

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: MONSOON FLOODS

4 October 2002

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 24/2002

Launched on 14 August for CHF 2,934,000 (USD 1,988,000 or EUR 2,011,000) for six months for 200,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 180,000

Operations Update No. 2 ; Period covered: 27 August-19 September

Next Update (No. 3) expected October 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 61.5%

Related Appeals: India Gujarat Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Appeal No. 20/01

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,129,648

Summary: Donor support has been good but continued assistance is required so that the floods operation can continue to assist vulnerable people. Mobile medical teams are providing treatment and basic shelter and food is being distributed.

Operational Developments

The flood situation in India seems to be improving with flood waters receding in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Though the Central Water Commission has declared that no river is currently flowing above the danger level, states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra still continue to reel from the severe effects of flash floods. Since the monsoons set in mid-July lashing across the country, 13 Indian states have been flooded. As a result 781 lives and 3129 cattle were lost. The floods affected 114 districts, destroyed 481,476 houses and 17,160 villages. Bihar and Assam still remain the most stricken states.

The situation in Assam is slowly improving. With 22 out of 23 districts badly effected, 41 dead and five million people homeless, the victims are struggling to reorganise their lives. Dhemaji district in eastern Assam is the worst effected. Road and rail communication were cut off for 54 days in succession forcing people to commute by boats. According to media reports at least seven persons died when a boat on its way to Dhemaji capsized midstream on the Brahmaputra on 5 September. Now communication has been partially restored.

So far 6,560 villages have been effected as low-lying areas throughout the course of the river Brahmaputra from Dibrugarh to Dhubri have been inundated forcing approximately 1.6 million people to live on high embankments, relief camps and government buildings and schools.

Agriculture has come to a standstill with more than 47,888 hectares submerged affecting standing crops worth 162 million rupees. Other livelihood options like cottage industries such as weaving, bamboo and cane work have been badly affected. Fishermen and boatmen have been deprived of their source of income as swirling floodwaters prevent them from going into the river. The tea industry has also suffered with several gardens in upper Assam being flooded. The livelihood of around one million workers employed directly and another 10 million dependent on the tea industry have been affected.

Latest reports indicate that in upper Assam districts of Lakhimpur and Majuli, the largest river island in the world and districts of Marigaon, Dhubri (Bilasipara sub-division), Nalbari, Goalpara, Rangia, Kamrup and Mangoldoi in lower Assam are still in the throes of flood and rescue and relief operations are on full swing in these districts.

In Bihar, the floods this year is the worst in its history and in devastation has exceeded the scale of 1987. However, the situation is slowly improving and relief and rehabilitation work is continuing in the 24 affected districts. 16.5 million people have been displaced by flood this year in Bihar across 8,100 villages in the effected districts and washing away or severely damaging 395,445 houses and killing 1,377 cattle. The death toll in the state has mounted to 420 people. Although water has receded in sixty percent of the affected areas, 357 villages continue to remain marooned.

The authorities in Assam and Bihar have deployed thousands of boats for rescue and relief work and are distributing essential commodities such as polythene sheets, wheat, ready made food, match boxes, candles, kerosene oil, and in some areas halogen tablets and water facilities. Hundreds of health and veterinary centres remain operational. Nearly 1.6 million are still encamped in temporary relief camps opened by the authorities in both states. Many are beginning to return to their water logged or partially damaged houses.

According to UNDP's Disease Surveillance System, cases of malaria, diarrhoea, jaundice, Japanese encephalitis and other water borne diseases have been reported from the effected areas. The non-availability of safe drinking water and toilets in close proximity to stagnant water and animals are giving rise to the outbreak of water and vector-borne diseases in both states. In Assam, diarrhoea and jaundice have taken epidemic form. In the Golaghat district, 36 people have already died of severe diarrhoea (according to the district authority). The possible cases of Japanese encephalitis has also killed 100 out of 298 patients over the past month in Northern Assam. Reports from the MMUs in different districts in Assam show an increase in the incidence of gastrointestinal ailments, diarrhoea, fever, anaemia and vitamin deficiency.

A number of local and international organisations are continuing their relief and medical assistance to the affected populations in Assam and Bihar along with government authorities. Since disaster preparedness and coordination system among the government and relief agencies at the state and district levels was initiated in the two states, there has been increased relief information sharing among the different aid agencies including the Red Cross and a long term plan for disaster preparedness has been discussed.

