

# 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*

*29 August 2001*

*Appeal No. 21/2001*

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

*No disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Allocated*

*Beneficiaries: 156,000*

*Operations Update No. 3 Period covered: 15 - 21 August*

*Last Update issued: 20 August 2001*

*Update No. 4 expected: September 2001*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 108.4%*

*Related Appeals: 01.33/01 South Asia regional programme*

*Outstanding needs: Covered*

*The Disaster/Situation: An assessment in the neighbouring state of Bihar indicates the need for additional assistance to 10,000 families. The distribution of relief and water purification tablets to 14,000 families in Orissa has commenced. Mobile medical teams have treated more than 1,000 patients suffering from diarrhoea, skin infections, and respiratory problems. At present, there is a low incidence of malaria.*



### ***Operational Developments:***

#### **The Latest Events:**

##### ***Orissa State***

Since the start of the monsoon, one hundred people have died and 9.67 million people have been affected by flooding in the eastern state of Orissa.

In particular, large areas of Jajpur District are experiencing renewed flooding, as heavy rains over central and north west Orissa have continued. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and Federation assessment teams returned from Bari Block, Jajpur District, late last week with reports of flood waters rising slowly in all areas that two weeks ago were reported to be drying out.

##### ***Bihar State***

Seventeen people have died and 2.16 million people have been affected by severe flooding in the state of Bihar in north-eastern India. While there has been little rainfall in Bihar itself, even drought in some districts, there have been heavy monsoon downpours on the slopes of the Himalayas in Nepal, which is the catchment area for many of the rivers in Bihar. The Gandak and other rivers breached their embankments and flooded wide parts in the north of the state.

Latest reports from the Government indicate that 14 districts have been affected, the worst being Gopalganj, Betiah, Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur, with 117,000 hectares of crops either partly or completely destroyed.

While flooding is common in Bihar during monsoon season, this year's floods are particularly severe. The Nepalese authorities opened floodgates of the Nepalese Gandak River dam to release water build-up, resulting in heavier flooding even in relatively high villages. Due to the fact that these people are not usually affected by the annual flooding and the water levels rose so quickly, many people have lost their crops, food stocks and private property.

Worst hit was the district of Gopalganj, where almost 50% of the district is under water as all flood protection measurements failed and the Gandak river broke its embankments on several places. Vital

road links have been destroyed and 29,000 families affected, 15,000 of which are listed as BPL (below poverty line) category.

Those affected however, have strong coping mechanisms. Some have left their villages to find shelter with relatives, others are camping out in remaining dry areas, often on rooftops or other elevated areas. Supplies of potable water of reasonable quality are still available. Fortunately, water hand pumps are more common in the area than open wells, which are now flooded and polluted with river water.

No evacuation centres have been established as there is not an obvious need at this time. The government responded swiftly and health services were established to prevent a more serious humanitarian crisis. However, the number of malaria cases is expected to rise as the water recedes and the remaining ponds of stagnant water provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### **Government Response:**

#### ***Orissa***

Several high level Government Delegations have visited flood affected areas in Orissa State. One notable visit was by Sonia Gandhi, President of the All India Congress Committee. Part of her visit involved a tour of Jajpur District, but did not include the Red Cross operational area of Bari Block.

The Orissa State Government is seeking funds for post-flood relief, repair, reconstruction and rehabilitation work. The funds are to be split between various Government Departments to address needs in both urban and rural areas. The Orissa State Disaster Management Association (OSDMA) assessment is ongoing.

#### ***Bihar***

As flooding is not uncommon in the state the government has set up a routine response. The response has consisted of air-dropped rations, and the dispatch of 1,500 boats to rescue people or deliver relief aid. The distributions took place through 90 relief centres. 107 health centres and 43 veterinary centres are functional to contain the health situation. Emergency fuel and animal fodder have been distributed in limited quantities.

### **NGO Response/Coordination Issues:**

#### ***Orissa***

The Red Cross is represented at the regular State level OSDMA meetings by the honorary secretary of the IRCS OSB. These meetings are now weekly as potential duplication and crossover of NGOs has been minimised by earlier coordination.

NGOs who chose to operate in areas closer to the state capital of Bhubanaswar are in the later stages of their relief distribution, as access to these areas has been relatively easy.

