

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

09 November, 2001

Appeal No. 21/2001

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

DREF Allocated: CHF 0

Beneficiaries: 156,000

Operations Update No. 6 Period covered 14 October -31 October

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 108.4%

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

Outstanding needs: Covered

The Disaster/Situation: Because of the recent cyclonic storm and heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh, which has claimed more than 150 lives and affected 50,000 households (see info. Bulletin no 1), the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has requested CHF 43,000 to provide further relief for 2,000 families. Along with the Indian Red Cross Society, it has been decided to utilise remaining funds from this appeal to cover the above support.

Operational Developments:

Andhra Pradesh State

A tropical depression in the Bay of Bengal caused a cyclonic storm which on 17 October crossed the shores of Andhra Pradesh, south-east India. Severe weather - 67.65cm of rain fell on 16 and 17 October - has reportedly killed more than 153 lives, with 21 people missing.

Most deaths occurred in Cuddapah, but others were also recorded in Kurnool, Nellore, Guntur, Chittoor and Anantapur. In Cuddapah, a city of 400,000 inhabitants, the situation was worsened by the sudden release of surplus waters from the irrigation canal dams of the Buggavanka project. Within half an hour, the water rose 1.5 metres while most people were still asleep. In Nellore dam breaches also caused further flooding.

In certain areas towns and villages were submerged in water, which did not recede for two days, making many villages inaccessible.

An estimated 50,000 households (200,000 individuals) are affected. In Guddapah, 18,244 houses were damaged, of which 8,515 were destroyed. A total of 4,000 hectares of crop has been damaged and thousands of livestock lost.

A management decision has been taken between the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and the Federation not to use the remaining funds from the India Floods 2001 appeal solely to replenish stocks but to respond with relief items towards this new disaster.

Bihar State

The current number of beneficiaries - 10,000 - for the Bihar operation will be increased by 3,000 because of existing need in Bihar state. It will be within the financial framework of the emergency appeal.

The total number of families who will be covered is 13,000. The procurement of relief goods will be done within the ongoing procurement process. The operational budget and the plan of action for the Bihar branch will be revised to reflect these changes.

Orissa State

Indian Red Cross Society/Federation relief distributions to 14,000 families were completed on 6 October.

Government Response:

Andhra Pradesh State

In the initial phase, two army helicopters dropped food parcels, including a cooked meal with rice, water packets and milk, to stranded people in Cuddapah districts. The government also distributed candles, kerosene and matchboxes.

Up until Sunday evening 21 October, the government had housed 61,681 people in 130 relief camps in Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Anantapur districts where it also distributed more than 100,000 food parcels. As rain-affected places returned to normal people went back to their homes.

In the aftermath of the emergency the government is monitoring the situation and taking steps - including the burning of dead cattle and disinfecting areas with bleach powder - to prevent an outbreak of epidemics. At the same time the authorities are distributing a minimum of 20 kg of rice per household.

The infrastructure has been extensively damaged and hundreds of trucks were stranded on National Highway no.5, connecting the northern states of India with the south. The roads have been provisionally repaired. A total of 242 irrigation tank breaches have been reported: Cuddapah (60), Nellore (130), Kurnool (43) and Chittoor (nine).

Railway traffic has also been disrupted between Vijayawada and Chennai but the track has now been restored. In Cuddapah and Kurnool districts several breaches have been reported along the road.

The state government has urged the prime minister to extend the assistance for relief and rehabilitation in cyclone-ravaged districts. The area has not been affected by floods for 40 years. It is more prone to droughts, which is the reason why there are many irrigation dams in the region. Standards for irrigation dams and roads are based on the maximum bursts of rainfall during the past five years. Within 36 hours, three times the average October rainfall fell during the emergency.

Bihar

The government of Bihar has conducted a comprehensive relief operation in response to flooding. The government is currently operating 314 relief centres and 227 health centres. Relief distributions include; 29,090 quintals (100 kilogrammes) flour; 88,419 boxes of matches; 170,958 candles; and 98,000 litres of kerosene.

Orissa

Government relief distributions, consisting of food, were completed in August. No large scale government assistance occurred during September and October. The Orissa state disaster mitigation authority (OSDMA)

assessment is complete. A copy of their report has been sent to IRCS headquarters and the Federation India Operations Centre, Delhi.