Due to the low level of funding pledges received against the floods appeal, the numbers of families to be assisted have been reduced. In recognition of the swift and well coordinated relief and rescue work carried out by the Indian Red Cross volunteers in Bihar, the UNDP has decided to provide them with training in certain districts and are engaging them to man district control rooms and coordinate relief work.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

Objectives, activities and results w

Operational Goal: *to meet the urgent needs of 30,000 displaced families in the affected communities for food, shelter, family packs, medical services, to ensure improved quality of water and to prepare for a*

longer-term needs through necessary capacity building and disaster mitigation initiatives over a period of six months.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) with the Federation's India Operations Centre is maintaining close contacts with the IRCS branches in the flood affected states. An international appeal was launched on 14 August seeking CHF 2,934,000, and CHF 180,000 was immediately released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to initiate the relief operation.

Phase I of the operation is continuing. This consists of the immediate deployment of six mobile medical teams one NEHK (new emergency health kit), one cholera kit, 20,000 mosquito nets and two million water purification tablets from the IRCS warehouse to the worst hit areas in Bihar and Assam. Local procurement of food and non-food items of the family kits for 10,000 families in Bihar are underway whereas 7,500 pre-positioned family packs have already reached different affected districts in Assam. In addition, the Assam and Bihar branches have already made a relief distribution plan for the most vulnerable segments of the affected population together with the local authorities to avoid duplication of effort.

Shelter w

Expected result: 30,000 flood affected families to receive shelter materials within one to three months.

The tender process for the procurement of 10,000 general purpose plastic sheets will be made on 23 September in Patna along with the other food and non-food items to be packed and distributed together. Since the relief work began 9,500 general purpose plastic sheets, 150 tents and 50 rolls of polythene sheets have already been distributed.

Relief: distribution of food and basic non-food items w

Expected result: 30,000 flood affected families to receive basic food items and family kits over a period of three months.

Two rub halls corresponding to an area of 5,165 square feet are being dispatched from the central warehouse in Delhi which will make good space for storage and packing. The tender process for the procurement of 18 items for 10,000 families including food and non food items, hygiene kits and general purpose plastic sheets will be made on 23 September in Patna. Meanwhile, the Bihar state branch has prepared a distribution plan of these relief materials for the flood affected families according to the table below. Availing the same tender review process in Patna, the American Red Cross will bilaterally support IRCS's relief operation by providing to 2,300 families (11,500 persons) in the Khagaria and Sitamarhi districts in Bihar each with a family kit of the 18 items specified under the IRCS/Federation plan.

Since relief operation began, the IRCS local branches in Bihar have already distributed 210.75 MT of ready made food to 106,677 beneficiaries, 30,000 assorted clothes to 18,000 beneficiaries and 5,000 metres of cloth sheeting to 2,000 beneficiaries. Replenishment of the stock will depend on further donor support.

In Assam since 19 August, 7,500 out of the 10,000 family packs prepositioned in Guwahati warehouse have reached the targetted districts (see table below). Each family pack consists of one general purpose plastic sheet, 3.5 kg BP5, two mosquito nets and one cooking set. While some districts have completed the selection of beneficiaries, others are still in the process to ensure the selection are made in accordance with the stipulated criteria.

Districts in Assam	No. of Families
Dhemaji	1'000
Dhakuakhana	500
Marigaon	1'000
Dhubri	600
Bilasipara	400

Districts in Bihar	No. of Families
Darbhanga	2'813
Madhubani	2'500
Samastipur	2'813
Sitamarhi	1'250
Muzzaffarpur	1'563

Nalbari	1'000
Goalpara	600
Rangia	200
Kamrup	1'000
Majuli	1'000
Mangaldoi	200

Sheohar	313
Siwan	313
Khagaria	938

Health and hygiene w

Expected Result 1: 30,000 flood affected families to receive hygiene kits over a period of three months.

The IRCS has distributed selected eight most affected districts in Bihar with the highest caseload of malaria and diarrhoea cases and appropriate Red Cross health facility. One composite emergency kit consisting of 23 separate emergency health items, one cholera kit with 12 separate components and 20,000 mosquito nets with the symbol of the Red Cross have been dispatched from the IRCS central warehouse in Delhi to Bihar in the first week of September. The American Red Cross will also give two WHO new emergency health kits (NEHK) and two WHO cholera kits, with the aim to improve the response capacity of two primary health care centers staffed by Indian Red Cross personnel in Bihar. An estimated 22,000 persons are expected to benefit from this.

Expected Result 2: 100,000 beneficiaries to receive basic health care through six mobile medical units or Red Cross health posts over a period of three months.



