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Information bulletin India/Nepal: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1

GLIDE n° [FL-2013-000070-IND](#) and [FL-2013-000070-NPL](#)

20 June 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indian Red Cross Society and Nepal Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), have determined that external assistance is not required, and are therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



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.

[<click here to view the maps of the affected areas in India or Nepal, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

Due to heavy monsoon rains, flash floods have affected tens of thousands of people in Uttarakhand region, in the northern part of India. The floods have severely affected the Char Dham pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, which have been the most impacted. According to Reuters, 150 people have died in Uttarakhand, which was the worst hit state. Some 78,000 people have been left stranded and hundreds have lost their homes. The death toll may increase as the affected regions are presently cut off and the means of communication are not working. The 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.

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. Red Cross-trained first medical responders and volunteers have initiated family news service (FNS) and tracing services for people stranded in their regions.

In Nepal, heavy floods and landslides triggered by incessant rain since 15 June caused serious damage in the western, mid-western and the far western regions of the country. To date, the disaster has displaced

231 families (1,155 people) and affecting 837 families (4,175 people). A total of 25 people have died, four injured and 11 missing.

In India and Nepal, people have reported that no milk, vegetables and other commodities are available in the affected region. It has been reported that rain water is being collected by people for drinking purposes as there have been no portable water available for drinking purposes. Meteorologists predict more rain for both the northern Indian states and the western, mid-western and far western regions of Nepal in the coming days.

The situation

India



A view of the Hindu holy town of Kedarnath from a helicopter after a flood, in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand. **Photo:** AFP.

Heavy monsoon rain and wind for four days 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 covered the whole country faster than usual. This has left 78,000 people stranded. (Source: NDTV, 19 June 2013). The news station also reported of tourists who have no way of fleeing the areas, leaving visitors with very little food and some with no shelter, including hundreds of pilgrims making their way to the four shrines.

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. On 20 June, Reuters reported 150 people have died, and 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 food and shelter.

To date, some 9,000 people have been rescued and nearly 5,600 soldiers had been deployed to help those have been ravaged by floods, which has been termed by the prime minister as being the most distressing.

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 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.

Nepal

The early monsoon triggered heavy rainfall throughout the country. The rain, which started from 15 June, caused massive flooding in the far and mid-western regions. Due to the heavy rainfall, the water level in many rivers, mainly the Mahakali, Karnali, Seti, and Babai, has excessively increased. The water level in Karnali river has risen and exceeded by 2.90 metres above the danger level (10.80 metre). According to information from the Government of Nepal, 268.60mm rainfall was recorded in Karnali river.

The overflow from Mahakali river affected many areas in Darchula and Kanchanpur districts. The Darchula district headquarters was badly affected. The flood has washed away 14 government office buildings and service centres that included part of the district hospital, the district education office, the District Forest Office, and Soil Conservation office. Additionally, many public and private houses are swept away whereas almost 300 families living in the area are in vulnerable condition. The district level security forces are engaged in the evacuation process in that area.

Flood from the Karnali river has affected more than four village development committees (VDCs) in Kailali district. The same river, which caused floods in Kalikot, also washed away many houses, a suspension bridge and an electrical transformer. The Karnali river also caused massive floods in Dodhara and Chandani VDCs and one ward of Bhimdutt Municipal area of Kanchanpur districts. Road access to these VDCs is impossible, with the floodwater covering almost all of Chandani VDC.



Family members making their way from their flooded homes to drier and safer land in the far-western region of Nepal. **Photo:** thenews.com.pk

The landslide that occurred in remote area of Humla district near the Nepal-China border killed four people and fully damaged 13 homes. Due to the remote location and the lack of transportation service by land, the rescue operation has become very difficult. The district level security forces, jointly with the Chinese police, has been intensively involved in the rescue operation.

