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Information bulletin

India: floods in northeast states

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



Volunteers of the Indian Red Cross Society's Bihar state disaster response team distribute relief cards among the affected communities to ensure that each family receives their fair share of relief goods. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society .

Due to monsoon rains, heavy flooding is affecting multiple states throughout India, with severe damage and large population displacement occurring, in particular in the northeast states of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar state has been particularly severely affected, with thousands of people forced from their homes. In this state, the situation is expected to continue to deteriorate. Uttar Pradesh has also been categorized by government sources as being affected by severe floods. Assam is currently categorized as a moderate flood site.

Current government figures indicate that over 5.2 million people have been affected by flooding in these states since the start of the monsoon season (June-August), and with the cyclone season now starting (September-November), the recovery of those who have been displaced is likely to be hampered by further inclement weather. In response to these urgent needs, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) activated its national disaster response teams as well as to launch a national appeal for support.

Click [here](#) for detailed contact information or [here](#) for a map of the affected regions.

The situation

Heavy rain throughout the monsoon season has plagued a number of states in northeast India, in particular Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. This year's monsoon season, which is normally between the beginning of July and the end of August, has brought extremely heavy rains in some districts, raising many rivers including the Bagmati, Burhi, Dhansiri, Gandak, Ganges, Ghanghra, Kosi and Punpun rivers to or above danger level, and causing severe flooding in many localities.

The table below shows the number of districts and people affected by flooding in the three heavily hit states. Despite the monsoon season coming to a close, as the rains continue to come, these numbers may also continue to rise.

State	Districts affected	People affected	Lives lost
Assam	12	911,080	11
Bihar	21	2,638,000	66
Uttar Pradesh	20	2,000,000	127
Total	53	5,549,080	204

Table 1: Overview of impacted states

Affected districts include:

Assam

Anglong, Barpeta, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Golaghat, Jorhat, Karbi- Sivsaagar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Sonitpur.

Recent rises in the rivers Jadhah and Gai have inundated at least 24 villages for the second time this monsoon season. This new flooding has affected a further 13,000 people and broken road links between some towns and villages. In addition, 43 embankments and 17 bridges as well as a primary rail link have been damaged. Medical teams have been deployed by the government to assist those affected, in an effort to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, which are common in flood affected regions.

Bihar

Begusara, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Gopalganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhubani, Madhepura, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnia, Samastipur, Saran, Saharsa, Sitamarhi, Supaul, Vaisahli, West Champaran.

The ongoing floods in Bihar are mainly due to a swollen river Ganges. To date, 1,822 villages and more than 2.6 million people have been affected. Though water has now started receding, many villages are still surrounded by water. In some places like Raghavpur (east) ward no. 13, river erosion has swept away houses.

Uttar Pradesh

Ajamgarh, Aligadh, Ambedkar Nagar, Badayu, Balia, Barabanki, Baraich, Bareilly, Bijnor, Faizabad, Farrukabad, Gajipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, J. P. Nagar, Kannoji, Kanpur, Kasiram Nagar, Khiri, Lakhimpur, Merut, Mujaffernagar, Muradabad, Pilibhit, Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Unnao.

Nearly 163,133 people spread across 810 villages have been affected; 14,731 houses have been damaged. In the last month alone, 125 lives have been lost due to floods.

Sitapur is one of the worst affected districts. Nearly 389,000 people throughout 193 villages have been affected, and there have been ten deaths. Fourteen relief camps were set up by state agencies, in which 3,160 people have taken shelter.

Barabanki is another severely affected district. Nearly 80,189 people across 102 villages have been affected and there has been one death. A total of 15 relief centres have been set up by state agencies in which 1,250 people have found shelter. The government has also supplied dry rations, tarpaulins, jerry cans, buckets, kerosene oil and mosquito nets.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A joint IRCS/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) assessment team was deployed on 2 September. As an assessment of the impact of flooding in Assam has already recently been carried out, this team focused its efforts on Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states. The results of this rapid assessment are being used to determine the course of response action, so that support provided matches actual needs.

