

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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 FLOODS 2001

Appeal No. 21/2001

Launched on 25.07.01 for CHF 1,220,225 for three months.

Beneficiaries: 156,000

Operations Update No.2 Period covered: 13 - 17 August

Last Ops Update issued: 14.08.01;

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 108.4%

Related Appeals: 01.33/01 South Asia regional programmes; 01.36/01 India

Outstanding needs: Covered

The Disaster/Situation: With the reallocation of funds from Orissa Cyclone programmes and a good response from donors, the appeal is now covered. Health and relief activities are continuing in cooperation with government assistance. Concern continues about the health situation in villages and mobile medical units have been providing assistance.

Operational Developments:

Recent rainfall has not resulted in further large scale flooding in Orissa State, and the existing flood waters continue to recede although the situation could still deteriorate at short notice. In Jajpur and Puri Districts, the roads are now passable and damaged riverbanks are gradually being repaired by the government.

The most significant damage caused by the floods to rural communities is the destruction of crops and paddy fields. In need of assistance, farmers' groups have been protesting at their local Block Development Offices (BDO).

Government Response w

The Orissa State Disaster Management Agency (OSDMA) has translated the Sphere Project publication (on minimum humanitarian standards) into the local language, Oriya. The IRCS Orissa State branch will distribute copies to their volunteers and staff as part of their on-going capacity building project.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

To date, the Federation has distributed the following emergency relief items to a total of 4,000 families in the Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts:

Flat rice	7,008kg
Sugar	1,400kg
Biscuits	4,040Pkts
Candles	4,020Pcs
Matchboxes	4,200Pcs
Salt	22kg
Oral Rehydration Salts	100 Pkts
WP tablets	1,000Pcs

Spanish Red Cross assisted 750 families, with emergency food and health kits, each containing the following:

- 2,5 Kg of flat rice
- 0,5 Kg of sugar
- 1 Kg of salt.
- 3 sachets of oral rehydration salts
- 20 packages of water purification tablets
- 1 box of 6 candles.
- 2 matchboxes
- 1 bar of soap
- 3 packets of sliced bread.

For beneficiary communities, the Red Cross distribution was a stopgap until government mechanisms are in place to provide larger, more regular food package and rehabilitation programmes. The government food distributions will terminate shortly, when the second round of Red Cross distributions are set to begin, making the two projects complimentary.

Food and medical services in the flood-hit areas are in short supply and the relief and health packages are designed to address the needs for approximately two to three weeks. As flood waters continue to recede, food production will start again in September/October 2001.

The Red Cross plans the relief efforts to be delivered in an organized and orderly manner which take into account the pressing needs of the communities, the speed with which the relief and health packages should reach their intended beneficiaries, and appropriate quality control checks for the individual commodities.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Orissa State branch has experience in large relief distributions from the 1999 cyclone, and has all the necessary and appropriate procedures and mechanisms in place to handle procurement, logistics, and distribution. The role of the Federation field delegates so far has been to streamline activities to improve efficiency and speed, and also to provide training and monitor the use of extra logistical and communication capacity. The role of the Spanish Red Cross Delegation has been to coordinate and support the IRCS floods operation, ensuring complimentary implementation and unity among the different assisted programme elements in the IRCS-Orissa State Branch emergency relief programme.

All Red Cross parties - IRCS headquarters, IRCS Orissa State branch, Federation and Spanish Red Cross - have demonstrated excellent cooperation in the coordination of the relief operation.

A list of the blocks, and the gram panchayats which will be covered by the Orissa State Branch in Jajpur District is as follows:

Block	Gram Panchayat	Affected Population
BARI	GAMU	3'214
	MAHAKALPADA	3'478
	AMATHPUR	4'236
	RALNAGIRI	7'324
	MANDARI	5'039
	SERAPUR	5'466
	CHANDANPUR	5'886
	DHARPUR	6'016
	SAHUPADA	5'648
	ISANPUR	3'713
	BALIA	6'419
	SWAINKAND	5'749
	GOLAKUNDA	6'219
		Total 68,609
		(Approx 14,000 families)

The villages will be selected following a comprehensive needs survey to be conducted this week.

Relief Distribution Objective 1:

To distribute emergency rations, BP5 high energy biscuits, to marooned and unassisted communities within the next two weeks.

