

# FINAL REPORT



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

20 November  
2002

*Appeal No. 21/2001*

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

*Beneficiaries: 156,000*

### "At a glance"

*Appeal coverage: Covered*

*Related Appeals South Asia regional programmes (01.24/2002)*

*The Disaster/Situation: The Indian Red Cross Society with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was able to meet the needs of communities affected by severe flooding in Orissa, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. The Floods 2001 Operation commenced in July 2001 in Orissa State. The Operation was completed during the second week of January 2002, following the final distribution of relief items by the Bihar State Branch.*

### **Operational Developments:**

Final distributions of relief items to flood affected families by Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) district branches in Bihar finished during the second half of January. With activities in Orissa having come to an end in October and, activities in Andhra Pradesh having concluded in November the IRCS with the support of the Federation has successfully met and in some instances surpassed the Operation's objectives set forth in the Request for Assistance; Appeal no. 20/01 issued on behalf of the IRCS by the Federation on 25 July 2001.

The request for assistance (Federation Appeal 21/2001) seeking CHF 1,220,225 in cash, kind and services to assist 156,000 beneficiaries (some 26,000 families) during India's anticipated monsoon season of three months. IRCS flood relief operations commenced during July in response to severe floods in Orissa, affecting close to 8.2 million people. The flooding, particularly in Orissa received a fair amount of coverage in the media.

The 25 July Request for Assistance stated three primary objectives for the IRCS/Federation Floods 2001 operation. The overall objectives were to;

- 1) deliver relief to 11,000 families in Banki block in the District of Cuttack and Birdi block in the district of Jagatsinghapur (*in Orissa*);
- 2) assess the current and future health risks in the most affected districts and respond to the needs; and,
- 3) replenish disaster preparedness stocks used in the initial relief distribution and provide additional contingency stocks for other flood affected states.

The remaining funds raised by the IRCS and the Federation in response to the 1999 Super Cyclone in Orissa; Appeal 28/1999 were reallocated to the 2001 Floods operation. In addition funding was generously provided by several National Societies.

By the close of August, it became apparent that due to the extensive flooding in Bihar, it would be appropriate to assist the Bihar State Branch with their relief activities, and when Andhra Pradesh was hit by a cyclonic storm in October, assistance was directed towards the State and district branches' activities.

Thus the India Floods 2001 operation was comprised of three phases;

- Flooding in Orissa State (July-October 2001)
- Flooding in Bihar State (August 2001-January 2002)
- Cyclonic Storm in Andhra Pradesh (October-November 2001)

It was noted at both IRCS branch and National Headquarters (NHQ) level that the ability of the IRCS to respond to flood emergencies was improving. Lessons learnt during the operations over the past few years were being applied, and the ongoing branch development work in Orissa between the Orissa State Branch and sister National Societies was paying off with the IRCS local branches capable of quickly mobilising volunteers and developing good co-ordination with government authorities and local NGOs.

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

The objectives set forth in the 25 July Request for Assistance were established for the Operation in Orissa State which was the largest as it contained both relief and health related activities. In addition while the Orissa State Branch worked closely with a Federation disaster response delegate and health delegates to meet the objectives described below the Spanish Red Cross was working at the same time with the Orissa State branch and the IRCS Orissa branch youth Red Cross volunteers to distribute ECHO funded relief items to 16,675 beneficiaries in the Puri district of Orissa.

The activities in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar States were limited towards providing affected families with appropriate emergency relief materials and were managed by the State and district branches with support from the Federation and in consultation with the Federation's Regional disaster response delegate.

### **Relief distributions w**

*Objective 1 (Orissa): To distribute emergency rations, BP5 high-energy biscuits, to marooned and unassisted communities within the first two weeks of the operation (early August 2001).*

The first two weeks of Red Cross distributions in July were managed independently by the Orissa State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society in coordination with the IRCS National Headquarters.

On 13 July the Orissa State Branch provided 258 families living in the Puri district's Kanas block with plastic sheeting, high calorie biscuits, water purification tablets; clothing, candles and match boxes.

The next relief distribution took place in the western district of Kalhadi on 16 July reaching 870 villages in 13 affected blocks. The state branch supplied 2,500 plastic sheets, 2,400 dhotis and sarees, 5,100 oral rehydration solution packets and 48,000 water purification tablets.