#### ***Bihar***

Limited activities are being delivered by the Rotary Club and other local NGOs.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent action w**

#### ***Orissa***

The second phase of the Red Cross relief operation is underway with the region being targeted - Bari block - still affected by renewed flooding, causing continued and increased hardship in rural areas. The decision by IRCS, Federation and Spanish Red Cross to tackle the most challenging of the flood

affected areas has been applauded by NGOs and Government Departments in Orissa. The IRCS, Federation and SRC are committed to facing a challenging logistical operation to deliver badly needed relief and health items to flood affected villages.

There has been co-operation and strategic co-ordination between IRCS Headquarters, Orissa State branch, Spanish Red Cross and Federation, in order that the Red Cross can respond to the Orissa Floods with relief and health, as well as maintain consistency in the quality of ongoing projects.

### ***Bihar***

The IRCS national headquarters provided the Bihar branch with the following items for immediate distribution to the districts of Gopalganj, Bettiah, Ganhara, Kasimchak, and Nakta:

700 tarpaulins  
400 towels  
500 kitchen sets  
1,300 packages of candles (6) and matchbox (1)  
200 bed sheets  
1,608 packages of high protein biscuits  
3 rubber dinghies  
2 water tanks  
500 kg flat rice  
100 kg gur (sugar substitute)  
100 kg bleaching powder  
2,000 water purification tablets

### **Relief:**

**Relief Distribution Objective 1: To distribute emergency rations, BP5 high-energy biscuits, to marooned and unassisted communities within the next two weeks.**

### ***Orissa***

The IRCS and Federation distributed emergency relief items to a total of 4,000 families in the Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts (see previous Operations Updates for details).

**Relief Distribution Objective 2: To Provide 11,000 families with relief packages.**

The number of beneficiary families assisted by the IRCS and Federation has now increased to 14,000, in Bari Block, Jajpur District.

The IRCS/Spanish Red Cross (SRC)/ECHO funded programme has increased its caseload from 15,000 to 16,475 families in Kanas, Satyabadi, Gop, Brahmagiri and Kakatpur.

The IRCS and Federation began distributing relief packages, including health promotion packages, on 20 August. Distributions will continue as quickly and efficiently as possible, to deliver packages to all 14,000 families within one month. The SRC began distributions in Puri District on the same day.

The IRCS and Federation have developed a selection criteria and rationale for assisting flood affected families. The procedure went through several steps:

#### ***1. Jajpur District***

The Block coordination meetings for Biridi and Banki Blocks revealed extensive overlaps between Red Cross, Concern and a number of local NGOs. At the same time the IRCS, Federation and SRC recognised that the needs in other areas were greater, but more difficult to address logistically.

An emergency meeting was held between the IRCS Orissa State Branch and the Federation in Bhubaneswar, to discuss coordination issues, and the possibility of changing the location of the project. It was concluded that the needs in Bari Block, Jajpur District, were greater than those in Biridi and Banki Blocks. The flood waters in Bari were only just receding, and the damage to houses and farmland was extensive. The capacity of the Red Cross to respond in Jajpur is better than most organisations, and the proposed relief and health projects would be equally, if not more applicable, to Bari, compared to Banki and Biridi.

It was therefore decided to focus on Jajpur District, which allowed other organisations to be effective in Biridi and Banki Blocks, and addressed more acute humanitarian needs in Jajpur District. As before, the relief and health projects will be implemented in the same areas, to make efficient use of logistical and personnel capacity.

## *2. Bari Block, Jajpur District*

- Flood damage.
- Absence of other INGOs and local NGOs.
- IRCS volunteer capacity.

## *3. Gram Panchayats (sub districts) within Bari Block*

- Location: in between two rivers, low lying areas.
- Flooding damage to houses, public buildings, farmland.
- Size of caseload; maximum 14,000 families.

## *4. Villages within Gram Panchayats.*

- All villages within selected Gram Panchayats are affected and therefore targeted.

## *5. Families within villages.*

- All families in villages are affected and therefore targeted.
- Distribution lists from Block District Officer in Bari.
- IRCS distribution cards will be given prior to distribution.

## *6. Additional Gram Panchayats inside Bari Block*

The detailed distribution lists from each Gram Panchayat indicated the number of families in need of assistance to be 10,500. Therefore, it was decided that additional areas should be targeted to increase the caseload to the original target for 14,000. The Gram Panchayats now targeted by IRCS Orissa state branch, and Federation in consultation with the Block District Officer in Bari are: Attira, Bainsiria, and Kimbiriapal.

