

# 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.**

*For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.*

### The Situation

Following heavy monsoon rains that led to floods in different parts of India during the months of June-July 2007, the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat and Orissa were once again hit by very heavy rainfall over the weekend of 22-23 September 2007 (sources: United Nations Development Programme and All India Radio).

**Orissa:** One of the hardest hit areas was Orissa where, under the influence of the depression formed over the Bay of Bengal on 21<sup>st</sup> September, most of the coastal districts experienced heavy rain for three days. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the depression lay over Angur district in the interior of Orissa.

As on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, five people (three in Cuttack and two in Bhubaneswar) were reported to have been killed in the state. Large areas in six blocks of Balasore district were waterlogged. Flash floods were reported in the Budhabalanga river. In Bhadrak district, the Baitarani river crossed the danger level on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, and a breach on the embankment of the river was closed down immediately. However, the river levels have now started receding. The district administration is keeping a close vigil on the situation and has initiated relief distribution in affected areas.

According to a report prepared on the basis of inter-agency coordination, some key details of the flood situation in Orissa are as follows:

- Continuous heavy rainfall due to low pressure in the southern and coastal parts of the state has resulted in a rise of water levels in all the major river systems, except the Mahanadi system. The heavy rain in the Chhatisgarh region may have an impact on the Mahanadi river system.
- Balasore district has been affected by floods for the third time this monsoon season. Approximately 500,000 people and 415 villages were affected. The road connection has been cut off between Baliapal and Basta. Eleven fishermen were rescued from Balaramgadi.
- Approximately 200,000 people having been severely affected in Mayurbhanj district.
- River Baitarani is expected to touch the danger level in Bhadrak and Jajpur districts. Large parts of Jajpur district have been affected due to floods in the Brahmani river.
- In southern Orissa, the water levels in the two major river systems, i.e. the Bansdhara and Rishikulya, are rising, with Bansdhara being expected to touch the danger level.

- In Cuttack district, 270 mm rainfall was recorded and seven breaches have occurred in the Sapua river. About 50 feet of road has been washed away between Cuttack and Narasinghpur.
- Tidal waves affected 611 families in Kendrapara district and washed away 50 metres of sea shore in Paradeep port.
- In Jagatsinghpur district, 1,000 thatched houses were damaged due to heavy rain and areas covered under 19 village administrative units were affected.
- In Nayagarh district, heavy rain over four days cut off 21 villages from the district headquarters.
- The Special Relief Commissioner for Orissa has deployed the Orissa Disaster Relief Action Force for search and rescue in Mayurbhanj district.

**Assam:** In Hailakandi district, as on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 12 people had lost their lives, and 331,500 people and 230 villages had been affected. Communication was disrupted at different places on the NH-154, the Hailakandi-Samarikona road and the Hailakandi-Ratanpur road. In BARPETA district, traffic movement on national highway (NH) 31 continued to be disrupted due to complete damage of a concrete bridge at Hahara. However, the flood situation in the state is now improving and Cachar, Karimganj and other districts, which had been severely affected by floods, now have light rainfall.

The army and the National Disaster Relief Force have been deployed in Assam for rescue and relief operations. Four army columns and four engineer task force teams continue to be deployed for rescue and relief operations in Silchar and Hailakandi districts.

**Bihar:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, six people (four in Muzaffarpur and one each in Bhagalpur and Begusarai districts) were reported to have been killed in the state. The state now has only light rainfall.

**West Bengal:** Hooghly, Howrah and West Midnapur districts are facing the threat of floods, following heavy rainfall. The army has been kept on standby, to assist the civil administration in these three districts.

**Andhra Pradesh:** Floods affected about six districts of the state, resulting in a death toll of 48. Normal life was disrupted as flood water damaged roads and bridges in affected areas, for instance at many places in Kurnool and Kahamma districts. Floods caused by heavy rains in the neighbouring states of Karnataka and Maharashtra led to widespread damage to property and standing crops in Kurnool, Guntur, Nellore, Mahbubnagar, Warangal and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

**Karnataka:** The situation in Dharwad, Hubli and Belgaum districts is returning to normal. Air-drop support (food and water) has been discontinued. However, one army column and one engineer task force team continues to be deployed for rescue and relief operations in Dharwad district.