On 19 July the district Red Cross branch in Puri provided 500 tarpaulins, 600 dhotis, 600 sarees and 50 cartons of emergency rations. The following day, cooked mixed rice, bread, 200 gm of sugar, 100 gm salt, candles, match boxes, water purification tablets and five packages of oral rehydration salts were distributed to 1,000 families in Kantilo in Khandapar block of the Nayagarh district.

In addition, on 25 July the Spanish Red Cross supported the Orissa State Branch to provide 750 families with emergency relief packages.

The Indian Red Cross National Headquarters (NHQ) provided: 410 tents, five motor boats, 15 rubber boats, 330 rolls of plastic sheeting (8 x 485m), 5 rolls of plastic sheeting ((30.5 m x 7.32 m), 2,000 blankets, 500 towels, 12 metric tonnes of BP5 high energy biscuits (donated by the Danish Red Cross), 520 tarpaulins, and, 1,030 articles of clothing.

The IRCS with the assistance of the Federation transported 24,000 packages of emergency rations (donated by the Danish Red Cross) from the disaster preparedness warehouse in Gujarat for distribution to those people who were urgently awaiting assistance.

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

The actual amount of funding allocated to the relief programme allowed for an increase in the number of families which could be covered. Therefore the original target of 11,000 families was increased to 14,000 families. Families were estimated to comprise of four or five people. The majority of the flood affected families selected for relief aid were living in rural villages and derived their income from farming paddy rice.

At the end of July the IRCS transferred funds to the Orissa State Branch to locally procure outstanding items for relief packages. Family packages contained: clothing, candles, matches, rice, dal, oil, salt, oral rehydration salts, soap and water purification tablets. Orissa State Branch volunteers delivered these packages to heavily flooded areas using boats, bullocks carts, four wheel drives and other available means.

The IRCS and the Federation developed a clear set of selection criteria and rationale for assisting flood affected areas/families. All items which could be procured in accordance with Sphere standards were done so in a transparent manner. A procurement committee was formed, comprising of representatives of IRCS-OSB, IRCS-NHQ and the Federation relief delegate. Items such as mosquito nets, not covered by Sphere, were matched in quality to mosquito nets purchased by the branch for prior operations.

The targeting procedure went through several steps:

#### **1. IRCS/ Federation Decision to Target Bari Block, Jajpur District**

Initial relief distributions from local NGOs and international aid agencies operating in Orissa took place in Jagatsinghpur district's Birdi block and the Banki block in the Cuttack district. These areas are relatively close to Orissa's capital Bhubaneswar and road access was still available.

The IRCS, the Federation, and the Spanish Red Cross had proposed to distribute relief in these areas as well. Block coordination meetings for Birdi and Banki, however, held during the first week of August, revealed that there were extensive overlaps between the Red Cross, Concern, CRS, LWS and a number of local NGOs. In addition, it became clear during the meetings that these other agencies had a different, and more extensive relief package to distribute, and longer term rehabilitation plans for those Blocks. It was also thought by the IRCS, the Federation and the Spanish Red Cross that the needs in other areas were greater. Outlying areas requiring longer travel time and requiring travelling over flooded roads were not receiving aid because they were difficult to address logistically.

An emergency meeting was held between IRCS (OSB) and the Federation in Bhubaneswar, to discuss the coordination issues, and the possibility of changing the location of the project. It was felt by all parties that the needs in Bari Block, Jajpur District, were greater than those in blocks in other districts. Bari Block is surrounded by two rivers. The two rivers overflowed so that the entire block was completely covered with water. Access to the area by road vehicles was impossible and the area could only be reached by boat. Extensive damage to houses and farmland made access to the area impossible. The capacity of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement to respond to the situation in Jajpur district was better than most NGOs, and the proposed relief and health projects were equally, if not more, appropriate to the Bari block, compared to the Banki and Biridi.

It was therefore decided by IRCS (OSB) and the Federation, that the Red Cross should relocate its efforts by working only in Jajpur District, eliminating any previous duplication, allowing other NGOs to be fully effective in Biridi and Banki Blocks, and addressing more acute humanitarian needs in Jajpur District. As before, the relief and health projects were implemented in the same areas, to make efficient use of logistical and personnel capacity.

Meetings were held with Concern, CRS, LWS and local NGOs, to explain the Red Cross decision. The IRCS OSB-Honorary Secretary attended the Saturday evening Orissa State Disaster Management Association (OSDMA) meeting and presented a letter to further explain the position of the Red Cross, and to urge any other NGO intending to work in Jajpur to coordinate directly with the Red Cross in Bhubaneswar. Telephone calls were made to the Jajpur District Collector, the Bari Block Development Office (BDO), and the Youth Red Cross Coordinators in Jajpur, to announce the decision, and to begin to gather Block information.

2. Targeting of Bari Block (Jajpur district) was based on;

- Flood Damage.
- Absence of other international and local NGOs.
- IRCS volunteer capacity.

3. Targeting of Gram Panchayats (clusters of villages) within Bari Block was based on;

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

4. Targeting villages within Gram Panchayats (GPs).

- All villages within selected GPs were affected and therefore targeted.

5. Targeting families within villages.

- All families in villages were affected and therefore targeted.
- Distribution lists from BDO in Bari.
- IRCS distribution cards were given prior to distribution.

6. Targeting additional GPs inside Bari Block, but outside original proposed project area (between the two rivers).

After receiving detailed distribution lists from each GP, it was found that the number of families was only approximately 10,500. Therefore, it was decided that a number of extra GPs should be targeted to increase the caseload to the 14,000 maximum. The extra GPs were chosen by IRCS-OSB and the Federation, in consultation with the BDO in Bari. They were; Attira, Bainsiria, and Kimbiriapal.

The relief package for a total caseload of 14,000 families was:

- 15kg Rice
- 2.5kg Dal
- 1 litre Oil
- 0.5kg Salt
- 1 packet BP5 high energy biscuits
- 1 tarpaulin
- 1 sarhee
- 1 doti

Distributions of the packages comprised of the listed items began during the third week of August 2001 and concluded on 6 October 2001. Size and location of distributions are detailed in the table below.

<b>Date of Distribution</b>	<b>Gram Panchayat</b>	<b>No. Of Packages distributed</b>
20 August	Attira	990
23-24 August	Bainsiria	1'070
26-27 August	Kimbhriapal	990
29-30 August	Amathpur	750
31 August	Gamu	630
4-6 September	Ratnagiri	1'200
7 September	Mahakalpada	600
10-11 September	Serepur	940
12-13 September	Mandari	770
14 September	Ishampur	580
15-16 September	Swainkhanda	900
18-19 September	Balia	930
20-21 September	Dharpur	960
22-23 September	Sahupada	1'000
25-26 September	Chandanpur	910
6 October	Golkund	610
	Ratnagari	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 Gran Panchayats</b>	<b>14,000 families</b>

Relief distributions were monitored and supervised by IRCS volunteers and Federation delegates. The names of beneficiaries from Bari block were entered into a database so that processing information would speed up in the event of future distributions in the area. In addition the branch now has a source of baseline data for future assessments and a list has been prepared for the government. Prior to each distribution volunteers distributed yellow cards to beneficiaries containing their personal information. Each beneficiary was assigned a number by the Red Cross and this number was printed on their card. Stickers, with the numbers, were printed at the same time as the cards and then used to keep track of who received packages during the actual distribution thus speeding up the administrative process in the field. Information about the IRCS printed in Oriya was circulated in addition to the packages. Fifty lifetime members were recruited by the IRCS during the distribution process.

Relief materials were well received by the communities, the OSB-IRCS received letters of appreciation from various government officials and individuals.

The Japanese Consul in Calcutta donated funds earmarked to buy saris, dhotis and water purification tablets. The American Red Cross (ARC) donated 4,500 tarpaulins, 2,250 kitchen sets, and 2,250 buckets. A separate distribution of kitchen sets, buckets and water purification tablets was completed to schools and anganwadis in Orissa State in areas that were affected by the recent flooding.

Taking into account the American Red Cross and Japanese Consul donations, the relief package was enhanced with clothes (one sari and one dhoti per family), and the American Red Cross tarps were used in the main relief package distribution to 14,000 families.

In total, distributions of relief items to 14,000 families occurred over a seven week period. Procurement was not at the optimum. The order came through slowly with rice coming in too many shipments. It is felt that the volume of distributions could have been increased, however there was a bottle neck at management/supervisor level. Labour or material resources could be bought on short notice, but not the co-ordination and management capacity. It was recommended that additional management/coordination capacity is created at OSB level to manage a potential higher caseload.

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

**Andhra Pradesh State** (18 October 31 November)

*Objective: 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 would 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.*

*(Context)* A tropical depression in the Bay of Bengal caused a cyclonic storm which on 17 October 2001 crossed the shores of Andhra Pradesh, south-east India. Severe weather - 67.65cm of rain fall on 16 and 17 October 2001- reportedly killed more than 153 lives, with 21 people missing. Most deaths occurred in Cuddapah, but others were also recorded in Kurnool, Nellore, Guntur, Chittor 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 was damaged and thousands of livestock lost.

*(Red Cross Red Crescent Action):* Within days after the cyclone hit, the IRCS Secretary General travelled to Andhra Pradesh taking initial financial support: 200,000 rupees (approx. CHF 7,000). In addition, the IRCS Nellore district branch and sub-branches responded immediately by supplying a vehicle, 10,000 food parcels and 10,000 250 ml drinking water parcels.

A management decision was made between the IRCS and the Federation to use part of the remaining funds from the India Floods 2001 to purchase relief items for Anhra Pradesh.

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. The branch of Nellore, with its 45 volunteers, worked around the clock. A medical team of six doctors and five paramedics provided medical support.

Financial support from the IRCS was used by IRCS state branch in Andhra Pradesh to purchase: 1,000 bed sheets, 500 sarees, 500 lungies and 500 kitchen utensils.

On 30 October, the IRCS state branch of Tamil Nadu provided 200 bags of rice (50 kg each) to Cuddapah. Addressing the public in Orissa on 23 October 2001 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 for 200 beneficiaries. These Red Cross volunteers also collected clothes for distribution as many people had to flee the floods empty-handed

In Nellore district, the following items were distributed by staff and volunteers from the IRCS Nellore branch; 500 bed sheets, 500 sarees, 500 lungies, 650 bed sheets (top sheet).

In Kurnool district the following was distributed to 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 co-ordinated their response with the senior relief commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh authorities.

The operation to distribute relief items to just over 2,000 families (8,000 individuals) in four districts in Andhra Pradesh was completed by early November 2001. The distributions were made by IRCS Andhra Pradesh state branch volunteers and members of the youth Red Cross. Each family received one household kit containing the following items: 2 bed sheets, 1 saree, 1 lungie; 1 kitchen set and 1 set of children's clothing. Original plans to distribute rice were changed so as not to duplicate distributions made by the government.

***Bihar*** (15 August 2001 -31 January 2002)

*Objective: To assist 10,000 flood affected families with re-establishing their lives after flood waters had receded.*

*(Context):* According to figures released at the end of August by the Government of Bihar's Relief and Rehabilitation Department, heavy and repeated flooding in Bihar during July and August affected some 2,828,000 people in 1,620 villages spread out over 16 of the state's districts. Close to 200,000 hectare of crops were damaged and some 109,740 houses destroyed. Although flooding frequently occurs in Bihar during the monsoon season 2001's floods were exceptionally severe. Whereas there was very little rain in Bihar itself heavy downpours occurred over the Himalayas in Nepal which is the catchment area for many of the rivers in Bihar. In addition, the Gandak and other rivers breached their embankment and flooded wide parts of northern Bihar.

*(Red Cross Red Crescent action):* At the end of August, the IRCS NHQ responded to the State's intensified needs by providing relief items, already available in its warehouses, to the operation. Among the items provided to the Bihar branch by the IRCS NHQ for distribution in the districts of Gopalganj, Bettiah, Ganhara, Kasimchak and Nakta were; tarpaulins (700), towels (400), kitchen sets (500), bed sheets (200), rubber dinghies (3), water tanks (2), water purification tablets (2,000) and high protein biscuits (1,608 packages).

At the request of the IRCS Bihar State Branch during the last week of August, the Bihar State Branch and the Federation initiated an operation with the objective of assisting flood affected families to re-establish their lives following the floods by distributing relief items to 10,000 families. By the close of

the operation, in the middle of January 2002, some 10,836 Federation funded family packages were distributed by the Bihar State Branch to district branches for subsequent distribution to affected families.

The Bihar State Branch was in a relatively strong position to handle the emergency as it had managed a statewide floods operation during the previous year. The branch was given complete responsibility, with assistance from IRCS NHQ, for procurement of relief items and the identification of beneficiaries.

On 15 August, a Federation disaster response delegate arrived in India and joined representatives from IRCS NHQ including the IRCS Secretary General and representatives from the Bihar branch to identify which of the flood affected districts were most in need of assistance. Following the assessment it was concluded that although the disaster was a serious one, efficient action taken by the government of Bihar such as the distribution of relief items and the establishment of health posts greatly mitigated the effects of the damage on individuals. The flooding however had affected the poorest members of the population, many of whom lost the few possessions which they had. The major concern following the flooding was that due to the massive damage to crops there was very little left for these people to live off of once the distribution of emergency items had stopped.

Ten of the most severely affected districts were identified during the assessment and selected by the IRCS and the Federation to receive relief distributions. The districts were; 1) Gopalganj (2,000 families); 2) West Champaran (1,500 families); 3) East Champaran (1,000 families); 4) Chapra (500 families); 5) Darbhanga (1,500 families); 6) Madhubani (1,000 families); 7) Samastipur (500 families); 8) Muzaffarpur (1,000 families); 9) Sitamarhi (1,000 families) and, 10) Diara Area of Patna (2,000 families).

Space for packaging relief materials was donated to the Bihar State Branch free of cost. The family packages were packed by IRCS Bihar branch volunteers. Preparation of the packages required nearly 100 volunteers per day working over a period of two weeks. The distributions to families were also managed by the branch with support from their volunteers. The branch volunteers came from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Each family pack contained 20 kg of beaten rice (Chura), 2 Sarees, 1 doti, 2 mosquito nets, a box of candles and matches and a 20 metre Nariyal (coconut) rope. The items were procured by the Bihar state branch and purchased from within the state. Each family pack also contained a tarpaulin donated by the American Red Cross. In addition, four hundred family tents each capable of housing a family of up to six were purchased locally. The tents were provided to families who were dislocated due to soil erosion in order to permit them to establish a home base in a new location.

At the end of September, the Bihar branch arranged for a press conference with local journalists publicising its activities and a press release about IRCS and Federation activities was distributed by the Bihar branch and picked up by local newspapers.

The Bihar branch is well respected in the community and the packages were well received by the beneficiaries. The only obstacles faced in this successful operation were administrative delays regarding the transfer of funds resulting in a prolongation of the operation beyond the original expectations.

### **Water-sanitation w**

*Objective 1 (Orissa): 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. Six million Water Purification tablets arrived on 3 August from the IRCS stock in Bhuj, and were repackaged in Bhubaneswar for distribution under pharmacist supervision. One million were distributed in relief packages with each family receiving a minimum of 124 tablets, enough for one month. Two million were given to other agencies providing flood relief in Orissa. The remaining three million were stocked.

Two Mobile Water Purification Units were deployed in Puri District and utilised by AKSS, a local NGO operating out of Kanas, and CARE. Once the flood waters receded and the water wells were decontaminated, the units were withdrawn, serviced and made ready for redeployment.

A shipment of 1,050,000 water purification tablets were sent to the Orissa Disaster Mitigation Project (ODMP) Cyclone shelters for use by communities affected by the flood.

The two Mobile Water Purification Units deployed in Puri District were returned to Bhubaneswar for servicing and made ready for deployment elsewhere.

### **Health w**

There were no health related activities in regard to operations in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

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

At the end of July, representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Federation conducted a medical assessment of Bari block and parts of Puri block. One of the largest health risks was inadequate access to medical facilities. Bari block comprised of 16 Gram Panchayats, however, the entire area was serviced by two Primary health care centres. In addition, doctors and medical staff were reluctant to work full time in isolated areas. Poor roads and long distances presented additional barriers to those seeking medical aid. Consequently the IRCS-OSB in cooperation with the Federation formed two Mobile Medical Teams to provide health care to flood affected villages. Each mobile medical team was comprised of two doctors, two pharmacists and one volunteer. The teams began working on 13 August. Teams travelled to a different GP everyday. Beneficiaries were registered by a volunteer and issued a token to receive necessary prescriptions. Patients were then seen by a doctor following which they would pick up a prescription if they needed one.

#### **•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 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 (NEHKs) were donated by the IRCS from the Gujarat Earthquake Operation in Bhuj to the Orissa floods operation. Materials from the two remaining New Emergency Health Kits 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.

### •*Mobile Medical Teams*

The two IRCS mobile medical teams worked on alternating days, with clinics held six days per week. Two doctors, two pharmacists and one St. John's Ambulance volunteer attended each clinic. Flooding to Bari block's major roads delayed the start date for the mobile medical teams.

During the second week of August the mobile teams accessed the interiors of Bari block after the water receded and the road to Ratnagiri reopened.