The relief package for a total caseload of 14,000 families contains the following:

15kg Rice  
2.5kg Dahl  
1l oil  
0.5kg Salt  
1 packet BP5 high energy biscuits  
1 tarpaulin  
1 sari  
1 doti

The relief packages in the IRCS-Orissa State branch/Spanish Red Cross/ECHO funded programme will provide 15,000 families with:  
a unitary family kit of food, shelter, health and water sanitation materials:

1 tarpaulin (15' x 12')  
5 kg rice  
2.5kg dahl  
1 l oil  
0.5 kg salt  
40 small packets ORS  
105 water purification tablets  
3 bars of soap

It is necessary for the food to be quality inspected by appropriate authorities in Orissa. This process is time consuming and may add three to five days to the delivery time. The IRCS Orissa state branch are pushing the authority for a quick inspection to minimise this potential delay. Clothing and mosquito nets will be distributed separately to the main relief/health distributions.

The American Red Cross have made a bilateral donation of 4,500 tarps, 2,250 kitchen sets, and 2,250 buckets. The Japanese Consul in Calcutta has donated funds directly to the IRCS to specifically buy saris, dotis and water purification tablets.

Taking into account the American Red Cross and Japanese Consul donations, the relief package could again be enhanced with clothes (one sari and one doti per family). 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 to schools and anganwadis in Orissa State in flood affected areas.

A distribution database has been developed, styled on the Federation earthquake relief database. Distributions of all items will be logged to facilitate reporting. Weekly distribution summaries will be included in subsequent Operations Updates.

### **Relief Distribution Objective 3: To prepare for a potential response to floods in other states.**

#### **Bihar State**

The Federation disaster response delegate assessed the situation in Bihar and in co-operation with the IRCS headquarters and the Bihar state branch decided to respond to the needs those most vulnerable.

The IRCS, supported by the Federation will assist 10,000 families with emergency kits. The items will be purchased locally and packaged by the IRCS Bihar branch. The relief items are as follows:

20 kg rice  
2 mosquito nets  
1 doti/sari  
1 kitchen set  
1 tarpaulin  
20 sisal ropes  
2 bars of soap

In addition, four hundred tents, each housing an average family of six, will be purchased locally.

The IRCS Bihar State branch will be responsible for identification of beneficiaries. The target group will be families living below the poverty line and will focus on one or two regions, yet to be determined.

The Bihar Red Cross will also be responsible for the distribution of relief goods, with the support of the Federation.

The procurement process is underway and the goods will be distributed immediately after being received and appropriately packaged. The total number of relief packages are expected to be delivered over a period of six weeks with an overall operational time frame of three months.

The Bihar State Branch of the IRCS will report to the National Headquarters on the operation.

#### *Capacity of Bihar Branch*

The IRCS Bihar branch has a strong volunteer force and enjoys an excellent public reputation. Their programmes include a wide range of medical services, including an ambulance service, eye clinic for free inter-ocular lens implantation, distribution of walking aids for the physically impaired and first aid training. The staff and volunteers have considerable operational experience through the response to last year's floods in Bihar, the Orissa cyclone operation and the earthquake relief in Gujarat, where they adopted one village for rehabilitation.

#### **Health:**

##### *Orissa*

The main health concerns in affected communities are still the spread of diarrhoeal disease and the increased risk of vector-borne disease, particularly malaria, which is endemic.

#### **Donation of Health Kits:**

Based on needs, the IRCS and Federation jointly decided that the New Emergency Health Kits (NEHKs) would be required by the IRCS mobile medical teams over the next two months for treatment in the field. Therefore the decision was made not to donate the kits to the Government, but to first establish a clearer idea of the number of kits required by the mobile teams. It should be possible to extrapolate this need after the first week of functioning 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 its medical supplies during the floods.

#### **Mobile Medical Teams:**

The Federation health delegate, is co-ordinating two mobile medical units (MMUs) in Bari Block. The MMUs had been planned before the renewed flooding, but in the context of the developing situation, the MMUs are very well targeted. The MMU teams have been operating in Kimbiriapal, Bainsiria, and Koradapinpl Gram Panchayats, on the Bari side of the river. They will now explore different access routes to the area between the two rivers.

