

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: TRAIN CRASH

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This information bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation



The accident is one of the biggest in the country this year.

Up to 90 people have been killed and 200 injured when a Delhi bound luxury passenger train derailed while crossing a 86 year old bridge in the Indian town of Bihar on Monday night, September 10. This is the country's biggest train accident this year. The high speed air-conditioned train, 2301 Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani Express had approximately 600 passengers on board when it jumped tracks while crossing a 300-foot-long bridge over the river Dhawe, 200 km from the Bihar state capital, Patna.

The train left Kolkata at 17:00 and travelling at a normal speed of 120 to 130 kmph derailed around 22:40, overturning sixteen carriages and sending one plunging 90 metres into the river below and leaving two others dangling from the bridge. Rescue personnel of the army and the Indian railways pulled 10 more bodies out of the badly mangled coach AS-2, the last one to be cut open on Wednesday making the death toll rise sharply from 75. It is expected that the death toll will cross the 100 mark as there is little chance of survival of passengers trapped in different places of the badly crushed coaches after 36 hours of the accident.

The continuing monsoon rains and the swollen river levels are hampering rescue work. The army and police have been mobilized to rescue victims of the crash. Already 325 people have been sent to Kolkata and Delhi in specially chartered trains. So far 50 bodies have been handed over to the relatives of the victims after identification. The causes of the accident are still being investigated. In India, almost 14,000 trains criss-cross the country everyday carrying more than 13 million passengers. On average there are 300 accidents a year. This accident is one of the biggest to occur since 1995 and is the latest tragedy to hit the state.

Bihar has been ravaged by floods and droughts in the past few months. Four hundred and twenty people have died in the floods that have affected more than 15 million people in the state.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Within hours of the accident, about 100 volunteers from Indian Red Cross district branches in Aurangabad and Gaya rushed to the site and were working with the authorities to recover bodies trapped in the mangled carriages. They provided first aid and carried the injured to the hospital. They were reinforced by a Red Cross team of eight people consisting of doctors and paramedic staff from Patna who reached the site in the early hours of Monday followed by another assessment team later in the afternoon.

The Red Cross workers and volunteers distributed over 1,700 bottles of mineral water and 500 food packets to the survivors of the crash, about 100 victims received clothes and 50,000 rupees worth of medicine and 50 units of blood were donated and 50 mosquito nets were given to the injured admitted in different hospitals in Bihar.

The Indian Red Cross national headquarters is closely monitoring the development of the situation and is in regular contact with the state and district branches.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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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](http://www.ifrc.org)

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

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