In the initial stage of the flood operation, the IRCS's Assam state branch deployed one mobile medical unit in Kamrup district to cater for the health needs of the affected population. Immediately after the release of the DREF, additional five MMUs were dispatched from the campus of Guwahati Medical College on 23 August. Currently these MMUs have been deployed in the districts of Dhubri, Nalbari, Goalpara, Kamrup, Morigaon and Dhemaji and will be functional for a period of three months in which they will cover the other affected areas. Boats are being used to give medical relief and treatment to people in Dhubri, Bilasipara and Goalpara as these places still remain unreachable by roads. The statistics of patients treated for various ailments by the MMUs in the nine severely flood affected districts are as under:

Districts	Bilasipara & Dhubri (23 Aug-13Sep)	Morigaon (23Aug-10Sep)	Nalbari (23Aug-9Sep)	Goalpara (23Aug-14Sep)	Kamrup & Rangia (23Aug-10Sep)	Dhemaji & Dhakuakhana (23Aug-13)
Regd. cases	3'376	2'930	2'346	2'499	2'371	1'847
Adult: Male	834	559	851	635	654	384
Female	996	887	936	935	882	721

Children	1'542	1'484	559	929	835	736
Diseases treated						
Cold/cough	416	230	214	174	140	52
Fever	571	356	210	224	392	539
Ear, nose& throat	221	80	235	197	189	104
Diarrhoea/ Dysentery	356	441	339	148	108	313
Maternity problems	31	32	28	52	103	50
Respiratory tract infection	102	520	515	408	78	249
Anaemia/ Vitamin deficiency	221	664	153	295	275	211
Gastro-intestinal problem	459	110	250	182	440	241
Skin disease	261	270	194	282	163	250
Eye,UTI, backache	692	227	209	537	483	331
Serious cases treated	2	211	NIL	18	NIL	1
Referred	NIL	54	1	2	NIL	NIL

Water and sanitation: distribution of water purification tablets w

Expected Result 1: 30,000 selected households to have improved quality of water over a period of one month.

The IRCS dispatched two million water purification tablets on 27 August from its warehouse in Delhi. These have been sent to the different IRC district branches in Bihar where 20,000 selected families in the 11 districts of Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Siwan, Gopalganj, Katihar and Purnea were given 100 water tablets per household and were trained by Red Cross volunteers in the use of these tablets.

Expected Result 2: 300 previously submerged water pumps or wells to be disinfected and three flood platforms to be constructed in flood prone areas over a period of six months

There is a good prospect of the American Red Cross funding flood mitigation infrastructure and water/sanitation activities in Assam and Bihar through the International Federation (India Operations Centre). This fund will go for the construction of flood platforms (with raised tube wells and toilet blocks) and the disinfecting of 300 contaminated wells.

Coordination w

The Federation's delegation in the India Operations Centre continues to work closely with the IRCS in monitoring the situation and provide technical advice and support to initiate the relief operation. The profile of the relief delegate is under consideration. Until the position is filled, the logistics delegate, will continue to function as the programme manager and shall oversee the relief operation with the IRCS counterpart at the national headquarters. One person from the NHQ has been designated to function as field coordinator providing necessary advice and support to district branches throughout the course of relief operation. The IRCS and the Federation have been maintaining regular contacts and sharing information with the government departments, UN organizations and other relief agencies.

Outstanding needs w

The current appeal coverage is low and further donor support in the form of cash donations is required to enable the delivery of the planned assistance to the intended 200,000 beneficiaries.

For further details please contact:

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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>.

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India - Monsoon floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 24/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			04.10.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'934'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 61.5%
AMERICAN - RC				98'108	20.09.2002	
AMERICAN - RC		942	USD	1'409	18.09.2002	PROGRAMME MGT & CONTROL
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100'000	AUD	81'130	27.08.2002	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		124'300	AUD	102'411	27.09.2002	BLEACHING POWDER & MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS
BRITISH - RC		25'000	GBP	57'406	23.08.2002	
BRITISH - GOVT		147'059	GBP	337'677	23.08.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		247'500	CAD	237'600	03.09.2002	
DANISH - GOVT		3'155	USD	4'729	16.08.2002	
FINNISH - RC		60'000	EUR	88'188	19.08.2002	
GERMAN - RC		200'000	EUR	293'600	12.09.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		99'400	USD	149'001	20.08.2002	
MONACO - RC		20'000	EUR	29'292	14.08.2002	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		50'000	EUR	73'230	03.09.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				725	19.09.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	111'860	21.08.2002	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				1'600	12.09.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'667'966	CHF	56.8%