To date, three clinics have been held in Bari block, and more than 1,000 patients have been treated. In Bainsiria, approximately 30% of patients were diagnosed with dysentery, and in Kimbiriapal approx. 10-20% of patients had diarrhoea. The incidence of malaria in both of these Gram Panchayats was found to be low, only five suspected cases in total. In Koradapinpl Gram Panchayat, malaria was more prevalent (6% of patients). This area lies between the Brahmini river, and a branch river, and was flooded for 15 days during which time 1,000 people took shelter at the high school. Because of its geographic isolation, this Gram Panchayat has received no aid since the initial government food distribution in July. Health was generally poorer here than in other areas visited to date. Two cases of acute severe jaundice were diagnosed, and referred to the Bari block hospital.

While the clinic was running, St John Ambulance volunteers did a house-to-house chlorine tablet distribution with education regarding safe water for drinking. The Medical Officer at Alipuri Primary Health Centre (PHC), several kilometres away said that government medical teams will continue working in 14 locations in Bari block until 3 September. He reported that the PHCs in Bari block have received supplies from the government, and are not in need of further donations of medicine.

The overview of the MMU operation is as follows:

- 1st phase MMU clinics go where access is possible - ongoing
- 2nd phase MMU link with PHCs to boost existing infrastructure (weekly clinics) - under assessment
- 3rd phase assist operational PHCs with medical supplies -if required
- 4th phase fill in gaps of PHC infrastructure with MMUs - to be developed
- 5th phase initiate MMUs in other areas as time and resources allow - to be developed

### **IRCS Orissa state branch/Federation dispensary**

A dispensary has been established at the Orissa state branch headquarters to service the MMUs. In addition to the NEHK, other drugs have been procured. Stock is monitored by the MMU pharmacists, who replenish the mobile medical kits following each clinic trip.

### **Health Promotion:**

The Health Promotion teams commenced distribution on 20 August, alongside 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. Health awareness materials have been printed in Oriya and packed into the health packages. Team members are St. John Ambulance volunteers. In addition, the doctors of the mobile medical teams are running a one-day health awareness clinic in a different district each week, where they will provide health education regarding nutrition, and hygiene and sanitation.

Health promotion packages for 14,000 families will include:

10 small packets Oral Rehydration Salts  
124 (minimum) Water Purification Tabs  
2 single mosquito nets  
2 soap

The health promotion items are being packed in plastic bags printed with the IRCS Orissa state branch emblem, with the help of Youth Red Cross volunteers.

### **Disaster Preparedness:**

A good opportunity exists now for the state branch to build the medical capacity of the local Red Cross in health disaster preparedness. Should a need arise again in the future for medical assessments or clinics, this same team could be mobilised quickly.

During the next two months, the medical teams will recruit new Red Cross members, and volunteers through recognising and retaining those volunteers who have assisted with medical clinics and invite them to participate in future disaster preparedness and first aid training.

### **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 (IRCS/Federation 14,000 families, SRC 15,000 families). Six million water purification tablets arrived 3 August from the Federation in Bhuj, and will be repackaged for distribution under pharmaceutical supervision. Each family will receive a minimum of 124 tablets, enough for one month.

The Spanish Red Cross will not be able to replace the Federation tablets used in their distribution due to ECHO budgetary restrictions. The IRCS Orissa state branch agreed that Spanish Red Cross may use the tablets from their stock of six million. The remaining items after distributions will be put into IRCS Orissa State branch disaster preparedness stock (approximately 2 million tablets).

Additional water purification tablets, purchased using Japanese funding, will be distributed to schools and anganwadis in Orissa state affected by the recent flooding.

### **Logistics:**

The proposed distribution points at Balia and Ratnagiri still cannot be accessed. There are several logistical implications arising from the renewed flooding situation. A thorough logistics assessment has been carried out in Bari Block using the Logistics ERU Checklist.

1. The use of boats may now be necessary to complete the distributions.
2. The number of Red Cross volunteers required needs to increase for supervision of the transportation of relief and health items by local methods, across rivers to distribution points.
3. Issues of safety for personnel operating in small inflatable boats are now heightened.

Logistics management has been implemented by the Orissa State branch for the duration of the three month flood relief programme.

