

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

14 September 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 21/01

Launched on 25 July, 2001 for CHF 1,220,225 for three months.

DREF Allocated: CHEF 0

Beneficiaries: 156,000

Operations Update No. 4; Period covered: 21 August - 4 September; last Ops Update (no. 3) issued: 20 August 2001; Next Ops Update No. 5 expected end-September, 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 110.5%

Related Appeals: 01.36/2001 (India Annual Appeal); 20/01 (India: Earthquake Rehabilitation)

Outstanding needs: None (budget is covered)

Summary/Update: An Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and Federation assessment in the neighbouring state of Bihar indicates the need for additional assistance to 10,000 families. Timely donor support has enabled the distribution of relief and water purification tablets to 14,000 families in Orissa to commence as planned. Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) have treated more than 1,000 patients suffering from diarrhoea, skin infections, and respiratory problems. The incidence of malaria continues to be low.

Operational Developments:

Orissa State

Continuing heavy rains over central and northwest Orissa over the past two weeks have created more flooding in large areas of Jajpur and Puri Districts. Many of the region's roads remain impassable and frequent detouring is required to reach villages that have been cut off. Breaches in river embankments, weakened by earlier flooding are causing localised flooding to a number of areas in Orissa swamping large areas of farmland and destroying the rice crops.



Further extensive flooding during the first week of September inundated several Blocks (sub-districts) in Jajpur District, with Bari Block being among the worst hit. Heavy rains and water released by Rengali Dam have contributed to flooding in the region. The Brahmani, Kharasota, Kani, Birupa, Baitarani, Kelua, Tantighani, and Chhidakharasuan rivers are all in spate. According to reports from Federation and IRCS teams working in the field, as of 7 September; a total of 51 Gram Panchayats (clusters of villages) and 285 villages have been affected; 200,000 people are marooned; and 76,000 hectares of rice paddy submerged.

Information from the IRCS and Federation distribution teams, working in Jajpur District's Bari Block, report fluctuating water levels leading to frequent localised flooding. The Spanish Red Cross teams working in a number of Blocks in Puri District report similar situations.

Addressing the problems of insufficient food supplies in villages and, gaining access to medical services remain high priorities. Even though the acute, widespread flooding is over, and the media interest has dwindled, immediate humanitarian problems still remain particularly in the rural areas.

Bihar State

Nearly all of the area's affected by July's floods have recently been flooded again. Following recent rains flooding has extended into additional districts.

The flooding, according to the latest figures from the Government of Bihar's Relief and Rehabilitation department, has caused damage and disrupted the lives of a total of 2,828,000 people in 16 districts; 86 Blocks; 557 Panchayats; and, 1620 villages throughout Bihar. The floods have left 35 dead, destroying some 109,746 houses; 187,100 hectares of crops and killing 232 head of cattle.

Government Response w

Orissa

Government relief distributions, consisting of food, were completed in August. No additional government assistance has been planned. The OSDMA Assessment is complete and a copy of their report will be sent to IRCS headquarters and the Federation when available.

Bihar

The Government of Bihar is conducting a comprehensive relief effort. Currently the government is operating; 181 relief centres; 170 health centres and 101 veterinary centres. Latest figures for government relief distributions include; 42,043 quintals (100 kilogrammes) grain; 3,245 quintals prepared food; 173 quintals flour; 261 quintals salt; 58,509 pieces of matchboxes; 111,757 candles; 77,000 litres kerosene; plus 2,240,000 rupees in cash for food and fodder.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

Orissa

Distributions of emergency relief items were completed by the end of July for a total of 18,728 families; in the districts of Puri (5,521), Jagatsinghpur (2,017), Kendrapara (3,700), Kalahandi (2,400), Nayagarh (1,000), Jajpur (1,000) and Cuttack (3,000).

The area selected for the second phase of the Federation's operations (Jajpur and Puri Districts), as mentioned earlier, is still being affected by renewed flooding, causing continued and increased hardship in rural areas. The decision by the IRCS, the Federation, and SRC to provide relief to the worst affected of the flooded areas has been applauded by NGOs and Government Departments in Orissa. The IRCS, Federation and SRC are committed to helping those most in need, and to face a challenging logistical operation in order to deliver urgently needed relief and health items to flood affected villages. There has been cooperation and strategic coordination between IRCS Headquarters, the Orissa State Branch, SRC and the Federation, in order that the Red Cross can not only respond to the immediate relief and health needs created by the flooding in Orissa, but also maintain the quality of on-going 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 and matchboxes.
- 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 Activities

Objective 1: To distribute emergency rations in the form of BP5 high-energy biscuits to marooned and unassisted communities within the next two weeks.

Orissa

Objective 1 has been met and distributions of emergency rations were completed in Orissa by the end of July.

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

Orissa

The IRCS and the Federation are working with a caseload of 14,000 flood affected families in Bari Block, Jajpur District. The SRC and ECHO are now jointly assisting 16,475 flood affected families in Brahmagiri, Kakatpur, Kanas, Gop and Satyabadi Blocks in Puri District. The IRCS and Federation and SRC and ECHO relief package distributions, including health promotion packages began on 20 August. Distributions will continue as quickly and efficiently as possible, to deliver packages to all beneficiary families within one month. The IRCS and Federation have so far completed distributions to 4,400 families in five Gran Panchayats (31% of the 14,000 caseload). The SRC and ECHO have completed distributions to 7,344 families in 11 Gran Panchayats (45 % of the 16,475 caseload).

A total IRCS and Federation caseload of 14,000 families will receive a relief package containing:

- 15kg rice.
- 2.5kg Dal.
- 1 litre oil.
- 0.5kg salt.
- 1 packet BP-5 high energy biscuits.
- 1 tarpaulin.
- 1 sari.
- 1 doti.

A total caseload of 16,475 families in the IRCS, SRC, and ECHO programme will receive a relief package containing:

- 5kg rice.
- 2.5kg dal.
- 1L oil.
- 0.5kg salt.
- 1 tarpaulin.
- 3 bars of soap.
- 40 oral rehydration salts sachets.

- 105 water purification (WP) tablets.

The procurement status of the items above is as follows: rice, oil, dal, sari, and doti are being received in batches, while salt, tarpaulin, kitchen sets, and buckets are all received.

The American Red Cross (ARC) has donated 4,500 tarpaulins, 2,250 kitchen sets, and 2,250 buckets. The ARC tarpaulins will be used in the main relief package distribution to 14,000 families. The Japanese Consul in Calcutta has donated funds to specifically buy saris, dotis and water purification tablets. A separate distribution of kitchen sets, buckets and water purification tablets is planned to schools and anganwadis in Orissa State in areas that were affected by the recent flooding (exact locations still to be determined).

Objective 3: To prepare for a potential response to floods in other states.

Bihar State:

The State Branch with the support of IRCS headquarters and Federation are locally procuring items for 10,000 family emergency relief kits. The items will be packaged by volunteers at Bihar branch and distributed immediately thereafter. The relief items are as follows:

20 kg rice.

2 mosquito nets.

1 doti/ 2 saris.

1 kitchen set.

1 tarpaulin.

20 metres of sisal ropes.

2 candles and matchbox.

The goods will be distributed immediately after being received and appropriately packaged.

The Bihar State branch has set up a water purification unit, with a maximum capacity of 6,000 litres per hour, in the north west district of Paschimi Champaran. The American Red Cross is donating 10,000 tarpaulins.

Health

Orissa

Coordination of the medical programme has been handed over by the Federation health delegate to a medical doctor from the OSB. The IRCS Medical Deputy Secretary will return to Orissa in September to follow the progress of the medical program.

- **Donation of Health Kits:** One New Emergency Health Kit will be donated to each of the Red Cross dispensaries in Kendrapara district, and in Bhadrak district. These dispensaries have been non-functional since the floods due to the spoiling of supplies. A third flood affected dispensary is in Puri district. The SRC plans to donate one NEHK to this dispensary when their health program commences in Puri in October.
- **Mobile Medical Teams:** The mobile medical teams are now able to access parts of the interior of Bari block due to the recession of water, and reopening of the road at Ratnagiri. Clinics commenced in the Ratnagiri Gran Panchayat last week, and the health situation there was found to be similar to other Gran Panchayat previously visited by the teams. The most common complaints are acute respiratory infections and skin infections. Under ten percent of patients had diarrhoea in the past week, and approximately two percent of patients had suspected malaria. The general health status of these Gran Panchayats is not alarming, and many of the complaints reflect the chronic poor health of the rural communities, rather than flood-induced illness. Because these areas often have poor access to Primary Health Centres, the IRCS health camps are very well attended, with 300-500 patients seen each day. In some areas of Bari block where government emergency health teams are working, such as Gamu, assistance from the IRCS medical team has been requested by the government team as they are overwhelmed by patient numbers, and their supply of medications is limited. At the time of writing, 15 clinics have been held, and approximately 5,700 patients treated. (See annex 2 for statistics) The two medical teams are working alternate days, with clinics held on six days per week. Two doctors, two pharmacists and one St. John's Ambulance volunteer attend each clinic. It is planned to add two extra doctors to the mobile medical teams over the next week. The SRC plans to

implement a similar program in Puri district in October, using two medical teams. Ideally, the current IRCS teams will complete their program in Jajpur at the end of September.

- **IRCS Orissa state branch/Federation dispensary:** A dispensary has been established at the OSB headquarters to service the Mobile Medical Units (MMUs). In addition to the NEHK's, some additional drug items have been procured. Stock is monitored by the MMU pharmacists, who replenish the mobile medical kits following each clinic trip. The IRCS has offered a donation of additional medications which remain in the Bhuj warehouse; surplus stock following the Earthquake relief operation.
- **Health Promotion:** The Health Promotion teams commenced distribution on 20 August (simultaneously with the general relief distribution) of a health package consisting of ORS sachets, chlorine tablets and soap. Information regarding the use of these is provided verbally and in written form at the time of distribution. Health awareness materials (in Oriya) have been printed and packed into the health packages. Team members will be St. John's Ambulance volunteers. Health promotion packages for 14,000 families include: 10 small packets ORS; 124 (minimum) water purification tablets; 2 single mosquito nets; 2 pieces of soap per family. The health promotion items have been received and are being packed in plastic bags printed with the IRCS OSB emblem, with the help of youth/junior Red Cross volunteers in IRCS OSB. The German Red Cross Society's (GRCS) conducted two health check up camps to serve villages where the GRC Orissa Disaster Mitigation Programme cyclone shelters are located. Flood water and continuous rainfall have resulted in water contamination leading to colds, fevers and water borne diseases. The GRC team provided the villagers with information about basic disinfectant methods and gave medicines to 230 patients.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

A good opportunity exists now for the Orissa 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, a similar team could be mobilised. The Federation health delegate in Orissa is completing written guidelines for the establishment of health teams and a central pharmacy in an emergency.

During the next two months while working in the field, the medical teams will also be active in recruiting new Red Cross members, and volunteers who could participate in DP and first aid training in the future. Volunteers who have assisted with medical clinics would be ideal people to invite for further training, and this would increase the capacity of the Jajpur Branch.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: To provide water purification tablets for 26,000 families and other affected communities. The total caseload has now increased to 30,475 families for the relief and health packages (IRCS and Federation, 4,000 families, SRC 16,475 families). Six million water purification tablets arrived 3 August from the Federation's warehouse in Bhuj. The tablets will be repackaged in Bhubaneswar for distribution under pharmacist supervision. Each family will receive a minimum of 124 tablets, enough for one month.

The SRC will not be able to replace Federation tablets used in their distribution by purchasing locally, due to ECHO budgetary restrictions. The IRCS agreed that the SRC may use the WP tablets from the stock (6 million) donated by the Federation. The stock remaining after the distribution will be put into the IRCS OSB Disaster Preparedness stock (approximately 2 million tablets). Additional water purification tablets purchased using Japanese funding will be distributed in the main relief operation.

Of the two Mobile Water Purification Units deployed in Puri District, only one is being fully utilised, by AKSS NGO. It has been decided that the other unit, under the supervision of CARE India, should be returned to Bhubaneswar for servicing and made ready for deployment elsewhere.

Additional water and sanitation needs are presenting themselves, and the need for an expert assessment of the situation was thought necessary. The Federation water and sanitation coordinator from Gujarat, has been asked to make an assessment visit to Orissa as part of the health project response to the situation. A watsan component is being considered for integration into the health program, and may consist of purification of water sources (tubewells) in affected villages, as well as spraying of stagnant water around villages for vector control. This

could be a community-based project, focussing on the IRCS disaster response and preparedness capabilities and capacity.