To date 25, people have lost their lives, 11 are still missing, and 837 families (4,175 people) have been affected by the floods and landslides. Out of the total affected, 231 families (1,155 people) are now displaced. The transportation service by land, communication and electricity supply in Darchula, Humla and Kalikot are disrupted, making contact to the rest of the country difficult. However, the additional information from the affected district is being received and the number of affected families is likely to increase. The rescue, evacuation and relief distribution in all the affected areas is on-going from the government, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and other agencies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

India

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 coordinate with the trained first medical responders and initiate 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. 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 populace. 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 portable water has been available for drinking purposes. To date, IRCS national headquarters has dispatched one NOMAD unit to Uttarakhand.

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.

Items	Request from State branch	Stock Position at Bahadurgarh	Proposed items from Bahadurgarh warehouse
Family Tent	50 pieces	4,120 pieces	50 pieces
Stove	300 pieces	8,301 pieces	300 pieces
Family Packs	2,000	4,200	2,000
Tarpaulin	1,000	4,756	1,000

Nepal

The NRCS have mobilized their district disaster response and first aid teams to the affected areas. Jointly with the district level security forces, the response teams are heavily engaged in rescuing people who are trapped in the flooded area, evacuating them to a safe location. Likewise, they are also involved in assessing the situation and gathering information about the impact along with the need of the affected population and distributing relief items to the beneficiaries. All concerned district chapters are coordinating response services in close coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC).

So far, NRCS has distributed non-food relief item (NFRI) sets to 11 families (66 beneficiaries). The distribution of NFRI is on-going in all affected districts and the district chapters' volunteers and response team members are distributing the materials to the remaining families.

The NRCS national headquarters has called an emergency meeting of staff and assigned staff members to coordinate the response operation in accordance with the monsoon preparedness plan developed by NRCS in May. The national headquarters has suspended its development work for one week. The staff members working in the disaster management department are currently engaged in coordinating with the concerned district chapters, collecting information from districts, consolidating the situation updates and sharing the reports with national and international level stakeholders on a daily basis. The national headquarters has dispatched 20 NFRI sets, 400 pieces of blankets and 400 pieces of tarpaulin to Darchula district, by helicopter that was managed from Ministry of Home Affairs.

