

# 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: COMMUNAL UNREST IN GUJARAT**

20 March 2002

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*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 50,000*

*This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 has been released, and while the need for further resources currently is not anticipated, the possibility should not be discounted entirely. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update and, as circumstances demand, the regular updates on the India earthquake rehabilitation operation (appeal no 20/01).*

### ***The Situation***

Since 27 February, India's western state of Gujarat has been subjected to serious communal unrest and violence following the attack on an Ahmedabad bound passenger train at Godhra railway station, resulting in significant death and injury.

The situation has been diffused in Ahmedabad and no major incidents have been registered since yesterday (19 March). The city's curfew has been lifted in five of the eight areas where it had been imposed. However, military and police are still patrolling the old town in Ahmedabad. In addition there have been several security incidents in and around Godhra.

The estimated 32 relief camps in Ahmedabad remain full. Problems with sanitation have increased due to overcrowding, posing a considerable threat to the health of those who continue to seek refuge in the camps.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Gujarat state branch has extended its relief activities beyond the originally projected end date of 16 March. IRCS relief activities are being carried out in cooperation and coordination with the Gujarat government, and the branch will continue to distribute medical and relief items to 13 camps in and around Ahmedabad.

The IRCS has been 'recognized' by other local agencies because of the Gujarat branch's ability to work impartially among the affected community.

The three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in India have been in regular contact since the start of the crisis and, earlier this week, the overall situation was discussed in detail at a senior level meeting in Delhi, hosted by the IRCS Secretary General and attended by representatives of the ICRC and Federation.

**Relief**

The IRCs Gujarat state branch continues to distribute urgently needed food, medical supplies, blankets, sheets, hygiene items and clothing to between three and five camps per day. The latest figures, as of 15 March, are as follows;

Location	Number of beneficiaries	Number of Families	Number of Children	Location in city	Goods Distributed
<b>Tuesday, 5 March</b>					
Daruiapur Bahawir Hall	650	112	165	NE	Medical supplies, clothes, blankets
Shahibaug, Dariyakhan Ghummat, Municipal School	4'700	900	1'320	NE	Medical supplies, clothes, blankets
<b>Wednesday, 6 March</b>					
Shah Alam	6'500	1'100	1'400	SE	Medical supplies and food
Vatwa Village	2'000	400	600	SE	Medical supplies, clothes.
Vatwa Mosque	750	150	200	SE	Medical supplies
<b>Thursday, 7 March</b>					
Vatwa Kutb-e-Alam	750	150	200	SE	Medical supplies clothes, food
Vatwa al Ziya	2'000	400	600	SE	Medical supplies, clothes, food
Near Vatwa Canal	500	100	150	SE	Medical supplies, clothes, food
Dani Limda, Kishen Nagar	500	100	150	SE	Medical supplies, clothes, food
<b>Friday, 8 March</b>					
Bapunagar school	850	170	250	SE	Food, clothes
Bapunagar centre	8'000	1'500	2'200	SE	Food, clothes
<b>Saturday, 9 March</b>					
Geeta Mandhir	500	100	150	E	Food, clothes
Parikshit Lalnagar	400	50	75	E	Food, clothes
<b>Sunday, 10 March</b>					
Vatwa Canal	981	196	294	E	Food
Vatwa Ziya Maszid	1200-1500	240-300	450	E	Food
Vatwa Qutab-e-alam	622	124	186	E	Food
Idgah Asarwa	500	100	150	E	Food
Dariyapur	800	100	150	E	Food
<b>Tuesday, 12 March</b>					
Parikshit Nagar Area	1'700	360	520	E	Food, hygiene supplies
Kalupur Saryu Mandir	500	100	150	E	Food, blankets and hygiene supplies
<b>Wednesday, 13 March</b>					
Vatwa Mosque	750	150	200	SE	Blankets, clothes
Sifee Society Camp	290	48	130	SE	Blankets, clothes, medicines and food
Al-kuba Camp	700	140	185	SE	Medicines, hygiene supplies and food
Nagrik Seva Samiti	1'200	245	453	SE	Medicines, clothes, blanket and food.
Jahangir Nagar	2'000	400	600	SE	Medicines, food and hygiene supplies.
<b>Friday, 15 March</b>					
Idgah	500	100	150	E	Clothes
Sifee Society Camp	290	48	130	SE	Food, hygiene supplies
Shahibaug, Dariyakhan Ghummat, Municipal School	5'200	950	1'430	NE	Medical supplies

In addition on 17 and 18 March distributions were made by IRCS volunteers in camps located in Juhapura, Kankaria, Shah Alam, Chartoda and Patrawali Chand.

## Health

The camps, some of which are housing as many as 8,000 people, are not equipped with sufficient toilet facilities to meet the needs of the population. To date there have been no outbreaks of communicable diseases. Continued medical assistance is required for the treatment of burns and the provision of items such as antibiotics, cough syrups and bandages.

Immediate health needs of the affected population also include training in hygienic practices and psycho social support. In addition, training in sanitation, with an emphasis regarding waste water and garbage disposal, are also of some moment.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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