

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: HEAVY RAINS/ FLOODS

Information Bulletin
no. 02/2006
Date 12 July 2006

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 183 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.

Heavy rains and flash floods have struck different parts of India, most seriously the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The state governments have been providing support to people in the affected areas. The Indian Red Cross Society has been monitoring the situation and has distributed food and non-food relief items to the affected people.

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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. S.P. Agarwal (Secretary General)
email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org; phone +91.11.2371.6424; fax +91.11.2371.7454
- In India: India Delegation, Mohamed Babiker (Head of Delegation)
email: mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11. 2332.4203; fax: + 91.11.2332.4235
- In India: South Asia Regional Delegation, Bob McKerrow (Head of Regional Delegation)
e-mail: bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Jagan Chapagain (Regional Officer)
email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4316; fax: +41.22.733.0395

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>

The Situation

On 1 July 2006, a well marked low pressure area over North Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression and increased the following day around 250 km southeast of the Balasore region in the state of Orissa (latitude 20.5 N / longitude 89.0 E). The system moved in a west northwesterly direction and crossed north Orissa and the adjoining coast between Paradeep and Digha in the state of West Bengal. The deep depression then moved over the north-eastern part of Maharashtra state and the eastern part of the adjoining state of Madhya Pradesh, moving further west-northwest and laying centre over west Madhya Pradesh. Under its influence heavy rainfall occurred in western Madhya Pradesh as well as across the Marathwada region and central parts of Maharashtra.

In west Maharashtra, there was severe flooding in Kolhapur district during the week prior to reporting and the intervention of the armed forces was required in search and rescue operations. According to official sources in Mumbai, the Panchanga river was flowing above danger level at 43 feet. The flood situation in the district has improved subsequently. In Mumbai city, schools and colleges have been reopened after three days. However, the meteorological department has forecasted further spells of rain.

Floods have also been reported in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, where the meteorological department recorded 388 mm of rainfall in 3 hours. According to official figures at the time of reporting, the death toll in the district stands at 25. The floods have affected about 95,000 people and displaced about 30,000 families. Approximately 8,000-9,000 houses have collapsed.

In the state of Chhattisgarh, 2 people were killed and 2,791 people were shifted to government relief camps due to flooding. The region of Bastar was the worst hit in the state and around 11 camps were set up in this region. However, rainfall in the state has subsided. Heavy rainfall has also decreased in the state of Gujarat, which has made it possible for more than 5,600 people, who had been evacuated from low lying areas in Navsari district, to return to their homes.

Major rivers in the state of Andhra Pradesh have been flowing above warning level. Heavy rains have affected about 15,000 people across 52 villages in two districts of the state and 1 death has been reported so far. Some parts of Karnataka state have faced heavy rainfall. In the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, at least 20 people have died in separate incidents of house collapse as monsoon rains hit north India. A total of 86 people are reported to have been killed in separate incidents across different states.

Torrential rain in the catchments of rivers originating in Nepal has created a flood-like situation in the northern part of the state of Bihar. Flood waters have entered low lying areas of several villages along the Bihar-Nepal border. Vehicular traffic on the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi national highway has come to a halt as a result of overflow of flood water from the Bhaghmati river in Nepal.

The governments in the affected states have so far managed to provide support to people in the affected areas. The state governments have been carrying out search and rescue operations in the affected areas and have evacuated people to safer places. According to directives of the meteorological department, in some selected states the governments have issued warnings to civilians, especially fisherman. In the case of Orissa, the government has announced a payment of Rs.50,000/- per family for those families that lose a member in the heavy rains/floods. Central government agencies like the National Institute of Disaster Management and the National Disaster Management Authority are monitoring the situation and will intervene if required.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been monitoring the situation. The disaster management centre at IRCS national headquarters (NHQ) was put into action and the IRCS disaster management team has been in constant touch with the state branches in affected states. The state branches of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa carried out assessments of the flood situations in their respective states and reported the findings to the NHQ.

In Jalgaon district in Maharashtra, a state disaster response team member was sent for rapid assessment of a sub-district affected by flash floods. Based on the assessment report, the Maharashtra state branch is dispatching relief items and non-food family packs to the affected areas.

The relief items being provided by the Maharashtra state branch are as follows:

S.no.	Items	Quantity
1	Tarpaulin packages	50
2	Sachets of oral rehydration salts (ORS)	1,500
3	Disprin tablets	2,000
4	Dettol (disinfectioner) bottles	480
5	EMS (skin lotion) bottles	100

Similarly, in Gujarat the Navasari district branch distributed cooked food and medicines to the displaced people in the district. The Karnataka state branch received reports that the districts affected by heavy rains had mobilised volunteers to provide shelter and clothing to the affected people in the district and that nine mechanized boats were used to carry out search and rescue operations.