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 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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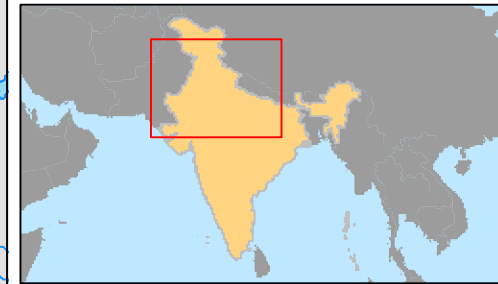
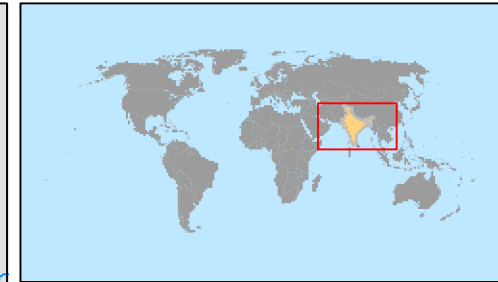
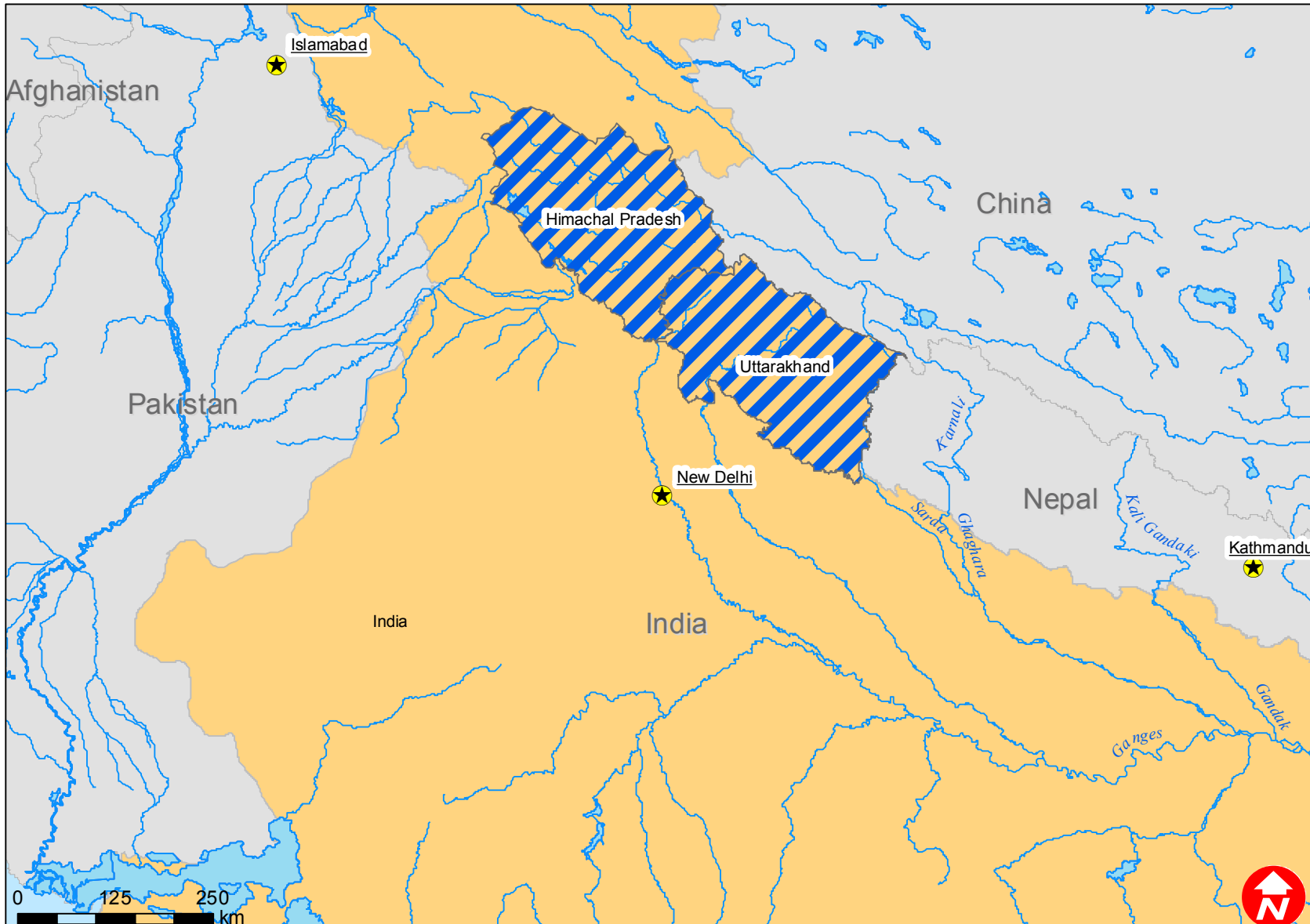