**Gujarat:** Six people died and 10 are missing in rain related incidents in Saurashtra area. Air force helicopters have been put into service to rescue the missing persons. About 40 villages were submerged in Una block in the region.

**Table: Details of government response in some of the flood affected states (source UNDP)**

State affected	No. of relief camps	No. of people accommodated	No. of medical teams deployed	No. of boats deployed
Andhra Pradesh	44	10,210	-	-
Karnataka	114	56,691	-	-
Assam	658	380,070	-	2,675
Bihar	1,672	1,005,637	609	7,277

Based on weather forecasts (valid till 28<sup>th</sup> September) by the Indian Meteorological Department, under the influence of a low pressure area over eastern Uttar Pradesh and its neighbouring states, widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy to very heavy rains, is likely over the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 27-28 September. The rainfall is expected to decrease thereafter. Also, a low pressure area over the north-eastern Arabian Sea and adjoining areas of Gujarat and Konkan, together with an off-shore trough, is likely to lead to fairly widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy to very heavy rains, along the western coast of India during the same two days. The current meteorological analysis suggests that fairly widespread rainfall is likely over West Bengal and Sikkim during this time, with an increase in intensity from the 28<sup>th</sup> onwards.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The task force at the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters is closely monitoring the situation and is in regular contact with the flood affected state branches. The Disaster Management Centre at the national headquarters is operational and is generating daily situation reports.

A disaster management centre has also been activated in Orissa. The disaster management officer from IRCS's state branch in Orissa has been sent to the severely affected Mayurbhanj district, to assess the situation and report back to the state branch. A Youth Red Cross officer from the state branch has also been sent to the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj to monitor the situation. On the recommendation of the Orissa Relief Commissioner, the state branch is planning to send male and female clothing, bed sheets and polythene sheets (3,000 of each item) for to Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts, for distribution among the affected population.

The IRCS's state branch in West Bengal deployed seven state disaster response team members in the affected districts and is waiting for the damage assessment report from them. The Karnataka state branch collected reports from the affected district branches and, based on their inputs, will carry out the required relief action. The Bihar state branch is waiting for damage assessment reports from the affected districts through its sub-district branches.

More detailed information on IRCS action will be available in the next update.

### How we work

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.