Since the appeal, the IRCS and Federation assisted 4000 families the Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts with essential relief items (see paragraph one, RC/RC action).

Relief Distribution Objective 2:

To provide 11,000 families with relief packages.

The IRCS and Federation have increased the number of beneficiary families to 14,000, which brings the combined total for Red Cross efforts to 29,000 families.

Supplies of various items started arriving at IRCS Orissa State Branch warehouse on 9 August. Repackaging (where necessary) will be completed before the 16 August planned start date.

A total of 11,000 tarpaulins have been procured by IRCS headquarters for the IRCS/ Federation programme and will arrive in Bhubaneswar in several stages; the first batch of 7,000 has arrived, another 4,000 are expected next week.

Since clothing has been omitted from the Federation relief package, as our surveys demonstrated a low priority for these items when compared with food, the amount of rice has been increased from five to 15kg.

American Red Cross have donated 4,500 tarps, 2,250 kitchen sets, and 2,250 buckets. The Japanese Consul in Calcutta has donated funds for the purchase of clothing and water purification tablets. Taking these donations into account, the IFRC assisted programme relief package could again be enhanced with clothes. The American Red Cross tarps will be used in the main relief package distribution to 14,000 families.

A separate distribution of kitchen sets, buckets and water purification tablets is planned for schools and anganwadis affected by the flooding.

The relief package IRCS-Orissa State branch/ Federation programme for a total caseload of 14,000 families will now be:

- 15kg Rice
- 2.5kg Dahl
- 1L Oil
- 0.5kg Salt
- 1 packet BP5 high energy biscuits
- 1 tarp
- 1 sari
- 1 doti

The IRCS- Orissa State branch / Spanish Red Cross – ECHO funded programme relief package for a total of 15,000 families is (includes a unitary family Kit comprising of Food, Shelter, Health and Water Sanitation materials):

- 1 Tarpaulin (15" x 12")
- 5 kgs Rice
- 2.5kgs Dahl
- 1 Ltr Oil
- 0.5 kgs Salt
- 40 small packets ORS
- 105 WP Tabs
- 3 Soap

The relief items were to arrive 12 August and be completed by 20 August.

Incoming food items will be required to undergo quality inspection by Orissa authorities, which may add some three to five days to the delivery time. IRCS Orissa State branch are negotiating with authorities to ensure a quick inspection to minimize potential delays.

The IRCS relief coordinator, is working with warehouse and logistics staff, the Federation telecom delegate and Spanish Red Cross delegation to prepare the field distribution points for next week's relief distributions.

Relief Distribution Objective 3:

To prepare for a potential response to floods in other states.

Bihar

The Federation disaster response delegate arrived 15 August and departed for Bihar the following day where he met with the IRCS Bihar state branch. The IRCS Secretary General, Chairman and senior staff are in Bihar completing an assessment. The IRCS has requested the Federation to provide 50 life jackets for IRCS staff and volunteers carrying out the assessment in the flood affected areas. The number of people affected is reported to be one million.

Water Sanitation

Objective 1: To provide water purification tablets for 26,000 families and other affected communities.

The total caseload has now increased to 29,000 families for the relief and health packages. Six million water purification tablets arrived 3 August from IFRC Bhub, and will be repackaged in Bhubaneswar for distribution under supervision of a pharmacist. Each family will receive a minimum of 124 tablets, enough for one month.

The Spanish Red Cross will replace the Federation tablets given for their distributions. The replaced stock will be put into IRCS Orissa State branch disaster preparedness stock. The additional water purification tablets funded by the Japanese will be distributed to schools and anganwadis.

Health

Objective 1: To assess the current and future health risks for the affected population and implement appropriate action.

The main health concerns are still the spread of diarrhoeal disease and the increased risk of vector-borne disease, particularly malaria, which is endemic. The total number of diarrhoeal cases reported as of 9 August was close to 75,000, with 40 deaths. The number of suspected malaria cases has increased rapidly, with 36,107 suspected cases, up from 14,772 one week ago.