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



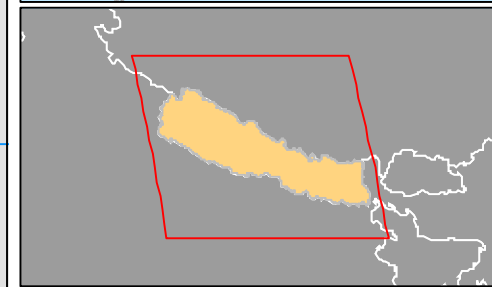
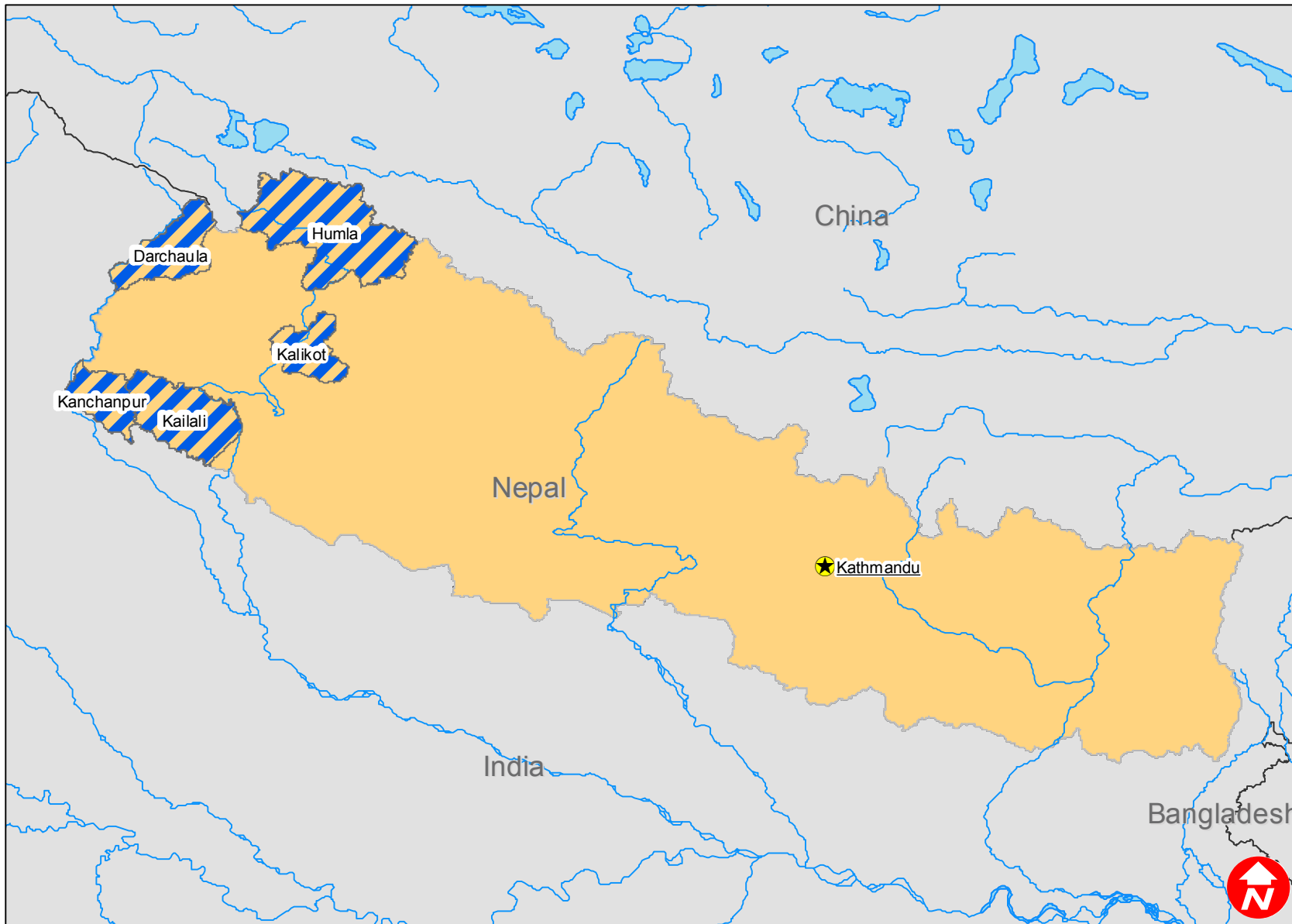
India: Flash Floods





 Affected areas



Nepal: Flash Floods



-  Affected areas
-  Capitals