IRCS currently expects to target 50,000 families (approximately 250,000 individuals) in total across these three states; those with the greatest need. State and district branch staff and volunteers have been mobilized to assist these families. The National Society also intends to launch a national appeal to raise the funds needed to deliver this operation.

IRCS volunteers are working in close cooperation with state authorities. In addition, disaster response teams have already been activated by the state branches of Assam and Bihar, and the Indian government's national disaster response force (NDRF) have also deployed 14 teams (or 314 personnel) to these three states.

As water is receding in many places, it is predicated that there would be chances of increase in waterborne diseases. This is mainly due to contamination of drinking water sources, and unsafe open defecations. There could be also chances of increase in vectorborne disease like malaria due to stagnant water in many places around the villages. Rehabilitation/decontamination of bore wells, access to water purification tablets and dissemination of information on how to use these tablets, as well as through improvements in sanitation practice, will be carried out to minimize the health problems during the coming days and weeks.

Assam

Following an assessment of impact of the floods carried out by IRCS in Assam state, 4,000 family packs consisting of clothing, kitchen sets, blankets, and buckets, amongst other items., as well as 6,000 water purification agent sachets were distributed. Although the waters have begun to recede in this state, waterborne diseases remains a cause for concern, which is why the provision of these purification agents is important.

Bihar

IRCS intends to reach 30,000 of the most vulnerable families in Bihar state. Relief supplies prepositioned at state and district branches have been dispatched to the affected districts for distribution. Already, more than 15,000 families have received family packs consisting of dhoti, saree, kitchen set, tarpaulin (to construct temporary shelter), bed sheet, cotton blanket, and a towel, to help them to begin to return their lives to normality. Some district branches are also providing hot cooked food to affected communities (see table 2 for details).

Item	Number
Tarpaulin sheet	17,222
Saree	11,605
Dhoti	12,335
Towel	8,150
Mosquito net	8,150
Bathing soap	5,000
Washing soap	5,000
Water purification tablets	300,000
Utensils (family pack)	960
Canvas sheeting	500

Table 2: Relief items distributed by IRCS in Bihar state

The state government has declared a relief package available for those affected. People who are marooned for seven days or more will receive INR 250 (CHF 4.60) cash assistance per family. For those whose homes have been damaged, INR 2, 000 (CHF 37) cash assistance will be offered in addition to the initial assistance of INR 250. The government is also distributing 50 kilos of wheat and 50 kilos of rice to the affected families.

The state disaster management authority has been closely monitoring the flood situation and releases update each evening.

Uttar Pradesh

A joint team comprised of national disaster response team and volunteers of the IRCS Uttar Pradesh state branch carried out assessment in the affected area from 3-5 September. During the assessment, the needs identified included shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene needs, as well as food relief in some villages. Following the assessment, IRCS intends to target 2,250 families in Uttar Pradesh, from among those with the greatest needs. The relief supplies to be distributed are listed in table 3.

Item	Number
Mosquito net (2 per family)	4,500
Mats (2 per family)	4,500
Bed sheets (2 per family)	4,500
Candles	2,250
Stove	2,250
Dry rations <i>10 kg rice, 10 kg wheat flour, 2 kg dal, 2 lts oil, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg jiggery</i>	2,250