Logistics:

Objective 1: To provide transportation for volunteers and delegates working in affected regions. The number of Red Cross volunteers at each distribution has been increased to supervise the transportation of relief and health items by local methods of transport. (Trucks will only be able to reach the point in the road that the flood waters have damaged.) Boats donated by the IRCS headquarters to the Orissa State Government used during the early stages of the flooding to rescue stranded villagers will be used for the relief/health distributions where necessary.

Objective 2: To transport relief goods to Orissa from IRCS warehouses and local and international suppliers. Additional local warehousing in Bari block may be required. Jajpur's Collector has offered to assist with this matter. A number of sites have now been identified and will remain on standby if required. A number of critical entry points into the operational area have been cut off by renewed flooding. Boats are being used to provide a link for cross-loading from trucks onto smaller trucks and tractors beyond the cut off points, so relief materials can reach distribution points. A Logistics Management committee has been formed by the IRCS for the duration of the three months flood relief operation.

Telecommunications

Objective 1: To provide telecom equipment and support IRCS volunteers and staff working in the field. A VHF repeater has been installed in Bari Town by the Federation's telecom delegate. This will give the MMUs and the relief distribution teams a 20km radius coverage for VHF handsets for use in coordinating the complex logistical operation. A Satphone has been made available for the Relief Coordinator in Bari Block for communication with BBSR. Communications equipment training has been given to the MMUs and Relief Teams in 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 the floods. A pilot study is underway in areas where relief and health projects are operational in Jajpur and Puri District. The Orissa Disaster Mitigation Project (ODMP), a joint IRCS OSB and German Red Cross project has an operational focus on cyclone preparedness in coastal areas. Using the same contingency planning methods, the ODMP, IRCS OSB, SRC and the Federation have begun gathering information regarding flood related issues. It is important that this initiative is complimentary to the ODMP, and information is shared between Orissa State Branch, PNSs and the Federation.

Red Cross volunteers with MMUs, and relief distributions will use a questionnaire to gather the information covering three specific issues:

- risk and vulnerability assessment/profile;
- resources availability; and
- early warning systems

The IRCS Orissa State branch and the Federation will initiate a joint capacity review in relation to flood response to cover the following: material resources and hardware; financial and human resources; training; organizational structures; information; advocacy; international links; contingency and disaster preparedness plans and procedures; coordination and management; rehearsals and run throughs; policies and standards.

The information from both exercises will be used in the following ways:

- The India (Orissa) Floods 2001 Operational Review (IRCS/IFRC), scheduled for late September.
- The IRCS and SRCS/ECHO reporting and review.
- To develop strategies for disaster (flood) preparedness planning.
- To highlight areas for improvement in longer term IRCS OSB Disaster Preparedness Program.

Objective 2: To develop capacity of IRCS in disaster relief operations: T-shirts, caps, bags, umbrellas, stationary with Red Cross and ECHO emblems are being printed for Red Cross volunteer distribution teams in the IRCS/SRC-ECHO Programme. In addition seven new IRCS OSB staff members including programme coordinators for health promotion, mobile medical teams and relief have been recruited since July.

Co-ordination:

It is anticipated that the total number of families assisted in the IRCS and Federation operation will be just under 14,000. 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 Marco kitchen sets, and buckets, and the IFRC WP tablets.

Orissa

The Red Cross is represented at the Orissa State Disaster Management Agency (OSDMA) meetings by the Honorary Secretary IRCS Orissa State Branch. NGOs who chose to operate in areas closer to Bhubanesuar are in the later stages of their relief distribution, as access to these areas has been relatively easy. A number of NGOs, as well as the Spanish Red Cross (SRC) are planning a variety of rehabilitation projects concentrating on areas such as reconstruction, food security and, income generation.

For further details please contact: Tatjana Tomic, Phone: 41 22 730 4429; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: tosic@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

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Asia Pacific Department

Request for assistance - India floods 2001						ANNEX 1
No.21 /2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				14.09.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'220'225		TOTAL COVERAGE 110.5%
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
Germany	Delegate(s)			11'006		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			14'456		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				25'462	CHF	2.1%
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	