NGO Response/Coordination Issues

Orissa

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Andhra Pradesh

On 30 October, the state branch of Tamil Nadu provided 200 bags of rice (50 kg each) to Cuddapah. Addressing the public in Orissa on 23 October the chairperson of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) state branch expressed grave concern at the magnitude of loss of life and property. During her visit in Cuddapah, she was accompanied by the Federation disaster response delegate. Together they met Youth Red Cross volunteers during a distribution of blankets and sarees (women's' clothing) for 200 beneficiaries. These Red Cross volunteers also collected clothes for distribution as many people had to flee the floods empty-handed

On 18 October, the IRCS Nellore branch distributed 1,100 food parcels, 2,000 water bottles and 2,000 bananas to those stranded on the National Highway. It also distributed 2,500 food parcels, containing cooked rice and 250 ml drinking water parcels.

Shortly after the disaster the IRCS secretary general travelled to the region bringing initial financial support: 200,000 rupees (approx. CHF 7,000). The IRCS branch and sub-branches in Nellore responded immediately by supplying a vehicle and 10,000 food parcels and 10,000 250 ml drinking water parcels. The branch of Nellore, with its 45 volunteers, has worked round the clock. A medical team of six doctors and five paramedics has provided medical support.

From the initial financial support from the IRCS (paragraph above), the following was purchased by IRCS state branch in Andhra Pradesh: 1,000 bed sheets, 500 sarees (women's clothing), 500 lungies, 500 kitchen utensils.

In Nellore district, the following items were distributed; 500 bed sheets, 500 sarees, 500 lungies, 650 bed sheets (top sheet).

In Kurnool district the following was handed out to the affected people; 50 new durries (rugs), 50 baby bed sheets, 50 pieces of new clothing for children, 30 new long jackets, 50 pieces of new born baby wear, 71 old sarees and 48 packs of kitchen utensils.

The IRCS state branch in Andhra Pradesh and affected district branches are coordinating their response with the senior relief commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh authorities.

Background: Following the disastrous cyclone which hit this region in 1977, the IRCS with the assistance of the Federation, has constructed 200 cyclone shelters in nine districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Bihar

Distributions were unable to commence as scheduled because of delays in examining goods. A Federation disaster response delegate has gone to Bihar to assist with the matter. The flood relief operation is due to be completed by the end of November or early December.

Family packages will contain 20kg of flat rice, two sarees and one doti, which have been procured locally and are being inspected by an independent agency prior to distribution. In addition, beneficiaries will receive candles and matches donated locally as well as sisal rope and a tarpaulin donated by the American Red Cross.

Orissa

Two thousand of the 2,250 kitchen sets donated by the American Red Cross Society have been distributed by the IRCS Orissa state branch to individual families and organisations sponsoring communal kitchens throughout Bari, Banki, Jagatsingphur, Cottack, Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda blocks.

Relief distributions

Andhra Pradesh

Objective 1: To cover non-food items for 2,000 more families (8,000 individuals) in four districts in Andhra Pradesh for a first phase. Each family will receive one household kit containing the following: 2 bed sheets, 1 saree (women's clothing), 1 lungie (men's sarong), 1 kitchen set, 1 set of children's clothing, as well as some food items.

Orissa

Objective 1: To distribute emergency rations, BP5 high-energy biscuits, to marooned and unassisted communities within the next two weeks (By early August.)

The rapid response to the flooding in July by the Orissa state branch of the Indian Red Cross Society in cooperation with IRCS headquarters, the Spanish Red Cross and the Federation enabled the distribution of emergency rations to flood affected families in the Puri, Kalhadi and Nayagarh districts .

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

By 6 October 14,000 families in Jajpur District's Bari block received a relief package from the IRCS and the Federation containing: 15kg of rice; 2.5kg of dal; 1 litre of oil; 0.5kg of salt; one packet of BP5 high energy biscuits; one tarpaulin; one saree; and one doti.

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

Bihar State

After assessments in the middle of August by the IRCS and the Federation it was decided that it would be appropriate to distribute relief in Bihar state where flooding at that point was reported to have affected one million people.

Water and Sanitation

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

The Federation, the IRCS and the Spanish Red Cross collaborated to provide water purification tablets to beneficiaries in Puri and Bari blocks. The combined total caseload of families increased to 30,475 families for the relief and health packages (IRCS/Federation) 14,000 families, and SRC 16,475 families.

Health

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

Orissa

On 29 September, the Federation's health representative in Orissa gave a first aid course for national staff working with the Federation, Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross and the Orissa State Branch. There were a

total of 42 participants. The course covered basic anatomy, basics of resuscitation and CPR to adults and children.

Remaining items from the new emergency health kits (NEHK) donated during the crisis were used to create three basic health kits. Specialised pharmacy stock was organised for relocation to IRCS health clinics (in Bari).

Thirty five volunteers from the flood relief operation were identified for further training. The volunteers will be invited to a debriefing workshop scheduled for early November. These volunteers will then be contacted to participate in the first training workshop in community-based first aid scheduled for early next year.