The present stock position at the IRCS regional warehouses is as follows:

S.no.	Items	Quantity
1	Kitchen sets	45,026
2	Plastic buckets	26,994
3	Mosquito nets	53,699
4	Bed sheets	52,885
5	Towels	48,361
6	Tents	684
7	Blankets (woollen)	18,070
8	Blankets (cotton)	25,343
9	Women's clothing	77,244
10	Men's clothing	47,741
11	Life jackets	303
12	Tarpaulin	296
13	Ground sheet	830
14	Cloth sheeting	2,531 metres

The IRCS NHQ and state branches have been carrying out disaster preparedness activities across the country, especially in disaster prone states. For instance in Maharashtra, one of the most disaster prone states, in view of the floods that took place in the state last year, the state branch had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the state administration to conduct disaster preparedness activities. The first effort under this was the organization of a community based disaster preparedness training for approximately 14 villages in Kolhapur district of the state. The objective of the training was to provide technical knowledge to trainers on search and rescue and first aid, using local resources, to enable them to further train people in other villages on this. A total of 54 volunteers trained in search and rescue and 53 volunteers trained in first aid will now be attached to the state disaster response teams. In future, the state branch plans to conduct training programmes in shelter management, relief distribution and health and hygiene.

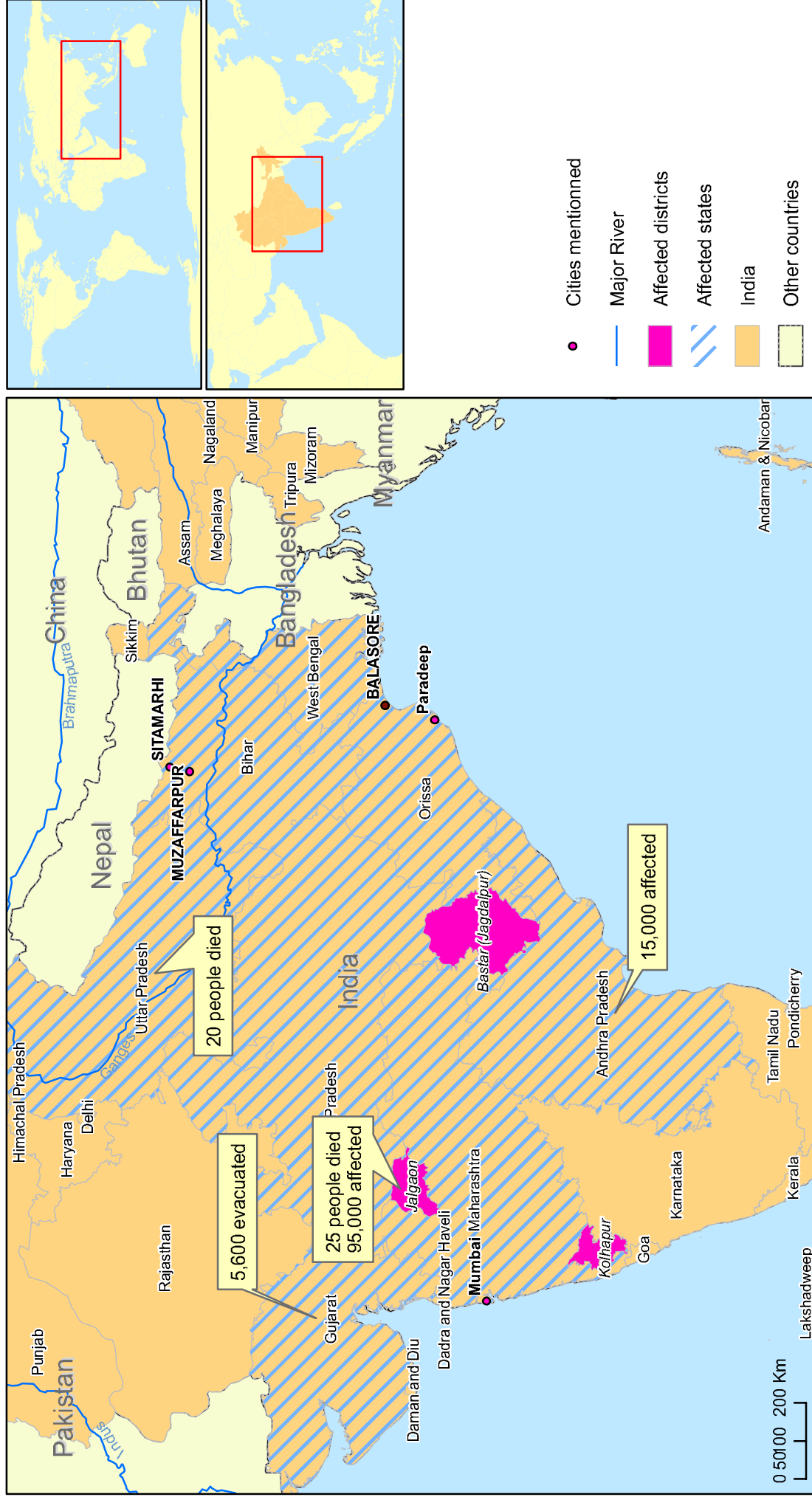
At the time of reporting, the IRCS NHQ and state branches were coordinating with the concerned state governments for sharing of information and streamlining of interventions.

[Please see the title page for contact information.](#)

[Please see map on next page](#)



India: Heavy rains/Floods



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation