

# 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

26 November 2002

*This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals*

*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](http://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. 3 ; Period covered: 20 September- 13 November*

*Next Update (No. 4) expected December 2002*

### IN BRIEF

*Appeal coverage: 62.9%*

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

*Outstanding needs: CHF 1,087,684 (USD 730,000/ EUR 737,000)*

*Summary: The Indian Red Cross Society, with Federation support, have provided relief to thousands affected by flooding. However, with winter approaching and many people still in temporary dwellings further donor support is needed to extend relief assistance. Food and permanent shelter are priorities.*

### Operational Developments w

Flood waters are receding everywhere in the earlier affected Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Central Water Commission has declared that currently no river is flowing above the danger level. The mid-July monsoons which lashed across the country, flooded 13 states and took a toll of 841 lives and 3,729 cattle. The floods washed over 115 districts, destroyed 485,048 houses and 17,176 villages. Assam and Bihar states have been the worst hit and over 20 million people have been affected.

In Bihar, where the scale of devastation exceeded that of floods in 1987, the flood waters receded at the close of September. However, due to alluvial and de-alluvial action of the rivers, there has been mass destruction of homestead in the affected districts and still some habitats continue to be in a pool of stagnant water. The latest report from the state government shows that 15.8 million people across 8,212 villages in 25 districts have been



*Rebuilding livelihood in households damaged by flood has not been easy, particularly for women-headed*

affected. More than 396,600 houses have been damaged and 810,000 hectares of cropland destroyed. The death toll in the state has risen to 451.

The honorary director of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Bihar state branch, along with the Federation relief delegate, made an overview study of the impact of floods on habitations and consequential means of livelihood of the flood affected people. According to the study, 17,500 people are still residing in the temporary shelters in the districts of Sheohar, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi.

The worst hit victims of the floods are landless agriculture wage earners who normally do not have any defense against such calamities. They are entirely dependent on their daily earnings to meet their day to day requirements. The agricultural operation in the area is at a standstill. Government relief distribution has completely stopped. Except for the Red Cross, the intervention of voluntary organisations has been on a very limited scale, particularly where food and shelter are concerned. Though the government has supplied some medicines in the flood-affected areas for waterborne diseases, the measures taken to prevent the outbreak of diseases have been limited. Diarrhoea and vomiting have been reported from some pockets in the affected districts and availability of safe drinking water continues to allude the people. Road communication has been restored in many districts except for Sitamarhi and Sheohar, which continue to have frequent disruptions because much of the restoration works are temporary measures. Most of the items in the family kit have been delivered to the warehouse in Patna, the capital city of Bihar. However, due to some initial procurement and delivery problems, the packing and distribution was delayed and has only started on 18 November. Distribution has started in Khagaria district. The entire distribution is likely to be completed in January.

The state of Assam is also beginning to show definite signs of improvement. The monsoon floods have devastated 22 out of 23 districts, claiming 41 lives and destroying the homes of five million people. Rail and road communication remains partially disrupted in different parts of the state hence slowing down relief efforts. Many areas still remain waterlogged causing real hardship to people trying to rebuild their damaged homes or living in waterlogged ones. The UNDP's Disease Surveillance System has reported increasing cases of malaria, diarrhoea, jaundice, Japanese encephalitis and other water borne diseases in the affected areas. The availability of safe drinking water continues to be a major problem and sanitation conditions pose a major challenge, especially for women in the relief camps. In Assam diarrhoea, jaundice and acute respiratory tract infection have gripped people in the flood hit areas. According to the district authorities, 36 people have died of severe diarrhoea in Golaghat district. Reports from the Red Cross mobile medical units (MMU) in different districts in Assam also show an increase in the incidence of gastrointestinal ailments, diarrhoea, fever, anaemia and vitamin deficiency. On 12 November, an intermittent shower made the temperature drop in Guwahati, indicating the advent of the chilly winter days. Meteorology office sources attributed the rain to the cyclonic storm over the west central Bay of Bengal. Rain and thunder showers would continue to occur in the following days at most places over Assam and other northeastern states of India.

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was observed at both national and state levels in October, including Assam. The Indian government laid emphasis on disaster preparedness, and the need to enhance coordination among the government and relief agencies at all levels. During the relief operation in the two flood affected states, there has been increased relief information sharing among the different aid agencies, including the Red Cross. A long term river-networking project to link up major rivers across the country and subsequently bring an end to the droughts and floods has been announced.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action 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 longer-term needs through necessary capacity building and disaster mitigation initiatives over a period of six months.*

Following the launch of the international appeal on 14 August seeking CHF 2,934,000 and the release of CHF180,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), relief operation was immediately initiated. Phase I of the operation is continuing which consists of the deployment of six mobile medical units and

distribution of 9,800 family parcels in Assam, dispatch of two NEHK (New Emergency Health Kit), two cholera kits and two million water purification tablets from the IRCS warehouse and procurement of 17,100 family kits in Bihar while the American Red Cross is funding 2,900 others in the same state on a bilateral basis.

