

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Floods

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This bulletin is being issued for information only.

Early and heavy monsoon rains in India have caused floods in different parts of the country, leaving a total of 93 people dead across the country. The Indian Red Cross Society's (IRCS) has activated its disaster management centre and mobilised its disaster response teams at the national, state and district levels to respond to those affected by the floods, in coordination with the government. The IRCS national headquarters has pre-positioned 45,000 non-food family packs as disaster preparedness stock, which is available at six strategically located regional warehouses. The national society has also kept five water purification units on standby at these regional warehouses, which can be deployed at short notice, if required.

The Indian Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[click here to view the map of the affected area](#) and [here for detailed contact information](#)



Schoolgirls crossing over an uprooted tree in flood-affected Sonitpur district in the state of Assam

The Situation

India has been hit by early monsoon rains this year and different parts of the country received record rainfall during the month of May. These included the states of Gujarat, Assam, Maharashtra and the country's capital Delhi. The heavy rains have caused floods in some parts of the country. Since the previous information bulletin (dated 18th June), 41 more deaths due to the floods have been reported by the government, raising the total death toll to 93 from 52. According to reports from the Indian Meteorological Department, as on 18th June (0830 hours), the depression over Gangetic West Bengal was moving in a north-west direction and would cross over the states of Jharkhand and northern Orissa before gradually weakening. It was predicted that under its influence, various parts of the country, including the northern part of Chhattisgarh state would witness heavy to very heavy rainfall.

In the state of **Orissa**, the Subarnrekha river (at the flood forecasting site in Balasore district) was reported¹ to be rising and its level increased two centimetres above its previous record, crossing from a "high" to an "unprecedented" level (as on 20th June). Approximately 20,000 people have been evacuated from marooned villages in the worst affected districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj. Three rivers are overflowing in the state and the state government has requested the air force to send two more helicopters, in addition to the three already being used, to expedite relief work.

About 20 people were killed in rain related incidents in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**. The water level of major rivers in the state also continues to rise.

In **Jharkhand** state, the flood situation has improved as the intensity of rain has decreased significantly. Flood

¹ Source: Central Water Commission

waters have started receding in Jamshedpur. Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations have been intensified with the help of the army, as the weather has improved.

In the state of **West Bengal**, according to government media sources, the flood situation in the East and West Midnapore districts continues to remain critical. A total of 23 persons have been killed and 210,000 people have been marooned during the current spell of floods in these two districts. The state government has sanctioned INR 6,000,000 (CHF 145,686 or USD 139,632) for relief and rescue work.

In **Assam**, three districts viz. Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Sonitpur have been primarily affected. According to district authorities, 11 embankment breaches have been reported and approximately 800 villages have been affected. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has reported that 22 people have been killed. Approximately 9,000 people have taken shelter on raised roadways. The national highway 52 has been breached and communication is posing as a big problem. Relief work is being carried out by using country boats and rafts made from banana leaves. A total of 45 army boats have been put into action in the state to assist the district authorities.

The government's national disaster management authority is in touch with the state disaster management authorities in the affected states to identify the needs of the affected people. The government also has activated the NDRF in order to lead the search and rescue operations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As indicated in the previous information bulletin, the Indian Red Cross Society's (IRCS) disaster management centre at the IRCS national headquarters has been activated. The national disaster response team (NDRT) and state disaster response team (SDRT) members have been put on alert. The IRCS national headquarters has pre-positioned 45,000 non-food family packs as disaster preparedness (DP) stock, which is available at six strategically located regional warehouses. The national society has also kept five water purification units on standby at these regional warehouses, which can be deployed at short notice if required.

Table 1: DP stocks pre-positioned by the Assam state branch

SI No.	Items	Quantity
1	Hygiene kit	5,500
2	Jerry cans	2,000
3	Mason tool kits	500
4	Plumbing kits	500
5	Water tank	4 (1,000 litres each)
6	Mobile latrines	500 units
7	Kerosene	300 litres (approximately)

The IRCS is reviewing the situation on a daily basis and is in constant touch with the affected branches. A taskforce can be formed within the national society, if the situation worsens. The **IRCS' Assam state branch** has reported that the flood situation is likely to improve as no heavy rainfall has been reported during the few days prior to the date of reporting. The secretary of the Assam state branch has

directed the secretaries of the district branches to assess the relief material required so that the state branch can communicate this requirement to the IRCS national headquarters. All IRCS volunteers and community health workers are assisting the local authorities in carrying out relief work.

Table 2: Response capacity of the Assam state branch

SI No.	Items	Quantity
1	Boats	2 (1 rescue, 1 medical each)
2	District Disaster Response Team (DDRT)	60 members
3	State Disaster Response Team (SDRT)	30 members
4	National Disaster Response Team (NDRT)	3 members
5	First aid trained personnel	72 volunteers
6	Psychosocial support team (PSP)	3 teams
7	Hospital unit	4 (100 beds capacity each)

Following an overview of the Assam state branch's preparedness, as indicated in the previous information bulletin, tables 1 and 2 given here provide further details on this, both in terms of the pre-positioned DP stocks available with the state

branch, as well as the branch's current response capacity.

The **IRCS' Orissa state branch** has locally mobilised 5,000 polythene sheets that are stored at the state warehouses, ready to be deployed after the ongoing initial field assessment report is received. About 100 IRCS volunteers have been mobilized to work round-the-clock for relief distributions, particularly for the air dropping and distribution of food packets. Trained Junior and Youth Red Cross volunteers and volunteers from the Oxfam project have been providing first-aid and search and rescue services.

The Orissa state branch is leading the Inter Agency Group (IAG), which is carrying out the ongoing initial field assessment. In Balasore district, SDRT members have been deployed for the inter-agency assessment.

Similarly, in Jajpur district, DDRT members are engaged in relief distribution. District level coordination meetings of the IAG were organised in Balasore on 18th June and in Bhadrak on 19th June. A state level coordination meeting was organized by the Orissa State Disaster Management Authority on 19th June and was chaired by the chief secretary of the state. The honorary secretary and disaster management coordinator of the Orissa state branch attended the meeting and extended their support in complementing the government's initiatives with their volunteer strength and network at the community level for emergency operations.

Table 3: DP stocks pre-positioned by the West Bengal state branch

SI No.	Items	Quantity
1	Kitchen sets	200
2	Buckets	100
3	Mosquito nets	500
4	Towels	500
5	Dhoti (men's clothing item)	400 pieces
6	Stove	490

The IRCS' West Bengal state branch has mobilized its DDRT members in search and rescue operations. The table on the left provides details on the pre-positioned DP stocks available at the state branch warehouse.

The IRCS disaster management team and the International Federation's country office in India are monitoring the overall flood situation in the country and are in regular touch with the disaster management focal points from the affected state branches. The disaster management teams from the national society and the International Federation, along with the information focal point, are also producing daily flood updates for information sharing. The United Nations disaster management team is meeting regularly and sharing situation updates with Movement components. The SPHERE group members are also sharing information with each other. SPHERE has called for a managing body meeting on 24th June, with the floods being one of the main issues to be discussed.

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 International Federation's activities 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

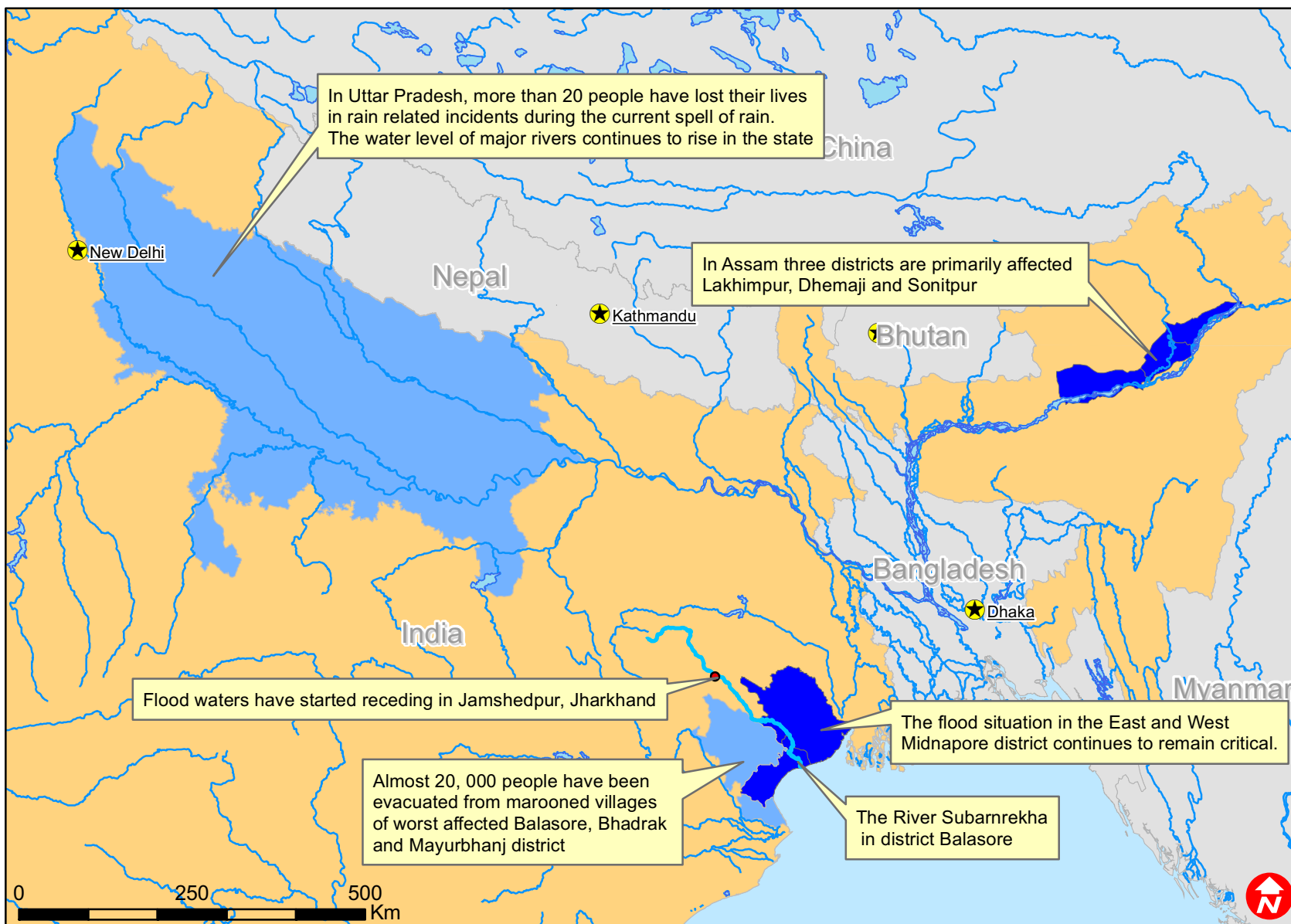
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[map below; click here to return to the title page](#)



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According to government sources 24 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours raising the total death toll to 93 from 69.