy to very heavy rainfall (more than 25 cm) at one or two places, is likely across Orissa during the following 48 hours, due to intensification of a low pressure over northwest Bay of Bengal into a deep depression on 2 August (near Latitude 20.00 N and Longitude 87.00 E).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is closely following the situation through the disaster management centre located at its national headquarters. At the national level, information is being shared with the UN and the ministry of home affairs, which is the nodal ministry for disaster management.

The Gujarat state branch of IRCS has been active since the floods started two weeks prior to the date of reporting. The state branch has undertaken local assessments in the districts of Navsari, Anand, Valsad, Baroda and Bharuch, through the locally available state disaster response team members. Based on needs that emerged after the initial assessment, three consignments, consisting of tarpaulin sheets, assorted clothes and biscuits, have been sent to the affected areas. The Gujarat state branch has also regularly been in touch with the government control room.

In Orissa, more than 300 IRCS volunteers are supporting the government's relief work. Apart from this, the Orissa state branch is coordinating inter-agency efforts and regularly sharing information with the authorities and the UN.

The Maharashtra state branch has been active in the affected districts of Sangli and Kolhapur and search and rescue efforts have been strengthened with life jackets being provided by the state branch. The district branches are mobilising relief as well, though no reports have been received on this so far.

In Karnataka, the state branch is monitoring the situation closely and supporting the local authorities through regular consultation. The branch is in a state of preparedness and is keeping the national headquarters informed.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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>

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