### **Shelter w**

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

The tender process for the procurement of general purpose plastic sheets was completed on 23 September. Purchase orders for them, as well as food and non-food items targeting 17,100 families have been placed. Another 2,900 family kits funded bilaterally by a PNS have also been purchased at the same time. The process took, however, more time to select suppliers and to approve the purchase than originally planned due to a relatively complex nature of procurement (many different items with various specifications combined with local business practices).

When supplier of the plastic sheeting failed to supply the material according to approved specifications, a procurement committee consisting of one representative each from IRCS, Federation and the PNS decided to go for the next higher bidder for the polythene sheets. As a contingency measure and to expedite the relief operation, IRCS is dispatching from the Delhi warehouse 300 rolls (for 3,000 families) of polythene sheets. Some of the polythene sheets have already been sent along by two trucks from Delhi to Patna in support of the distribution. 150 pieces of plastic rolls and 3,500 pieces of plastic sheeting donated by the Danish government have also arrived in Patna. Instead of using rub halls, a warehouse in Patna has been granted to the Red Cross for free use until the end of the flood relief operation. The facility, which will also provide space for packing, has been slightly furnished to secure storage of the already delivered items.

In Assam, the distribution of 9,800 prepositioned family packs, including general purpose plastic sheets each, has already been completed. (see below table)

### **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 six months.**

Since the suppliers of some items failed to meet with the delivery schedule agreed, packing process has been delayed. Once the items for the family kits are in place, including the donations in kind and buffer stock from other IRCS warehouses, packing of 5,300 family kits out of the planned 17,100 made only possible as a result of the contingency measures, started on 18 November with the support of Red Cross volunteers. A distribution plan including the bilaterally funded 2,900 kits has been drawn by the IRCS Bihar state branch and 500 family kits have been distributed in Khagaria district. Selection of 20,000 beneficiaries has been completed. Land labourers who work as daily wage earners on agricultural land and who have lost their homes and means of livelihood come in as the preferential category for selection. Besides them, the beneficiary list includes:

- the destitute elderly;
- sick or handicapped;
- families headed by separated, divorced or widowed women with no source of income.



*IRCS Assam state branch has distributed 9,800 family packs to selected families in flood affected districts..*

The Red Cross district branch committee, volunteers and district administration were involved in the selection process. Coordination has also been maintained with other agencies to avoid duplication of beneficiaries. Since the relief operation began, the IRCS local branches in Bihar have 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.

In Assam, 9,800 out of the 10,000 family packs pre positioned in Guwahati warehouse have been distributed. Each family pack consists of one general purpose plastic sheet, 3.5 kg BP5, two mosquito nets and one cooking set. Distributions are ongoing in the districts and a representative from the state branch is overseeing them. 7,500 packs were distributed as per the table below. Further details are being collected from the Assam state branch.

**Distribution in Assam**

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Families</i>
Dhemaji	1'000
Dhakuakhana	500
Marigaon	1'000
Dhubri	600
Bilasipara	400
Nalbari	1'000
Goalpara	600
Rangia	200
Kamrup	1'000
Majuli	1'000
Mangaldoi	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>7'500</b>

**Distribution Plan in Bihar**

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Start Date</i>
Sheohar	1'000	22-25 Nov
Khagaria	1'300	19 Nov - 21
Siwan	700	5-7 Dec
Samastipur	4'500	9-22 Dec
Madhubani	3'500	26 Dec - 1
Muzaffarpur	2'500	4-9 Jan 03
Darbanga	4'500	12-27 Jan 03
Sitamarhi	2'000	30 Jan - 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20'000</b>	

**Health and hygiene w**

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

The NEHK and cholera kits were dispatched from Delhi and arrived in Patna on 27 October. One NEHK consisting of 23 separate emergency health items and one cholera kit with 12 separate components has been dispatched for further distribution to 10 locations in seven most affected districts in Bihar. These areas have reported the highest number of malaria and diarrhoea cases and are equipped with appropriate Red Cross health facilities. Each selected district will receive a community health reference manual for the use of the NEHK medicines and supplies. Instructions have also been given to log medicine use and register patients information. A separate monthly monitoring form has been provided for use on permanent basis and submission to the state branch. One composite kit of 23 health items and 12 anti-cholera medicines, sent from Delhi, has been used in 11 districts affected by the floods. Together with the newly arrived kits, a total of 40,000 persons are expected to benefit from this aid.