Table 3: Planned distribution of relief items by IRCS in Uttar Pradesh state

Contact information

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The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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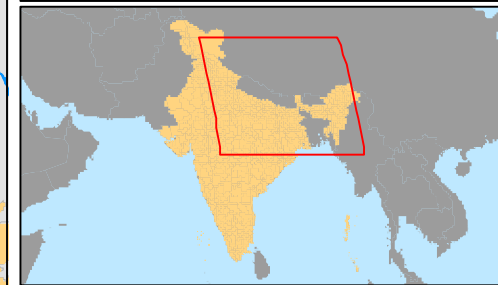
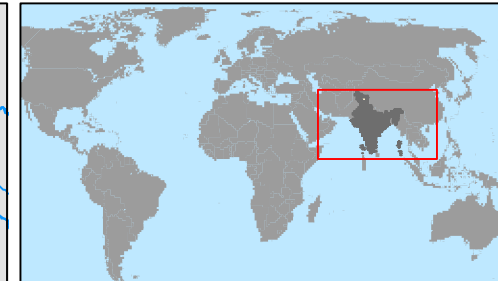
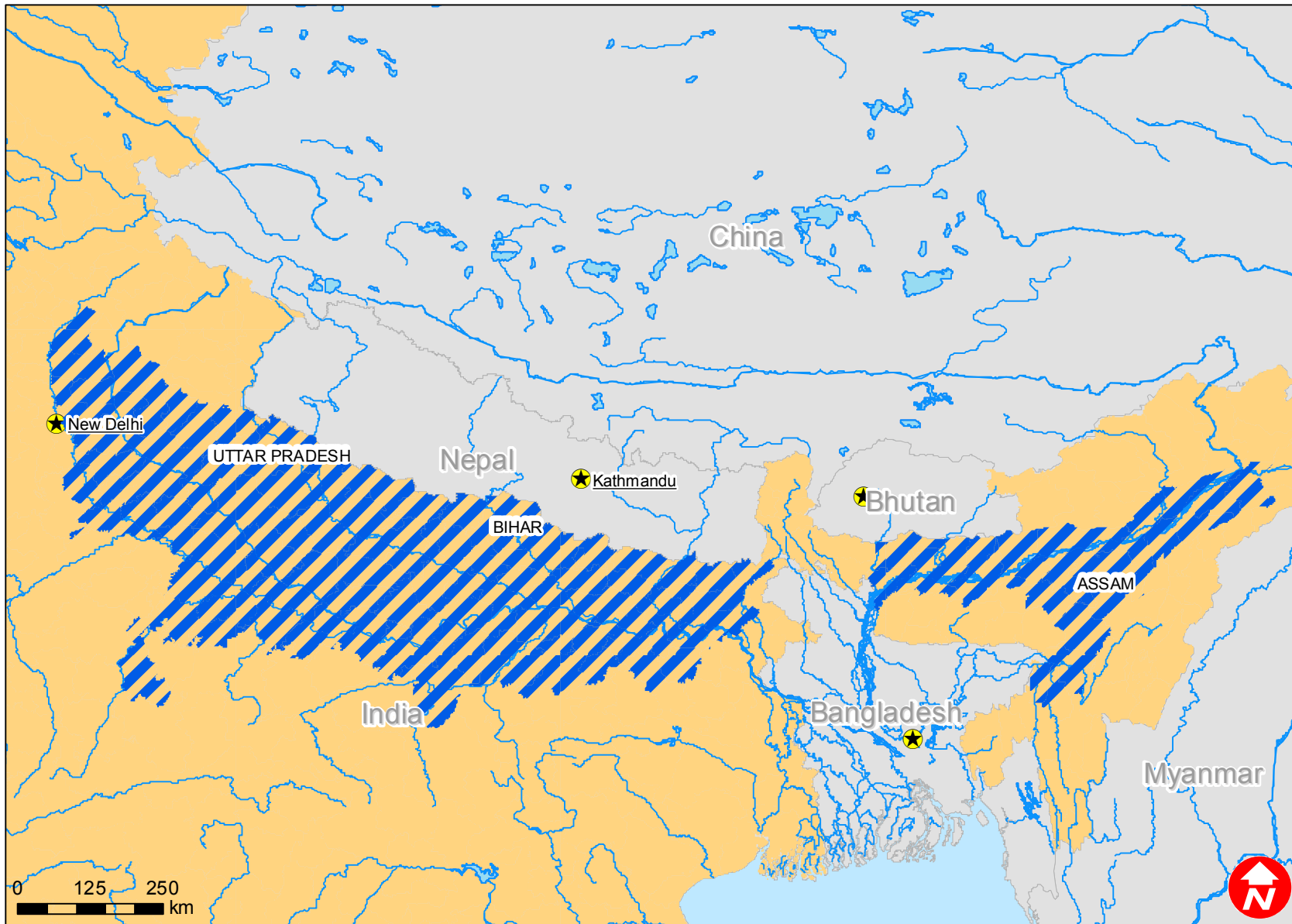




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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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India: Floods



-  Affected states
-  Capitals