The state government has initiated a malaria survey in some blocks, and if required, will commence vector spraying in these blocks. The IRCS and Federation medical team met with the chief district medical officer in Jajpur block, who reported that malaria is not a health risk in Bari block. The medical officer also reported that tubewells in the block have been treated twice with halogen tablets, and a third round of treatment has been completed in some gram panchayats.

The need for any further water sanitation measures in Bari block will be reassessed over the next one to two weeks as IRCS/Federation medical teams gather statistics regarding the number of malaria and diarrhoeal cases treated daily.

Donation of Health Kits:

The IRCS formally presented the State Minister for Health with two cholera kits on 9 August at the state branch headquarters. The Bhubaneswar television station was invited to attend the hand-over, and a report was seen on the evening news on the same day (nation-wide broadcast).

The possible donation of New Emergency Health Kits to the government has been discussed again with the Secretary of the State Branch. As these health kits may be required by the IRCS mobile medical teams over the next two months for treatment in the field, the decision was made not to donate at present, but first to establish a clear idea of the number of kits required by the mobile teams. It should be possible to extrapolate this need after the first week of running the clinics. The IRCS are also keen for any available kit to be utilised in one of their three dispensaries in Orissa, which lost most of their medical supplies during the floods.

Mobile Medical Teams:

Two of the IRCS/Federation mobile medical teams plan to open health clinics in Bari block by 16 August. Some delay in the starting date has occurred due to the flooding of major roads, which is expected to be resolved within the a week. A field trip will be required on 15 August to establish the accessibility of the area.

On 10 August, the medical team responded to a request from the Spanish Red Cross, to conduct a clinic and health assessment in Puri district. The Spanish Red Cross, along with a partner Indian NGO, SWAD (Society for Women Action Development), had visited two villages on 8 August in Sakhigopal block, and encountered high levels of open sewage, and a reportedly high incidence of fever and diarrhoea among the inhabitants.

With the assistance of several volunteers from SWAD, a clinic was held in Balikundra village, population 600. In total, 99 patients were seen by two IRCS volunteer doctors. Three cases of malaria and ten cases of mild

diarrhoea were treated. The remainder of patients were suffering from skin infections and colds. The health status of the village was regarded by the team as generally reflective of a normal situation for the monsoon season. A donation of chlorine tablets was made to the village ward member for treatment of the village's three wells. Based on this visit, there does not appear to be an urgent need for health intervention in this block. A hospital is located in Sakhigopal, less than 10 km from Balikundra, so medical care is accessible for urgent cases. The Spanish Red Cross will keep the IRCS and Federation informed of any health concerns in Puri, and further visits may be made if required.

It was a good first run for the medical team, where some decisions were made about team size, composition and systems for future clinics. It was agreed that one pharmacist would be present at each clinic with a local volunteer who would require training as a pharmacy assistant. As well, it was agreed that initially, it would be advisable to have two doctors per team for larger villages of one to two hundred patients.

An additional part-time pharmacist will be employed to run a medical warehouse, monitor stock and use of the four New Emergency Health Kits and to repack the mobile team kits after each clinic.

In the next week, government medical camps will be discontinued in Jajpur. The timing of the Red Cross clinics is therefore highly appropriate.

Health Promotion:

The Health Promotion teams will commence distribution on 17 August accompanying the general relief distribution of a health package consisting of oral rehydration salts, chlorine tablets and soap. Information regarding the use of these will be provided verbally and in written form at the time of distribution. Team members will be St. John Ambulance volunteers. In addition, the doctors of the mobile medical teams will run a one day health awareness clinic in a different gram panchayat each week, where they will provide health education regarding nutrition, hygiene and sanitation.

Health promotion packages for 14,000 families will include:

- Ten packets of oral rehydration salts
- 124 water purification tablets
- Two single mosquito nets
- Two bars of soap

The health promotion items will be packed in plastic bags printed with the IRCS Orissa State Branch emblem. The final shipment of procured items is expected to arrive 20 August.

Disaster Preparedness:

A good opportunity exists now for the Orissa State branch to build the medical capacity of the local Red Cross in disaster preparedness. The same team could be mobilised quickly in future disasters. The team consists of retired or semi-retired doctors, who are generally available at short notice.

During the next two months while working in the field, the medical teams will recruit new Red Cross members, and volunteers who could participate in first aid training in the future. Additionally, volunteers who have assisted with medical clinics would be ideal candidates for further training and would increase the capacity of the Jajpur branch.

