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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) India: Monsoon Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN012
GLIDE n° FL-2013-000070-IND
23 June 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 479,715 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Due to heavy monsoon rains which started on 16 June, flash floods have affected tens of thousands of people in the state of Uttarakhand, in northern India. The floods have severely affected the Char Dham pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, which have been the most impacted. As of 22 June, according to the BBC more than 500 people have



Indian Red Cross Society first medical responder volunteers setting up tents in Uttarakhand state. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society

been reported to have died in Uttarakhand, which is the worst hit state. Some 78,000 people have been left stranded and hundreds have lost their homes. The death toll may increase as further responses are being made. The Uttarakhand state home secretary have said there is a potential for the death toll to go higher as the process of recovering bodies has not yet started in many places that are inaccessible. Additionally, the affected regions are presently cut off and the means of communication are not working.

People have reported that milk, vegetables and other commodities are not available in the affected region. It has also been reported that rain water is being collected by people for drinking purposes as there has

been no potable water available for drinking purposes. Meteorologists predict more rain for both the northern Indian states in the coming months which could further exacerbate the current situation and hamper any relief operations.

The Red Cross Red Crescent will support some 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) through its relief actions while conducting further needs assessments.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 31 December 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 March 2014).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Since 16 June, heavy monsoon rain and wind have battered the two northern states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. This year, the rains are at least twice as heavy in northwest and central India as the annual monsoon rains are more widespread and earlier than expected. This has left 78,000 people stranded (Source: NDTV, 19 June 2013). The media also reported of tourists who have no way of fleeing the areas, leaving all those affected with very little food and some with no shelter. Those affected include pilgrims making their way to four religious shrines in the areas.



Local news media reported that 15 landslides have destroyed roads across Uttarakhand, cutting the region off from the rest of the country and making it

nearly impossible for the affected population to move to safer areas. BBC news is reporting more than 500 dead. The death toll is expected to increase once the process of recovering bodies takes place. Potable water is not available and there is a scarcity of shelter.

A village in the state of Uttarakhand, India, being submerged by flood water. Rivers in the state have overflowed due to the continuous rains. **Photo:** The New Indian Express

To date, some 9,000 people have been rescued and nearly 5,600 soldiers had been deployed to help those who have been impacted by floods, which has been termed by the prime minister as being the most distressing in recent years. According to the State Interagency Group Uttarakhand (<http://www.sphereindia.org.in/Download/Sitrep-3%20Flood%20Incident%20in%20Uttarakhand.pdf>), about 1,000 houses were damaged/ washed away in the floods in seven districts in Uttarakhand, though the figures will change as the mostly affected areas are mostly in high mountains with altitude above 3,000m.

Coordination and partnerships

Both the government and Red Cross volunteers have geared up the relief efforts in the impacted flood areas. Following an aerial survey of the flood-hit region, the prime minister announced an INR 10 billion (approximately CHF 148,539,000) aid package for Uttarakhand, which include the huge usage for emergency evacuation (airlifting) and recovery. Military helicopters have been leading rescue operations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. A state level Inter-Agency Group (IAG) called for an emergency meeting of core team members at the Plan India office in Dehradun on 18 June. The purpose was to discuss the situation and action ahead. Ten IAG staff members have been deployed for search, rescue, and

evacuation. District administrations of all the affected districts have issued an alert and have evacuated the population living in close proximity to the riverbanks.

The Red Cross Red Crescent is providing relief support actions in coordination with the on-going rescue operations led by the Government of India and other agencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In view of the devastating impact of the heavy rain fall in the state of Uttarakhand, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) state branch secretary general held a meeting on 19 June with senior officials from IRCS national headquarters and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Following the discussion, a joint team made up of personnel from IRCS national headquarters and IFRC has been sent to Dehradun to carry out situational assessments and assist the IRCS Uttarakhand state branch to coordinate with the trained first medical responders to initiate the disaster response operation. This team will also help the state branch to document achievements or learning from the deployment of the first medical responders.

A meeting to coordinate and mobilise volunteers was held in the state branch where around 30 volunteers participated. Volunteers committed their time for relief operation activities. It is planned that one team will move to Uttarkashi from Dehradun on 21 June in order to assess and coordinate relief efforts. The state branch has also requested the IRCS national headquarters to deploy four national disaster response team (NDRT) members to Pithoragarh for assessment and for coordination of relief efforts.

