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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
Operation update n° 02
10 July 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.

Period covered for this update: 27 June - 8 July 2013

Summary: CHF 479,715 was 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).

Continuous rains have been hampering the relief work every day. Road networks are yet to be cleared for heavy vehicles so relief material can be transported and delivered to the disaster affected victims. Access is becoming a big challenge in this operation.

An estimated 500,000 people were affected, and about 5,000 people are dead or found missing in the flooding so far. Government officials confirm that the death toll could rise as more bodies are recovered from remote areas that have been inaccessible. During the period under review, about 105,412 people have been rescued.

This flood is the heaviest and deadliest in 80 years for the state of Uttarakhand. The continuous rain has caused water levels to rise and swollen rivers have swept away entire villages where travellers, pilgrims and local people were left stranded. The rainfall

received in two days was equal to the normal total rainfall Uttarakhand receives in a monsoon season.



IRCS NDWRT members setting up NORIT water treatment unit in Uttarkashi. **Photo:** IFRC/Stephen Ryan

May to the beginning of July is the peak tourist and pilgrimage season, where hundreds of thousands of Hindus make a pilgrimage to the four temple towns in Uttarakhand before the monsoons arrive in July.

Many parts of Uttarakhand remain cut off as more than 1,000 roads have been destroyed and landslides continue to occur following intermittent rain storms. Communication lines were also down, adding to the confusion hampering relief operations where the only means of access was by helicopter to access the scores of stranded pilgrims.

Food supplies and access to potable and clean water remain a challenge as supply routes and water sources are contaminated with debris, dead animals and corpses. The lack of shelter is also an issue for those stranded. The forecast of continued rains in the state is causing the situation to worsen.

Partners who contributed to this DREF operation includes Belgium Red Cross – Flanders, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, Spanish government, Tsunami residual funds and Echo. Details of the contribution to the DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

The situation

It has been 21 days since the disaster hit Uttarakhand state. Persistent rains have been hampering the relief work every day. Road networks are yet to be cleared for heavy vehicles so that the relief material can be transported and delivered to the disaster affected victims. The government has taken the initiative (to prevent epidemics in the affected areas) for mass cremation of the dead bodies by a team of 70 experts and trained personnel.

Fresh spells of rain in parts of Uttarakhand on 8 July damaged several houses in Chamoli district and hampered relief operations. Reports stated that helicopters were grounded at various places and were unable to transport rations to the affected villages. Several villages, particularly in three districts — Rudraprayag, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh — are on the verge of severe shortage of food and supplies as they are practically cut off from roads.

An estimated 500,000 people were affected and about 5,000 people are reported to have been killed or missing in the deluge that inflicted heavy damage on vast tracts of land, especially in Kedarnath valley. A total of 105,412 people have been rescued by the combined military and air force effort so far.

Table 1: Preliminary disaster figures of Uttarakhand state dated 03.07.2013 received from Uttarakhand state Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC) by IRCS Uttarakhand state branch

		Key Figures
1.	Affected districts	13
2.	Affected persons	approx.500,000
3.	Affected villages	4,200
4.	Person injured	3,119
5.	Number of pukka houses completely damaged	948
6.	Number of pukka houses severely and partially damaged	1,516
7.	Numbers of cattle shed damaged	649
8.	Total roads destroyed due to disaster	1,840
9.	Total villages where the connectivity snapped	4,200
10.	Total drinking water schemes damaged	968
11.	Total villages still cut off from power	444

As of the reporting date, the meteorological department has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall for another 24 hours, with the southern region of the state expected to get up to 50 mm of rain.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Red Crescent is providing relief and first medical response support actions in coordination with the on-going rescue operations led by the Government of India and other agencies. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters is closely coordinating with the state branch in order to extend timely assistance to the people affected by floods in Uttarakhand. At the state and district level, coordination



Access has been a challenge in the Uttarakhand flood relief operation. Landslides and the absence of a road in Munsivari, Pithoragarh district is hampering the logistical part of the operation. **Photo:** IFRC/Stephen Ryan.

mechanisms have been established with the government to ensure that resources and information can be shared efficiently.

On 4 July a task force meeting was called by the IRCS secretary general at national headquarters to discuss on the flood relief operation and funding update. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) head of India office made an overall presentation on the funding situation of the flood relief operation.

Since the onset of the disaster, the Indian prime minister had announced an INR 10 billion (approximately CHF 148,539,000) aid package for Uttarakhand,

which included the usage for emergency evacuation (airlifting) and recovery.

International response to this disaster has been positive, with the Japanese government pledging USD 200,000 (approximately CHF 190,000) towards the IFRC India country plan in response to the floods.

Other partners and donors that have contributed to the flood response operation include Belgium Red Cross – Flanders, Red Cross Society of China (via the Chinese ambassador), Italian Red Cross and Vodafone India Foundation.

To date, ICRC has donated 1,100 body bags which have been distributed to authorities in Uttarakhand.

Shelter, access to medicines and food are the most urgent needs identified. Sanitation and problems related to decomposed bodies pose a huge public health risk.

The state government has established relief camps at different sites in the districts of Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag and Chamoli. Relief camps are also established in Kedarnath (Guptkashi, Phata and Agastmuni), Joshimath, Srinagar and Uttarkashi area. However, not all those affected can come to these relief camps because they are stranded at many places where the roads are damaged or under threat of landslides. The Uttarakhand state government has established a disaster “Missing Cell” to establish contact with people reported missing during the recent flash floods in Uttarakhand.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

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 315 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.