Logistics:

Objective 1: To provide transportation for volunteers and delegates working in the affected regions

The Federation fleet manager from Bhuj was temporarily seconded to Orissa to review the logistical capacity of the IRCS Orissa state branch. Activities included a project site assessment and a one day training exercise for warehouse personnel.

One of the three, 3MT trucks has arrived. One four tonne truck from IRCS NHQ, is expected to arrive in Bhubanaswar by 15 August and an additional three will be hired locally for IRCS-Orissa State Branch / Spanish Red Cross- ECHO distributions.

Boats on loan from IRCS national headquarters to the Orissa State Government, which were used during the early stages of the flooding to rescue stranded villagers, will be used for the IRCS relief/health distributions where necessary.

Objective 2: To transport relief goods to Orissa from IRCS warehouses and local and international suppliers.

The logistical capacity of the operation will change to reflect the new project location and the distribution mapping plans. It is anticipated that lighter trucks, cars and boats will be used due to the poor condition of roads and large expanses of water.

A logistics management team has been formed by IRCS Orissa state branch for the three-month flood relief project.

Telecommunications:

Objective 1: To provide telecom equipment and support Red Cross volunteers and staff working in the field.

With the focus on Jajpur District and the inherent logistical challenges involved, one additional satphone and four additional VHF handsets have arrived to implement the relief and health projects in Bari Block. The Federation I.T. Delegate from Bhuj arrived in Orissa on 11 August to set up the communications system between the office and the field.

National Society Capacity Building:

Objective 1: To strengthen the disaster relief and preparedness in national headquarters and state branches located in regions affected by floods.

The Federation is assisting the national headquarters and state branches to build disaster relief and preparedness capacity through a disaster preparedness (DP) program.

Objective 2: To develop capacity of IRCS in disaster relief operations.

The Federation Relief Delegate arrived in Bhubeneswar 31 July for a period of three months to support the Orissa state branch.

The procurement officer from national headquarters, Federation Disaster Preparedness Delegate and Spanish Red Cross Country program coordinator visited Orissa from 31 July to 3 August to assess the situation. While there, they supported the Orissa state branch in resolving the geographic location of the operation.

In addition, new staff members have been or will be recruited by the IRCS state branch to implement the project including a relief coordinator, a mobile medical team coordinator, health promotion coordinator and a logistic manager.

Coordination:

NGO Response/Coordination Issues:

A number of local NGOs are operating in Bari Block, Jajpur District. They are providing a limited service of varying quality and quantity. IRCS field staff have consulted with these NGOs, and they have been informed of the projects intentions. It was agreed that the Red Cross project will fill many gaps and provide a more comprehensive coverage for the flood affected villages.

In Puri District, where the Spanish Red Cross are working, several local and international NGOs, such as: Oxfam, Save the Children, Lutheran World Service, Catholic Relief Services, Concern, Care, Vikash, Eficor, ODMM, are providing services. IRCS and Spanish Red Cross are meeting regularly with these agencies to ensure complimentary action and avoid overlaps.

The Red Cross is represented at the regular state level OSDMA meetings, as well as at UN House coordination NGO and INGO meetings.

Outstanding needs

As the relief distributions get underway in the next few days and the disaster relief delegate finishes his assessment of the needs in neighbouring states, the budget for the operation will be updated by the relief and medical teams.

For further details please contact: Martin de Vries, Phone : 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: devries@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact Birgitte Stalder-Olsen, Email, and 41 22 730 4245 in the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
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Request for assistance - India floods 2001						ANNEX 1
No.21 /2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				20.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'220'225		TOTAL COVERAGE 108.4%
Reallocations				601'145	31.07.2001	
FINNISH - RC		42'047	EUR	63'554	26.07.2001	
FRENCH - RC		200'000	EUR	302'300	01.08.2001	
JAPANESE - RC				61'000	12.02.2258	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				10'000	01.08.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'500'000	NOK	285'098	25.07.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'323'097	CHF	108.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		100'000	USD	177'500	27.07.2001	4500 PLASTIC TARPS, 2250 PLASTIC BUCKETS, 2250 STAINLESS STEEL KITCHEN SETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				177'500	CHF	