Although there was concern over the possible increase of water borne diseases, the general health status of those living in Bari block was not alarming, and many of the complaints were indicative of the chronic poor health of the rural communities, rather than flood-induced illness. Because the areas often have poor access to Primary Health Centres, the IRCS health camps were very well attended, with some 300-500 patients seen each day. In total the Mobile Medical Team held 41 camps and treated 12,271 patients. In some areas of Bari block where government emergency health teams were working, assistance from the IRCS medical team was requested by the government team, as they were overwhelmed by patient numbers, and their supply of medications was limited.

The capacity of the mobile medical teams was approximately 400 patients per day. This could be increased if the need arises by hiring additional teams. There is evidence that people travelled to neighbouring villages to receive treatment (drugs) thus receiving items twice. It was recommended to co-ordinate medical with local volunteers to ensure follow ups and eventual rooting out of unintended beneficiaries.

### •*IRCS OSB/Federation Dispensary*

A dispensary was established at the IRCS-Orissa State Branch headquarters to service the Mobile Medical Teams. In addition to the NEHK's, some additional drug items were 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.

A Federation health representative was working with pharmacists from the state branch on coordinating the inventory of stock. Remaining medicines were packed in kits and stored with the Orissa state Headquarters to be used in the event of a future emergency.

### **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 were St. John's Ambulance volunteers.

Health promotion packages for 14,000 families includes:

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

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

### **Logistics w**

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

Relief teams travelled by small boats, bullock carts and tractors to reach villages where access was cut off by flooding from the surrounding rivers.

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.

The number of Red Cross volunteers at each distribution was increased to supervise the transportation of relief and health items by local methods of transport. (Only trucks were able to reach the point in the road that the flood waters had damaged).

Boats donated by IRCS HQ to the Orissa State Government used during the early stages of the flooding to rescue stranded villagers, were placed on standby for use in the relief/health distributions where necessary. Fortunately, the flood waters receded and boats were not used in Bari Block. Local bullocks carts were used to assist with the distributions.

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

A Logistics Management committee was formed by IRCS OSB for the duration of the three months of the flood relief operation.

A review of the logistical capacity of IRCS Orissa State Branch (OSB) was initially completed, along with a one day training exercise for warehousing personnel. IRCS OSB underwent a procurement, warehousing and transport self assessment survey. This led to a one day's training on warehousing and transport systems and procedures.

A Rubb-hall was brought from Bhuj to Orissa and was erected in the grounds of the IRCS OSB compound. As part of this process, IRCS OSB members were instructed on the construction procedure, to enable them to respond quickly in the event of another emergency. The Rubb-hall will remain in Orissa as part of the DP equipment stock.

Warehouse knowledge and management was identified as a weak point in the operation. All 'logistics' was dependant on one person. Warehousing problems were dealt with in an ad hoc manner. It was recommended that the OSB require more trained people to oversee warehousing. The idea of mobile emergency warehousing could be further developed as there are two Rubb halls on hand, as opposed to acquiring further permanent structures. Warehouse management/stock keeping should be improved by giving formal training to the OSB IRCS warehouse manager.

### **Telecommunications w**

*Objective 1 (Orissa): To provide telecom equipment and support IRCS volunteers and staff working in the field.*

A Federation telecommunications delegate installed a VHF repeater in Bari Town. This gave the mobile medical teams and the relief distribution teams a 20km radius coverage for VHF handsets for use in coordinating the complex logistical operation.

A Satellite phone was made available to the IRCS Relief Coordinator in Bari Block for communication with Bhubaneswar. Communications equipment training was given to the MMUs and Relief Teams in the field.

No serious communication problems were encountered, however some time elapsed until radio communication systems were set up and operational.

### **National Society Capacity Building w**

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

The strength of the three State branches are strong networks of volunteers and good reputation with the public. All of the senior members of the respective branches are held by honorary members. These people not only devote their time to the IRCS but also considerable experience in senior public administration and business positions. All three branches faced similar threats over the past few years and were able to respond quickly and independently to the disasters.

Further development of the IRCS in DP/DR is one of the key objectives of the three year capacity building programme which has been developed between the IRCS and the Federation in response to the January 2001 Earthquake in Gujarat.

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

The capacity of the IRCS to manage disaster relief operations will be developed through the Disaster Preparedness and Response Project described in Appeal 20/01 regarding the Society's recovery and rehabilitation programme following the earthquake in Gujarat.

