Information bulletin n° 2; Glide n° FL-2019-000084-IND

Date of issue: 21 August 2019

Date of disaster: slow onset since 8 August 2019

Point of contact: Rina Tripathi, Advisor, Disaster Management, IRCS

Operation start date: -

Expected timeframe: -

Category of disaster: Orange

Host National Society: Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)

Number of people affected: 9,59,141 (approx.)

Number of people to be assisted: TBC

N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -

N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -

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), will seek funding thru DREF activation to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

Monsoon floods continue to ravage India. While the southern states of Karnataka and Kerala are still dealing with the destruction, northern India is now bracing for the worst.

There are six states reported to be affected by flood so far - Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. At least 251 people have died and over 20 people are missing in northern Indian states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, with several thousands evacuated. Dozens of homes in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district were washed away after a cloudburst. Schools have been shut after the India Meteorological Department predicted heavy rain in parts of Uttarakhand.

The Indian Army, the air force, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and state authorities have been carrying out rescue operations in various parts of the country. The Maharashtra and Karnataka dam authorities were forced to open sluice gates due to incessant rains, resulting in flooding downstream along the Krishna.

Situation analysis of affected states

Karnataka is dealing with a trail of destruction caused by monsoon rains. The human death toll has reached 76, while the figure is close to 1,000 for livestock. Many people have been shifted to relief camps and the bigger challenge now is rehabilitation.

In the western state of Maharashtra, the death toll has hit 50. Most of these casualties (34 deaths) are from its southeastern districts of Sangli and Kolhapur as per the government reports.
In Kerala alone according to the government reports, at least 121 people have died during the rains ensuing floods. Over a million volunteers have enrolled for cleaning work in flood-hit villages in the northern districts of the state. Volunteers from various organisations have identified over 15,000 spots in Wayanad. They are moving in batches and have started the cleaning mission. They will remove the mud and slush from the houses, clean wells and the locality. The state was still recovering from last year’s floods—the worst in a century with over 400 people dead—when calamity struck again this time.

In Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh, according to media reports more than 20 people have died and 12 injured due to heavy rainfall on 18 August.

Furthermore in Andhra Pradesh, more than 8,000 people have been evacuated and moved to 56 relief camps due to heavy discharge of floodwater from the upstream reservoirs of the Krishna basin. The situation worsened on 15 August, after 8 lakh\(^1\) cusecs\(^2\) of water were released from the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada.

**Government actions**

The Government of India has taken immediate action with regards to the floods where relief camps and distribution centres have been set up by administration in the affected districts. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been deployed for rescue operation. Local authorities are providing medical services and as well as food and household items distribution to the affected people.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

For the flood response, the IRCS state branches and all the district branches are working in close coordination with the district administration. District branches and volunteers/social emergency response volunteers (SERVs) are working in affected communities and providing rescue assistance. Red Cross volunteers are also providing first aid services, conducting distribution of drinking water, food and household items to flood-affected population and supporting local authorities in relief distribution. In addition, Red Cross volunteers are providing awareness Programme on flood preparedness, health precautions, hygiene and sanitation.

IRCS National Headquarters is in close coordination with IFRC Country Cluster Support Team in Delhi and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur on situation monitoring and is planning to seek funding thru Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) activation to provide support to the affected population.

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\(^1\)A lakh is a unit in the Indian numbering system equal to one hundred thousand

\(^2\)Cusec - a unit of flow (especially of water) equal to one cubic foot per second
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. 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.

The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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