A medical “warehouse” has been organised on the premises of the IRCS Orissa state branch headquarters and inventory has been made of the stock.

An assessment was conducted regarding the medical needs of the Beranpur branch of the IRCS mother and child care clinic as well as the anganwadis in Bari district.

The following recommendations were made following the assessments:

- 1) there is a need to include health awareness about basic hygiene into the training of the community health workers;
- 2) there is a need to raise awareness of the population regarding available existing government programmes covering; malaria, TB, leprosy, vector control, filariasis, and, vitamin A prophylactics, as a majority of the population seems unaware of these programmes;
- 3) include HIV awareness programmes in the training of community health workers;
- 4) introduce a child to child health programme;
- 5) need for traditional birth attendant (TBA) training replicated from the programme currently being used in Gujarat.
- 6) need for anti-drug addiction campaigns regarding widespread use of Panparag, beetle nut (cancer reduction) and alcohol.

•Donation of Cholera Kits, and Anti-Snake Bite Venom Vials

The IRCS formally presented the State Minister for Health with two cholera kits on 9 August at the state branch headquarters. Anti-snake bite venom vials were also provided to the Directorate of Health by the IRCS.

The IRCS also supplied four cholera kits from the Gujarat Earthquake operations in Bhuj.

Donation of Health Kits

Four new emergency health kits (NEHK) were donated by the IRCS from the Gujarat earthquake operation in Bhuj to the Orissa floods operation. Materials from the two remaining NEHKs were donated to Red Cross dispensaries in Kendrapara district, Koraput district, Bhadrak district and Mayunbhanj as well as to the hospital in Bramaphur. These dispensaries have been non-functional since the floods due to the spoiling of supplies.

The Spanish Red Cross is planning to donate one NEHK to a flood affected dispensary in Puri block when their health program commences in Puri in October.

Mobile Medical Teams

The capacity of the mobile medical teams was approximately 400 patients per day.

IRCS OSB/Federation Dispensary

A dispensary has been established at the IRCS-Orissa state branch headquarters to service the mobile medical teams. In addition to the NEHKs, some additional drug items have been procured. Stock is monitored by the

team's pharmacists, who replenish the mobile medical kits following every clinic trip. The IRCS donated additional medications from the Bhuj warehouse; surplus stock following the earthquake relief operation.

Total Drugs Used in MMU

Two NEHK were used by mobile medical teams.

Health Promotion:

The health promotion teams distributed (side by side with the general relief distribution) health packages consisting of oral rehydration salts (ORS) sachets, chlorine tablets and soap. Information regarding the use of these was provided verbally and in written form at the time of distribution. Health awareness materials (in Oriya) were printed and packed into the health packages. Team members included St. John's Ambulance volunteers.

Health promotion packages for 14,000 families include:

- 10 small packets ORS
- 124 (minimum) WP Tabs
- two single mosquito nets
- two bars of soap

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

Disaster Preparedness:

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 for medical assessments or clinics, a similar team could be mobilised. The Federation health delegate in Orissa completed written guidelines for the establishment of the teams and a central pharmacy in an emergency.

Logistics

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

Orissa

Objective 1 was successfully met through the combined efforts of the IRCS Orissa state branch, national headquarters and the Federation.

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

Objective 2 was successfully met suggestions for improvement made at the close of the relief operation will be followed up on.

Telecommunications

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

Orissa

The Federation's telecommunications delegate was in Orissa in early October to close up the operation.

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.

Lessons learned from the 2001 flood relief operation have been documented and will be applied accordingly.

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

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Orissa state branch has experience in large relief distributions from the 1999 super cyclone, and has all necessary and appropriate procedures and mechanisms in place to handle procurement, logistics and distribution. The role of the Federation field delegates was to streamline activities to

improve efficiency and speed, and also to provide training and monitor the use of extra logistical and communication capacity.

New staff members were recruited by IRCS Orissa state branch to implement the flood relief operation. Coordinators for relief, mobile medical teams, a health promotion coordinator, two warehouse managers, field block coordinators and other support staff were recruited as required.

Lack of human resources was identified as the main overall limiting factor. The performance in basically all fields could be improved with a quantitatively and qualitatively improved human resource base. Orissa state branch depends strongly on volunteers at all organisational levels. More functions should be filled by full-time professional staff. Financial sustainability is the main issue to be addressed.

In addition, the volunteer base needs to be strengthened and more training to be provided to increase the skills of the volunteers with a focus on specialisation. Work needs to be done towards developing a stronger human resource base, especially at the middle management and supervisor level.

For further details please contact: Tatjana Tasic, Phone : 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: Tasic@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			06.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'220'225		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	
PRIVATE ON LINE				169	11.09.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'323'266	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%