Progress towards outcomes:

- So far, four national disaster response team (NDRT)/national disaster watsan response team (NDWRT) members have been deployed to Uttarkashi and Pithoragargh districts to carry out need assessment. In Pithoragargh it was found that Darchula and Munsiyari *tehsils* were the worst affected by the flash floods. Balwakot, Nayabasthi, and Ghoti were the most inaccessible villages due to damaged roads where the assessment teams had to walk 5-8 kms to reach these villages to carry out the assessment. Local population have been living in tents and the local government have been providing them with food rations. Five Red Cross-trained first medical responders (FMRs) have been working closely and assisting the local people in temporary shelters. The team reported of water contamination in the houses and camps in the affected areas.
- Since the onset of the disaster up to the moment, more than 200 FMRs have been providing psychosocial support, family news service (FNS) and tracing services to people stranded in their respective regions. In Rishikesh, the IRCS tracing office and DM coordinator started a "MAY I HELP YOU" centre whereby FMR volunteers were trained in FNS to register "I AM ALIVE" messages and tracing requests. About 173 tracing requests were collected from the family members about the missing people for Kedarnath, Rambara, and Gourigund camps. Additionally, the team has been working very closely with the local government hospitals and police station for collecting information on missing persons.
- In Beach Kahta village FMRs assisted in collecting 15 missing person details out of which 12 were confirmed dead by local panchayat administration. This information was already been conveyed by FMR to the family members of the deceased.
- So far, IRCS volunteers have been able to pitch 44 tents near *vikas bhawan* in Joshiyara in Uttarkashi district. This area is being set up as a Red Cross camp. Construction of latrines in the camp site has been completed. Additionally, electricity lighting arrangements at this camp site is planned.
- A health camp was organized by FMRs in Maneri village, Uttarkashi district. The IRCS district secretary along with a Japanese Red Cross representative visited the camp via helicopter and provided health care services and health check up to 85 patients and distributed non-food items (NFIs) to about 18 affected families.
- The IFRC emergency communication delegate has been deployed to the field to capture videos and pictures of the IRCS flood response operations. Some interesting stories from the field have been captured and shared with the communication department in Geneva and Kuala Lumpur.
- Of the 2,000 family packs that have been sent to the Uttarakhand state branch, 362 family packs have been distributed among the affected population in Uttarkashi district. Didsari is one of the villages in Uttarkashi where the relief items are distributed. The Red Cross volunteers had to walk 11 kms before reaching Didsari for distributing the relief material.
- A logistics delegate has been deployed in the field to set up a logistical bridge and pipeline where up to 5,000 families will be assisted.
- An order has been placed to procure 5,000 family packs under the DREF operation towards replenishment of distributed stocks and prepare for further flooding in the monsoon period.
- The table below shows the items that have been distributed to date.

Table 2: Disaster Relief Materials distributed to districts (2013-14) as of 7 July 2013 by IRCS, in Uttarakhand

Sl.No.	Relief Items	Uttarakashi	Rudrprayag	Chamoli	Pithoragarh	Pauri	Total	
1	Blankets	615	1,150	800	750	200	3,515	
2	Tarpaulin	275	400	240	200	10	1,125	
3	Plastic buckets	100	200	240	300		840	
4	Kerosene stoves		50	73	150		273	
5	Kitchen sets	200	300	200	300		1,000	
6	Tents	80	125	90	200		495	
7	Bed sheets	200	730	200	300		1,430	
8	Towels	400	600	200	604		1,804	
9	Sarees	300	700	200	600		1,800	
10	Gents dhoti	100	600	200	200		1,100	
11	Hurricane lantern	48	84	48	48		228	
12	Mosquito nets		400	200	100		700	
13	Body bags	1,100 Body bags handed over to SSP, Dehradun						1,100
14	Squatting plate	30					30	
15	Kurta pyjama		200		350		550	
16	Boys kurta				195			
17	Salwar Kkmeez		100		100		200	
18	Assorted garments		500		370		870	
19	Norit Water Treatment Unit	1	2				3	
20	Hand Pump Operated Water Treatment Plant		1		2		3	

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.

Progress towards outcome:

- One NORIT water treatment unit has been installed in Uttarkashi by 15 FMRS. One T11 (11,000 litre capacity) water storage tank has been installed. Distribution of treated water has been delivered to 8,000 people.
- Another two NORIT water treatment units have been deployed to Guptakashi and Phata village. However, due to logistics challenges these units will be installed when the conditions allow.
- Four NDWRT members are being deployed to the field as of 8 July 2013 and two NDWRT members have completed their assignment and returned to their respective states.
- Two man pack units have been made operational in Guptakashi and Pithoragarh.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

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1. Revised Emergency Appeal budget [below](#)
2. 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.

DREF OPERATION

10/07/2013

MDRIN012 India : Monsoon Flash Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	119,700
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,267
Other Supplies & Services	270,667
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	396,634
Storage, Warehousing	2,068
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,499
Logistics Services	13,981
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	24,548
International Staff	11,500
Volunteers	7,400
Total PERSONNEL	18,900
Workshops & Training	2,193
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,193
Travel	3,133
Information & Public Relations	2,989
Communications	157
Financial Charges	376
Other General Expenses	470
Shared Office and Services Costs	1,037
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,162
Programme and Services Support Recovery	29,278
Total INDIRECT COSTS	29,278
TOTAL BUDGET	479,715