There has been electricity and telecommunication failure in the district due to strong winds and continuous rain and flooding. The situation worsened and created havoc as people are stranded and cannot contact their relatives to inform them of their situation. In effect to this, the first medical responders have been providing FNS and tracing services to people stranded in their respective regions. The first medical responders have also been collecting data on the stranded people in their respective regions. To date, 50 messages have been sent out to family members of the stranded population. The IRCS Uttarakhand state branch received a tracing request from the state of Pondicherry regarding a group of 49 pilgrims who were initially classified as missing. However, the location of the pilgrims was found, and medical assistance for them is currently being organised by the first medical responders.

Due to electricity failure, water supply to households has also been disrupted. No potable water has been available for drinking purposes. To date, IRCS national headquarters has one water treatment unit on standby which can be deployed to Uttarakhand when conditions allow.

As part of the immediate response to the flood affected areas, 50 family tents, 300 stoves, 2,000 family packs and 1,000 tarpaulin sheets will be dispatched from Bahadurgarh warehouse to the Uttarakhand state branches. Red Cross-trained first medical responders and volunteers have initiated family news service (FNS) and tracing services for people stranded in their regions.

The needs

To date, the Red Cross Red Crescent has identified the following urgent needs:

- Shelter provision (family tents and tarpaulins)
- Non-food relief items (inclusive of clothes (sarees and lungies), bed sheets, blankets)
- Safe drinking water

Transportation is needed to deploy state disaster response team (SDRT)/ national disaster response team (NDRT)/ national disaster water response team (NDWRT) members and volunteers, as well as to transport water purification units.

The proposed operation

This DREF is launched in support of the activities undertaken by IRCS. This DREF operation will serve to provide immediate relief assistance to those affected and continue with further assessments as access to the affected areas increases:

1. Needs assessments
2. Emergency relief items distribution to 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries)
3. Access to safe water for 3,000 people

The proposed operation is based on the initial assessments conducted by IRCS and available information from the Government of India. At this point, there is no requirement for the health component to be part of the proposed operation.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) are met through the distribution of non-food items.

Outputs: 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) received basic shelter and non-food items.

Proposed Activities:

- Deployment of NDRT/NDWRT/SDRT/volunteers to conduct needs assessments, prepare lists of beneficiaries, and identify distribution points.
- Mobilization of stocks from the regional warehouses – taking into consideration the destroyed infrastructure and difficult access.
- Distribution of non-food items (5,000 family packs).
- Distribution of 450 family tents.
- Replenishment of the distributed stocks.
- Regular monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.
- Conduct Lessons Learnt workshop after the completion of the operation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases have been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Outputs:

- **Increased access to safe drinking water to the flood affected 3,000 people.**
- **Improve hygiene knowledge and behaviour of 15,000 people affected by the flood.**
- Detailed assessment to identify villages for intervention.
- Mobilize and installation of 1 water treatment unit in assessed location through NDWRT when conditions allow.
- Establishing water distribution system.
- Training volunteers on hygiene promotion.
- Hygiene promotion activities for affected community by the IRCS volunteers.
- Monitoring of use of household level water treatment and storage.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Please send all funding pledges to zonerms.asiapacific@ifrc.org

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Click here

1. Revised Emergency Appeal budget **below**
2. Map **below**
3. Click **here** to return to the title page

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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

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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DREF OPERATION

