

INDIA/GUJARAT: EARTHQUAKE

7 February 2001

appeal no. 04/2001

situation report no. 7

period covered: 5 - 6 February 2001

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) / Federation activities in support of the earthquake victims are continuing to gain momentum. The emergency response hospital in Bhuj has treated a total of 748 patients and 25 aircraft have flown in 1,000 tonnes of relief supplies since the start of the operation. The sanitation situation remains a major concern and the IRCS/Federation has set up an early warning system to preempt a potential spread of epidemics.

The context

At 08.50 hours on Friday, 26 January, a series of powerful earthquakes struck Gujarat state in western India, peaking at a massive 7.9 on the Richter scale, with tremors being felt across several states as well as in Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay) and in neighbouring Pakistan. The epicentre of the quake was 20 km north-east of the town of Bhuj (population of 150,000), the headquarters of Gujarat's Kutch district while, at the same time, seriously affecting all the area within the range of 100 km from the epicentre including Ahmadabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat.

Infrastructure has been severely damaged, resulting in large scale collapse of buildings, mine cave-ins, train derailments and power failure, cutting off the water supply. Some 90 per cent of the buildings in Bhuj were severely damaged and 10 per cent have collapsed completely. A series of aftershocks has hit the region, with 19 registering over five on the Richter scale. Many people have left the area in search of shelter and food. Those who remain are mostly still sleeping outside and the nights are cold. Therefore, there is a continuing demand for tents, plastic sheeting and blankets. According to the local authorities, there are adequate stocks of medicines to meet the needs of survivors of the earthquake.

The latest figures presented by the federal government on casualties in the affected area of Gujarat rose to 16,480 deaths and 68,478 injured. It is estimated that approximately 37 million people of a total population of 42 million (1991 census) have been affected by this earthquake in different ways. According to the government's latest estimates, more than 200,000 houses have been completely demolished and some 400,000 partially damaged.

Latest events

According to government sources, 22,500 troops have been deployed in Bhuj and Ahmadabad and the army continues to support the overall emergency effort by clearing rubble, liming the area, unloading relief supplies and performing medical services. The international agencies and NGOs are turning their attention to a more comprehensive relief operation as well as to rehabilitation.

Faced with criticism, the state government has started looking into the issue of construction norms as it is common belief that sub-standard material was used in high rise construction resulting in so many deaths. The Gujarat forest department has taken up "selective deforestation" in the state to meet the demand for wood for cremations.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Overview •

The International Federation seeks CHF 25.5 million in cash, kind and services to assist 300,000 beneficiaries for four months in an effort to support the Indian Red Cross Society activities in the most affected areas in the district of Kutch, state of Gujarat.

Operating from the Red Cross compound which was built during the first week following the disaster in the town of Bhuj, the International Federation is presently supporting the IRCS with the Norwegian/Finnish Red Cross emergency response referral hospital with 350 beds, the German Red Cross emergency response water/sanitation unit, the French Red Cross water/sanitation team with water treatment kits, the British Red Cross logistics emergency response team and a telecommunications emergency response team from the Austrian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. A Spanish Red Cross emergency response basic health care unit is expected by Friday, 9 February.

At the moment, around 150 patients, mostly with infected injuries, are treated daily in the referral hospital while more serious cases (52) have been hospitalised. Surgical operations are also performed on daily basis with the number of cases daily varying between three and 10.

The emergency operation will be followed by a longer term rehabilitation effort with special emphasis on disaster preparedness.

Indian Red Cross Society •

The National Society is currently mobilising additional Red Cross volunteers as well as medical staff, doctors and nurses from all over the country.

Health •

On 6 February, 150 outpatients were treated at the Red Cross hospital in Bhuj. There are presently 52 hospitalised patients and 10 surgical operations were performed during the day. In total, the Red Cross emergency response referral hospital has treated 748 patients since it opened on 1 February. The Japanese Red Cross hospital treated 106 outpatients on 6 February, of whom some 75% were new

patients. Some 200 ambulances, including IRCS vehicles, are operating in the region in order to transport the injured to hospitals and clinics.

Water-sanitation •

The French Red Cross water/sanitation team which arrived on Sunday, 4 February carried out an assessment in Anjar and Bhachau, together with the Federation water and sanitation coordinator. The surveys indicate that there are no needs for water treatment in either of these places. Therefore, the team returned to Bhuj for a further meeting with the local authorities in a joint effort to identify the worst affected area in need of clean water. Nevertheless, the overall sanitation situation and the need for distribution of water remain of particular concern.

Relief distributions •

Yesterday, 6 February, using 17 trucks, distributions of 120 metric tons of non-food relief items took place.

Additional guards may be needed to tighten security measures and guard the warehouses as well as accompany trucks during Red Cross distributions in the field. This results from difficulties in the overall distribution system which are being addressed.