**Expected Results 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.**

Since the initial stages of the flood operation, the IRCS Assam state branch has deployed one mobile medical unit in Kamrup district to cater for the health needs of the affected population. This was followed by additional five units on 23 August. These MMUs will stay functional for a period of three months covering the worst affected areas. Nine districts have been catered to and 41,194 patients were treated. The latest statistics received from MMUs covering the period of 23 August to 22 October are as below:

Districts	Bilasipara & Dhubri	Morigaon	Nalbari	Goalpara	Kamrup & Rangia	Dhemaji & Dhakuakhana	Total
Regd. cases	9'461	8'513	6'593	6'608	6'452	4'566	42'193
Adult: Male	2'493	1'918	1,985	1'838	1'765	816	10'815
Female	2'916	2'740	2'440	2'381	2'262	1'902	14'641
Children	4'052	3'855	2'168	2'389	2'425	1'848	16'737
<b>Diseases treated</b>							
Cold/cough	1'283	624	493	662	435	822	4'319
Fever	1'481	970	487	549	792	1'576	5'855
Ear, nose & throat	745	306	604	485	659	296	3'095
Diarrhoea/ Dysentery	1'187	1'484	807	439	235	940	5'092
Maternity problems	119	156	112	83	168	89	727
Respiratory tract infection	276	1'239	1'176	815	270	252	4'028
Anaemia/ Vitamin deficiency	712	1'259	487	720	821	283	4'282
Gastro-intestinal problem	1'232	407	490	943	1'460	1'132	5'664
Skin disease	681	691	611	939	612	942	4'476
Eye,UTI, hyper tension,backache	1'944	474	860	952	1'002	1'006	6'238
Serious cases	79	767	25	163	302	1	1'337
Treated	3	361	9	25	4	1	403
Referred	1	91	6	8	48	0	154
Contraceptive distribution	Nil	Advice given	Not done	6	Nil	Advice given	6
Suspected malaria	150	75		21		75	321

### **Water and sanitation: distribution of water purification tablets w**

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

Availability of safe drinking water continues to allude the people in general in flood affected areas in Bihar. Following the dispatch of two million water purification tablets from Delhi, local Red Cross branches have distributed 1.5 million water purification tablets in September to 150,000 selected families. This was done with the help of trained volunteers in the 11 districts of Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Siwan, Gopalganj, Katihar and Purnea. Five million tablets have been kept with the state branch as reserve. The initiative has had a positive impact on the health conditions of the population.

### **Capacity Building w**

**Expected Result 1: disaster response capacity of IRCS in flood-prone areas to be further improved through lessons learned based contingency planning.**

Under the ongoing DFID funded programme in Assam, a flood relief learning review and disaster assessment and response workshop will take place during 19 -22 November. IRCS has initiated the same exercise to be implemented shortly for Bihar.

***Expected Result 2: two flood platforms to be constructed and hand pumps installed in selected sites in flood prone areas over a period of six months.***

During the reporting period, discussions have been held on the implementation arrangements for the mitigation activities for Bihar (30 tube wells) and Assam (2 flood platforms, 20 tube wells and 20 toilets). According to previous lessons learnt, it was recommended that while completion of the activities in Bihar should be possible within the time frame, that the activities for Assam would need to be extended to May 2003. This is due to delays in the relief phase, longer development time required for the community based approach and the need to complete the DFID funded programme before the onset of monsoon rains.

**Coordination w**

The Federation's delegation in the India Operations Centre continues to work closely with the IRCS on monitoring the situation and providing technical advice and supports. Biweekly meetings are held to follow up on the implementation activities, narrative and financial reporting issues. A relief delegate arrived at the close of September and has been overseeing the procurement and distribution of relief goods in Bihar, together with officials from the IRCS NHQ and state branch. There is also very close collaboration with the bilateral PNS relief delegates in the field. The logistics delegate still continues to be the budget holder of the operation. 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 continue to maintain regular contacts and share information with the government departments, UN organizations and other relief agencies.

*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			26.11.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>2'934'000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 62.9%</b>
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	
SWEDISH - RC		260'000	SEK	41'964	15.11.2002	RELIEF ITEMS, TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				1'600	12.09.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'709'930	CHF	58.3%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		25'533	USD	38'202	18.09.2002	BIHAR: 2 WHO NEW EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS, 2 WHO CHOLERA KITS
DANISH - GOVT		65'500	USD	98'184	16.08.2002	150 PCES PLASTIC ROLLS, 3'500 PCES PLASTIC SHEETING, TRANSPORT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				136'386	CHF	4.6%