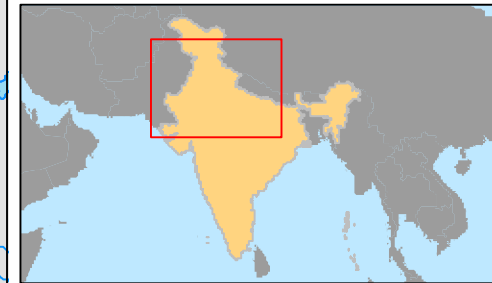
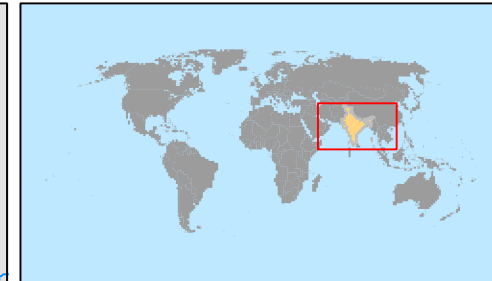
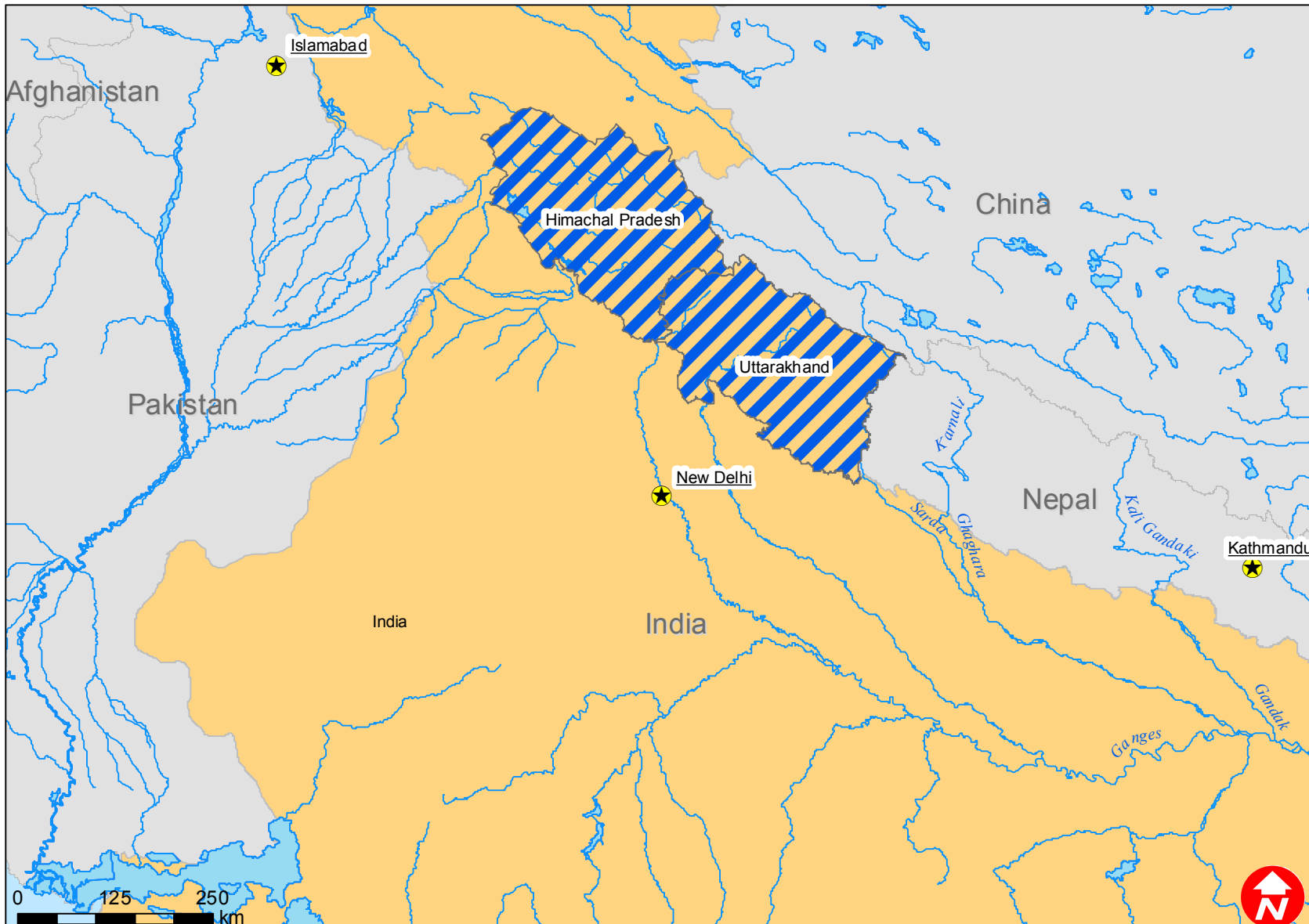
22/06/2013


MDRIN012 India : Monsoon Flash Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	173,250
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,212
Other Supplies & Services	232,950
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	412,412
Storage, Warehousing	2,050
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,106
Logistics Services	18,279
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	23,435
Volunteers	8,300
Total PERSONNEL	8,300
Workshops & Training	2,174
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,174
Travel	3,106
Information & Public Relations	621
Communications	155
Financial Charges	47
Other General Expenses	187
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	4,116
Programme and Services Support Recovery	29,278
Total INDIRECT COSTS	29,278
TOTAL BUDGET	479,715



India: Monsoon Flash Floods



 Affected areas