Assessments in more remote areas are carried out simultaneously with relief distributions. The assessment teams reporting from the area north of Bhuj state that the majority of people need shelter, water and food. Distributions of blankets, tents, plastic sheeting and clothes have, to date, taken place in the towns of Lodai, Khamnbhara, Ninual, Lakond and Anjar. More than 1,000 family tents and 9,000 blankets have been provided.

Logistics •

On 6 February, 12 more trucks with relief items reached the Red Cross compound from Ahmadabad and 8,880 tarpaulins were flown in to Bhuj. To date, some 25 aircraft have flown in 1,000 tonnes of relief supplies to Bhuj. Four locally-manufactured vehicles for relief activities are currently being procured in Ahmadabad and three heavy vehicles for transportation of relief goods have been ordered. Three large rubhalls have been erected for warehousing of medical, shelter, water and sanitation and relief materials and Federation stock control procedures have been put in place. The government is providing a daily allocation of 1,000 litres of fuel for the IRCS/Federation operation. There may be a need to purchase a large generator and this is currently being assessed.

Telecommunications •

With the arrival of the telecommunications emergency response unit from the Austrian and Spanish Red Cross Societies and the installation of additional satellite phones, communications have improved further.

Another meeting was held with the supreme collector in Bhuj in connection with the VHF network and his permission to raise the radio mast was re-confirmed.

A repeater with a radius of 5 to 8 km in and around Bhuj has been also erected while 40 more satellite 'phones (20 for Indian Red Cross/ICRC tracing activities and 20 for the emergency relief operation) are on the way.

Ericsson has contributed significantly to the Indian Red Cross/International Federation operation in Gujarat and to date has provided the following: 20 mobile phones (operational in the field - 12 with the IRCS; 8 with the Federation); 5 infra red mobile phones (operational in the field).

Tracing •

An assessment in Anjar and a number of surrounding villages showed that needs are well covered by the government. Satellite phones have been set up and telephone lines made available free of charge in order for earthquake survivors to contact relatives in other parts of the country or abroad.

Delegation •

Based on requests to the PNS, additional delegates are coming in on daily basis. Most of them are flown to Bhuj on Federation flights the morning after their arrival in India. Living conditions in the Red Cross compound are improving daily as more equipment and fresh food is shipped in from Ahmadabad. Over 100 delegates and volunteers are currently working at the operational site in Bhuj.

Outstanding needs

The need for unearmarked cash contributions remains paramount to facilitate local procurement.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Delhi •

On 6 February, there was positive and widespread coverage in the local and international media following the press conference held the previous day by the Secretary General of the IRCS together with the Secretary General of the International Federation. This has helped to work towards increasing the visibility and raising the profile of the Indian Red Cross Society.

The UN agencies present in India held a joint press conference in Delhi on 6 February and presented their current activities in the affected area as well as their future plans. UNICEF assesses that 5 million children were affected by the earthquake while 1.5 to 2.5 million people lost family members. According to UNICEF data, around 15,000 schools were damaged or destroyed. UNICEF's relief programme will be focused on education and trauma counselling. The WHO and UNDAC will conduct surveillance and assessments of the food and medical situations, whilst the WFP has already flown two planes with supplies to Bhuj.

Bhuj •

Several media crews including Reuters, CNN, Star TV and others have continued to show interest in the Red Cross emergency response hospital. Presently, media representatives are being encouraged to turn their attention to other participants in the Red Cross operation and cover activities other than the medical treatment at the hospital.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details. The appeal coverage currently stands at 82.8 per cent.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

India earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 04/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/07/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				25,596,629		82.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRALIAN - RC		100,000	AUD	89,890	06.02.01	
AUSTRIAN - RC		500,000	ATS	55,899	28.01.01	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		237,787	GBP	573,066	01.02.01	EARMARKED TO RELIEF ITEMS (100'000 GBP)
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		15,284	GBP	36,834	31.01.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		1,441	GBP	3,473	31.01.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		6,968	GBP	16,793	01.02.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - RC/DEC		4,806	GBP	11,582	01.02.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
CANADIAN - GOVT		350,000	CAD	378,875	01.02.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - GOVT		200,000	CAD	216,500	30.01.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		100,000	CAD	108,250	29.01.01	
CANADIAN - GOVT		200,000	CAD	216,500	05.02.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CHINA HONG KONG - RC		150,000	HKD	31,796	02.02.01	
DANISH - GOVT		1,330,000	INR	46,539	03.02.01	
DANISH - GOVT		1,187,500	DKK	244,625	30.01.01	
DANISH - RC		185,000	DKK	38,110	29.01.01	
GERMAN - RC		100,000	DEM	78,660	06.02.01	
IRISH - GOVT		250,000	IEP	488,325	29.01.01	
IRISH - RC		50,000	IEP	97,665	02.02.01	
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	410,520	06.02.01	DAILY FLIGHT EXPENSES FOR 14 DAYS
KOREA, REPUBLIC - PRIVATE		10,000,000	WON	12,650	29.01.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				50,000	29.01.01	MATERIALS FOR SHELTER
MONACO - RC		400,000	FRF	93,800	28.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		500,000	NLG	349,041	26.01.01	PURCHASE OR RELIEF ITEMS & TRANSPORTATION
NETHERLANDS - RC		100,000	NLG	69,808	26.01.01	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	72,140	28.01.01	
NOKIA		75,000	USD	122,100	06.02.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250,000	NOK	46,773	29.01.01	
OPEC		200,000	USD	325,600	31.01.01	
REUTERS		300,000	INR	10,498	03.02.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				10,000	02.02.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				40,000	02.02.01	RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD, SHELTERS & MEDICAL
SINGAPORE - RC				30,000	02.02.01	RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD, SHELTERS & MEDICAL
SINGAPORE - RC				420,000	07.02.01	PURCHASE OF SHELTERS
SLOVAKIAN - RC		200,000	SKK	6,920	31.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	173,700	28.01.01	
SWEDISH GOVT/RC		16,000,000	SEK	2,779,200	30.01.01	
SWISS - RC				80,000	29.01.01	
WHO - VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND				2,500	02.02.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				7,838,632	CHF	30.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - GOVT		600,000	BEF	22,881	30.01.01	3 WHO KITS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BELGIUM - GOVT		8,800,000	BEF	335,588	31.01.01	40 MT BP-5 HIGH PROTEIN BISCUITS, INCL. TRANSPORTATION
BELGIUM - GOVT		2,050,000	BEF	78,177	02.02.01	6 WHO KITS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BELGIUM - GOVT		5,970,000	BEF	227,666	05.02.01	10'500 TARPULINS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		305,685	GBP	736,701	31.01.01	107250 BLANKETS, 600 TENTS, TRANSPORTATION
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		28,829	GBP	69,478	31.01.01	12480 BLANKETS, TRANSPORTATION
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		139,360	GBP	335,858	01.02.01	400 TENTS, 3'870 BLANKETS, 840 JERRYCANS, 1'000 TARPULINS, CHARTER
BRITISH - RC/DEC		96,120	GBP	231,649	01.02.01	200 TENTS, 3'300 BLANKETS, 1'200 JERRYCANS, 1'000 TARPULINS, CHARTER (PART SHARED WITH LOGS ERU)
CANADIAN - RC		275,000	CAD	297,688	05.02.01	1'776 BALES OF TARPULINS, TRANSPORTATION
DANISH - GOVT		1,906,000	DKK	392,636	06.02.01	5 RUBBHALLS, 1 FORKLIFT, TRANSPORTATION OF BP-5, FOOD RATIONS, TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS, WATER TANK, SAT. PHONE
FINNISH - RC / ECHO		1,500,000	EUR	2,307,600	27.01.01	EQUIPMENT AND 15 PERSONS FOR 2 MONTHS
FRENCH - RC		2,342,000	FRF	549,199	05.02.01	CAMP, FAMILY TENTS, BP-5L + TRANSPORTATION, ERU WATER FOR 50'000 PEOPLE
GERMAN - RC / ECHO		1,910,000	DEM	1,502,406	27.01.01	WATER & SANITATION EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL, PARTLY FUNDED BY ECHO (DEM 1'000'000) & GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (DEM 750'000)
JAPANESE -RC		144,100,000	JPY	1,971,864	06.02.01	2'000 U. PLASMA EXPANDER, 10'000 PLASTIC SHEET, 85'000 BLANKETS, 5 VEHICLES, 1 UNIT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT/INSURANCE, 20 PEOPLE
NORWEGIAN - RC / ECHO		14,700,000	NOK	2,750,252	27.01.01	EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL
SPANISH - RC		50,000,000	ESP	462,300	03.02.01	AIRLIFT OF BASIC HEALTH CARE UNIT, INCL. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, MOBILE WATER PLANT & AMBULANCE & TEAM OF 10 PEOPLE
SAUDI ARABIA - RC		2,234,400	SAR	969,859	03.02.01	FOOD, TENTS, BLANKETS, CARPETS
SWISS - GOVT/SDR				67,872	29.01.01	3'280 BLANKETS, 50 ROLLS PLASTIC SHEETINGS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
Australia	Delegate(s)			8,049		
Finland	Delegate(s)			8,706		
Norway	Delegate(s)			9,199		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			7,720		
Switzerland	Delegate(s)			4,600		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				13,347,948	CHF	52.1%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CHINA - RC		50,000	USD	81,400	27.01.01	BILATERAL
SPANISH - RC		15,000,000	ESP	138,690	03.02.01	BILATERAL
SPANISH - GOVT		18,000,000	ESP	166,428	03.02.01	BILATERAL
THAI - RC		10,000	USD	16,280	02.02.01	+ MEDICAL SUPPLIES, BILATERAL
THAI - PRIVATE/RC		10,000	USD	16,280	02.02.01	BILATERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				419,078	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL PIN514						