#### The Federation's Global Agenda

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

### Contact information

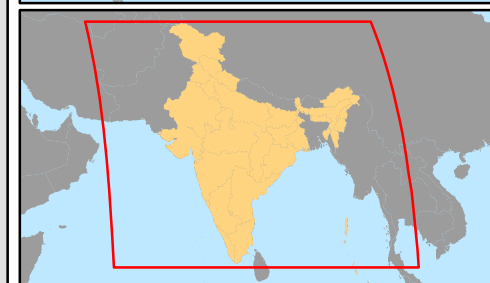
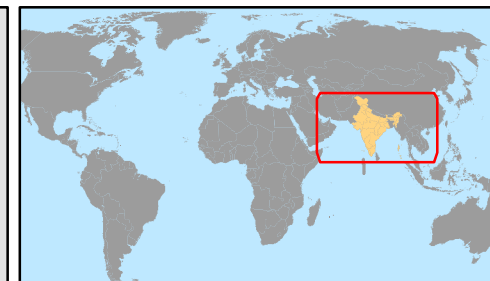
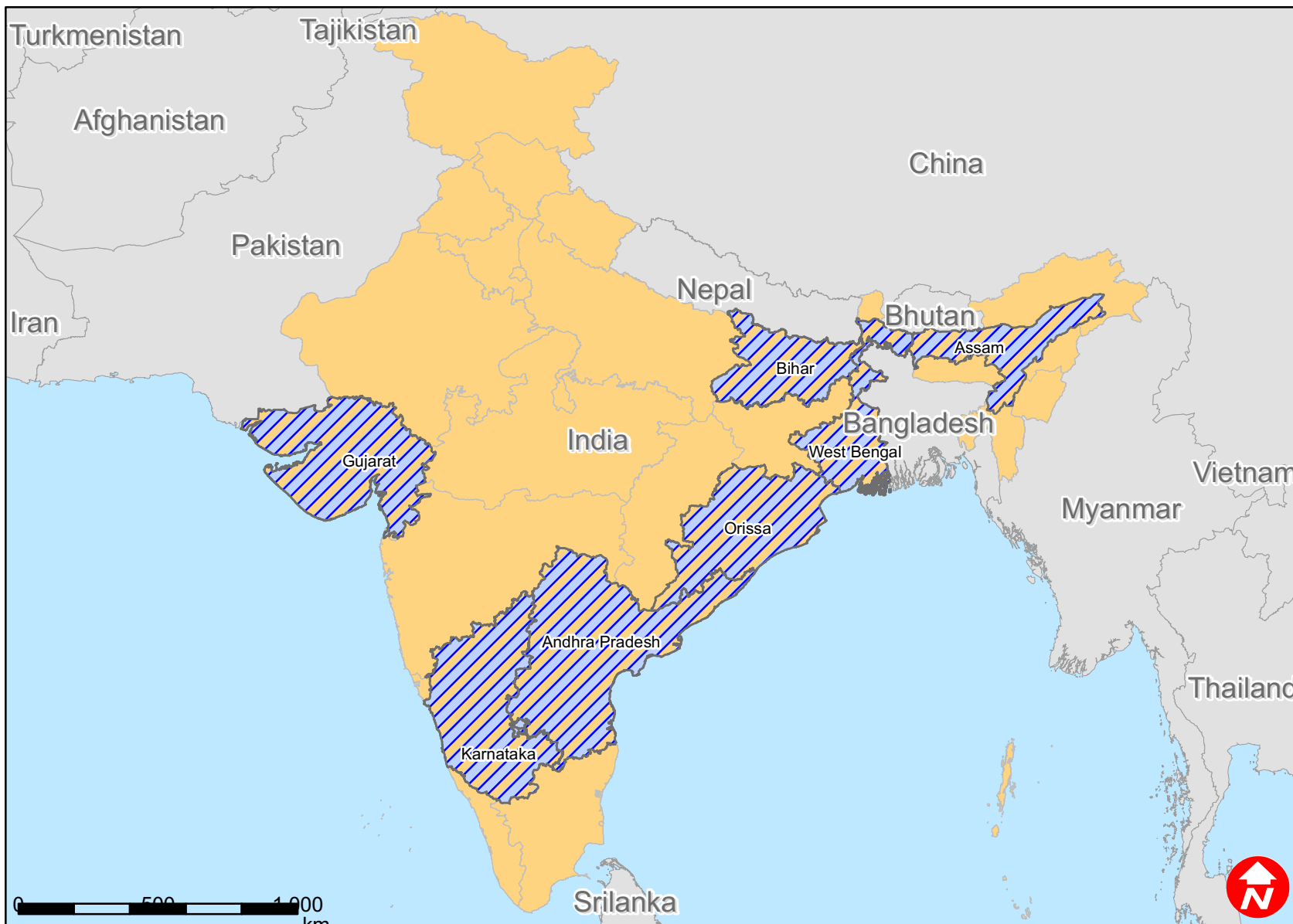
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. S.P. Agarwal (secretary general), email: [spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org); phone: +91.11.2371.6424; fax: +91.11.23711.7454
- In India: India office, Mohamed Babiker (head of India office), email: [mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org](mailto:mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11.233.4235
- Federation South Asia regional representation in India: Al Panico (head of regional representation), email: [al.panico@ifrc.org](mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- Federation Asia Pacific zone in Malaysia: phone: +603.2161.0892, fax: +603.2161.1210; Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone), email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org), ext. 619; and Naoki Kokawa (head of disaster management unit), email: [naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org](mailto:naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org), ext. 500.
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific Department): Christine South (regional officer, South Asia); email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org); phone: +41.22.730.4273; fax: +41.22.733.0395 or Gokce Balcik (senior assistant); email: [gokce.balcik@ifrc.org](mailto:gokce.balcik@ifrc.org); phone: +44.22.730.4429; fax: +41.22. 733.0395

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# India: Floods



The states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat and Orissa witnessed very heavy rainfall over the weekend.

The flood situation in Assam is improving in the Cachar, Karimganj and other severely affected districts where rainfall is light. Bihar also experienced light rainfall.



Affected states