### **Telecommunications:**

A VHF repeater has been installed in Bari Town by the Federation telecom delegate to provide the MMUs and the relief distribution teams with a 20km radius coverage for VHF handsets to use in co-ordinating the complex logistical operation.

A sat phone will also be made available for the relief co-ordinator in Bari Block for communication with the state branch in Bhubanaswar. Training on communications equipment will be provided to the MMUs and Relief Teams in the field.

### **Co-ordination:**

A list of the gram panchayats in Bari Block which will be covered by the IRCS Orissa state branch in Jajpur District is as follows.

<b>Gram (GP)</b>	<b>Panchayat</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>No. of Population</b>	
			<b>Families</b>	<b>(approx.)</b>
SWAINKHAND		SWAINKHAND	304	1,520
		JAMPADA	339	1,695
		KALAKHANDA	243	1,215

ISANPUR	ISANPUR	579	2,895
MAHAKALAPARA	MAHAKALAPARA	312	1,560
	DIHAPAL	82	410
	MITRASENPUR	41	205
	NILAPADA	150	750
BALIA	BALIA	340	1,700
	NAHAN	414	2,070
	PARAMANANDAPUR	165	825
SAHUPADA	SAHUPADA	523	2,615
	HALADIBASANT	463	2,315
CHANDANPUR	CHANDANPUR	399	1,995
	SUKAL	245	1,225
	JAGANATHPUR	51	255
	MIRJAPUR	94	470
	RAMPUR	115	575
MANDARI	MANDARI	129	645
	BERHAMPUR	154	770
	ANIKANA	165	825
	MEDUAKUL	193	965
	BENJARPUR	116	580
SERAPUR	SERAPUR	307	1,535
	SRIRAMPUR	219	1,095
	KRUSHNAGAR	403	2,015
AMATHAPUR	AMATHPUR	382	1,910
	KAMPAGARH	222	1,110
	PALATAPUR	111	555
	ASALPUR	20	100
GAMU	GAMU	616	3,080
RATNAGIRI	RATNAGIRI	389	1,945
	PATARA	178	890
	RAUTSAHI	377	1,885
	ALIABAD	254	1,270
DHARAPUR	DHARAPUR	341	1,705
	NATHAPUR	608	3,040
KIMBHIRIAPAL	KIMBHIRIAPAL	292	1,460
	GOBINDAPATI	95	475
	MALADA	178	890

	UDAAYAPUR	56	280
	BHALNUANG	234	1,170
	MILIMILAPUR	136	680
BAINSIRA	BAINSIRA	733	3,665
	SARAYPUR	334	1,670
ATIRA	ATIRA	441	2,205
	ARUAL	366	1,830
	AAHMADPUR	182	910
GOKAKHAND	GOLKHAND	194	970
	KATAN	51	255
	MENDHA	117	585
	NARPUR	162	810
	HARIPUR	420	2,100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,034</b>	<b>70,170</b>

Bainsiria, Attira, and Kimbiriapal are the three Gram Panchayats that have been chosen outside the area between the two rivers.

A list of schools and anganwadis is being developed for the distribution of the American RC kitchen sets, and buckets, and the Japanese water purification tablets.

### Disease Surveillance, Bari Block 13 to 19 August

Number of Clinics held: 3

Total No of patients seen: 1,008

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>&lt; 5 yrs old</b>	<b>&gt; = 5 yrs old</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
Simple Diarrhoea	6	56	62	
Severe Diarrhoea		1	1	
Bloody diarrhoea/dysentery	6	134	140	
Suspected Cholera (rice-water stools)				
Acute Respiratory Infection	28	117	145	
Fever - unknown cause	4	73	77	
Suspected Malaria		33	33	
Suspected Meningitis				
Acute Jaundice Syndrome		2	2	
Measles				
Trauma		1	1	
Skin Infections	4	92	96	
Heat Stroke				
Snake Bite				
Unspecified Severe Febrile Syndrome				
Neonatal Tetanus				
Other	8	443	451	
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>			<b>1'008</b>	
<b>Number of Referrals</b>		2		

*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 on 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  
Head  
Asia Pacific Department

Request for assistance - India floods 2001						ANNEX 1
No.21 /2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				29.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'220'225</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 108.4%</b>
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%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
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 STEAL KITCHEN SETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				177'500	CHF	