*Objective 3: Replenish disaster preparedness stocks used in the initial relief distribution and provide additional contingency stocks for other flood affected states.*

Initial plans to replenish IRCS warehouse stocks with items such as blankets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets were changed due to new regulations introduced by the Federation at the end of 2001. As some of the restrictions contained in the regulations were incompatible with the actual market conditions, kitchen sets were procured for the warehouses in lieu of the originally planned items.

### **Co-ordination**

Co-ordination with the government, local NGOs and in the case of Orissa, between the Federation and the Spanish Red Cross was very good in all three states.

### **Conclusion**

The Floods 2001 operation was successful largely due to the strength of the branches. Delays were primarily caused due to administrative set backs.

- *The Indian Red Cross Society National Society; Phone 91 11 371 6441; e-mail: indcross@vsnl.com*
- *Azmat Ulla, Head of Delegation; Phone 91 11 322 4206; e-mail: ifrcin85@ifrc.org*
- *Tatjana Tasic, India desk; Phone 41 22 730 4429; e-mail: tasic@ifrc.org*

*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.*

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

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

John Horekens  
Director  
External Relations

Simon Missiri  
Head  
Asia Pacific Department

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	
Final report	X

**Appeal No & title: 21/2001 - Request for assistance - India floods 2001**

**Period: 2001 & 2002 up to September**

**Project(s): PIN506**

**Currency: CHF**

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions		Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	1,220,225				
less					
Cash brought forward					
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>1,220,225</b>				
<i>Contributions from Donors</i>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	-72,055				-72,055
American Red Cross (DNUS)	250,000				250,000
Australian Red Cross (DNAU)	-9,488				-9,488
Australian Red Cross (DNAU)	32,918				32,918
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	107,481				107,481
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	63,575				63,575
French Red Cross (DNFR)	303,400				303,400
Italian Red Cross (DNIT)	-15,811				-15,811
Italian Red Cross (DNIT)	54,856				54,856
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	61,000				61,000
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	-14,411				-14,411
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	50,000				50,000
Kuwait Red Crescent (DNKW)	-22,856				-22,856
Kuwait Red Crescent (DNKW)	79,300				79,300
Liechtenstein Red Cross (DNLI)	10,000				10,000
Liechtenstein Red Cross (DNLI)	-3,113				-3,113
Liechtenstein Red Cross (DNLI)	10,800				10,800
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN)	252,450				252,450
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	28,050				28,050
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	85				85
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	84				84
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	88				88
Singapore Red Cross (DNSG)	-4,551				-4,551
Singapore Red Cross (DNSG)	15,790				15,790
Germany				11,992	11,992
Great Britain				14,456	14,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,177,593</b>			<b>26,448</b>	<b>1,204,041</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	1,177,593
CASH EXPENDITURE	-1,177,593
CASH BALANCE	-----

**Appeal No & title: 21/2001 - Request for assistance - India floods 2001**

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**III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	271,000	277,283			277,283	-6,283
Clothing & Textiles	275,000	292,748			292,748	-17,748
Food/Seeds	132,000	227,015			227,015	-95,015
Water						
Medical & First Aid	24,000	15,644			15,644	8,356
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools		9,517			9,517	-9,517
Other relief supplies	177,000	20,911			20,911	156,089
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>879,000</b>	<b>843,118</b>			<b>843,118</b>	<b>35,882</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	14,000					14,000
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>14,000</b>					<b>14,000</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>	67,000	53,617			53,617	13,383
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>67,000</b>	<b>53,617</b>			<b>53,617</b>	<b>13,383</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	60,000	36,919		26,448	63,367	-3,367
Personnel (local staff)	22,000	34,158			34,158	-12,158
Training						
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>71,077</b>		<b>26,448</b>	<b>97,525</b>	<b>-15,525</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		6,743			6,743	-6,743
Travel & related expenses	16,000	13,562			13,562	2,438
Information expenses	10,000	2,171			2,171	7,829
Administrative expenses	18,000	53,537			53,537	-35,537
External workshops & Seminars		1,134			1,134	-1,134
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>77,146</b>			<b>77,146</b>	<b>-33,146</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	82,280	81,294			81,294	986
Technical services	24,630	24,340			24,340	290
Professional services	27,315	27,000			27,000	315
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>134,225</b>	<b>132,634</b>			<b>132,634</b>	<b>1,591</b>
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,220,225</b>	<b>1,177,593</b>		<b>26,448</b>	<b>1,204,041</b>	<b>16,184</b>