

DREF Bulletin



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

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: September 2006.

This DREF bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, targeting 10,000 beneficiaries (equivalent to 2,000 families) in four states. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by November 2006; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 28 February 2007). Development of this operation is reported in this update with detailed information and plan distribution as outlined below.

This bulletin is an update on the DREF actions as well as other efforts carried out by the IRCS national and state level from existing resources. One update will be provided at the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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Background and current situation

The flood situation in India is back to normal, including in all the DREF allocated states - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Chattisgarh. However, due to the extent of the flooding this year (including unprecedented floods in drought prone areas) and the enormous losses suffered, it is taking time for the affected communities in different parts of the country to recover and restore their normal lives. The government and non-governmental agencies continue to provide help to the affected people. An overview of the flood situation was provided in the previous report. Apart from the DREF covered states, the states of Orissa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir also faced flood situations. Joint assessments were carried out by the Federation and the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

According to the IRCS state branch in Gujarat, 16 districts in the state were affected by the floods this year, with 584 deaths reported and about 7 million people affected. Reports are awaited from the state branches of the other DREF states and a consolidated situational summary will be given in the next report.

According to UNDP sources, the state of West Bengal was also hit by rain and storms in September (details available on the DMIS entries on the Federation website), with three districts being seriously affected. The total number of deaths reported in the state was 18 and over 160,000 people were affected. It has been estimated that more than 70,000 houses were fully or partially damaged. The electricity supply in the state was also affected and led to heavy power cuts, but now the situation is back to normal.

The government of West Bengal immediately sanctioned Rs. 45 million for distribution of relief material. Based on further requirements, the government has assured additional support to the district administration. The district administration has already distributed 20,000 tarpaulin sheets in the affected areas of the districts.

The state of Bihar faced flash floods in the last week of the September and, according to IRCS sources, 17 districts were affected and 30 people were reported dead. About 700,000 people were marooned and 250,000 people were living in temporary shelters. Railway services were suspended in some parts of the state and roads, including the national highway, were breached in other parts and had to be topped. This year the floods hit the traditionally drought-prone districts. The catchment areas of the river Ganga and its tributaries were affected. The neighbouring state of Jharkhand also received heavy rain, thereby worsening the flooding. However, the situation now is back to normal and no further flooding has been reported.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The flow of information between the affected DREF programme state branches and the IRCS national headquarters has been good. Activities are still being carried out in keeping with the operational plan drawn up in the previous update. The components of the plan included:

1. Dry rations of rice, pulses, wheat flour and tea leaves – this has been fulfilled by the local resources from the state branches.
2. Basic medicines available over the counter and water purification products – CHF 5,555 each was forwarded to procure the chlorine tablets and bleaching powder in the states of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
3. Replenishment of 2,000 non-food family packs – this is being done, for which the standard Federation procurement process has been followed and all the supplies are expected to be received by the end of October.
4. The operational cost of all these activities to be carried out, including the operation of the water purification units in the city of Surat in Gujarat.

Regarding the budget, number of beneficiaries and the states please refer to the DREF bulletin MDRIN001 (http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRIN001.pdf) and the previous DREF bulletin update (http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRIN00102.pdf).

The allocation of DREF was timely and the distribution plan submitted in the previous update had been changed due to the emerging needs of the beneficiaries (*as the plan indicates that the number of non-food family kits is more than 2,000, the rest were distributed by the IRCS from their own resources*). The final distribution of non-food family kits was carried out as given in the table below:

Relief items in a family pack	Quantity	Remarks
Andhra Pradesh		
Bedsheets	1000	Financial assistance of approximately CHF 5,555 has been provided for basic medicines, water purification chemicals and meeting operational expenses.
Men's clothing	3000	
Women's clothing	3000	
Kitchen sets	1000	
Towels	1000	
Gujarat		
Kitchen sets	1000	Financial assistance of approximately CHF 5,555 has been provided for basic medicines, water purification chemicals
Women's clothing	1000	
Cotton blankets	2000	

Woollen blankets	2000	and meeting operational expenses.
Tarpaulins	200 rolls	
Chattisgarh		
Kitchen sets	1500	
Women's clothing	1500	
Cotton blankets	1500	
Woollen blankets	1500	
Tarpaulins	1500	
Maharashtra		
Pre-positioned non-food family kits distributed in Washim district of Maharashtra.	500	The packs include: kitchen utensils, women's clothing, men's clothing, cotton towel, cotton bedsheet, blanket, bucket, plastic sheet, mosquito net

Gujarat: The IRCS state branch in Gujarat had requested the national headquarters to provide three mobile water purification (WP) units for the city of Surat, to ensure a temporary solution to the drinking water problem there. The assurance given that once the municipal corporation was able to restore the drinking water facilities in the city, the WP units would be returned back to the IRCS national headquarters.

The national society agreed to provide three such units for Surat. The units were brought from Chennai, where they were being used in post-tsunami relief work, and from the regional warehouse in Kolkata. The destinations for these WP units were the wards of Amroli, Purnagam and Ichhapor in Surat. An IRCS team, comprising a senior official, a NDRT member, the Disaster Management Centre coordinator and two supporting staff (one plumber and one fitter) visited Surat.

The first WP unit, installed in Amroli on 22nd August and handed over for public use to the mayor of Surat city, has been functioning successfully and has provided water to more than 300,000 people in Amroli. Officials of the Surat municipal corporation were briefed about the mechanism of the unit and have been entrusted with the responsibility to operate and maintain the unit. In addition, the Surat municipal corporation agreed to take over the expenses of running the unit, as well as to install a 5,000 litres capacity water tank to make the operation smoother. It also arranged for tankers to supply water to people in the nearby villagers.

The second WP unit was deployed in Purnagam to support an estimated 350,000 people for their drinking water requirement.

Unfortunately, the third unit was received in a damaged condition and had to be returned back to the IRCS national headquarter for repairs.

The Gujarat state branch mobilised a huge amount of resources, in cash and kind, from various government and private sources to cater to the most vulnerable population. The state branch covered 14 out of the 16 affected districts and the whole relief operation amounted to CHF 296,496.

According to the latest consolidated report received from the Gujarat state branch, Gujarat was the worst affected among the four states and the immediate response was initiated within a few hours of news being spread about the floods. Simultaneously, assessments were undertaken at the state level for the worst affected areas. After the needs were recognized, the relief centres were identified and immediate relief was dispersed, which included food packets (dry, cooked and also vegetables), water pouches, medicines, clothes, utensils and chlorine tablets. Under the health component, the IRCS was running services like free medical check-up, free medicines, ambulance services and various prevention activities which include random checking and distribution of disinfectants. Each district had two mobile medical teams and each team was able to check 250-300 patients a day. The government has appreciated the efforts of IRCS in the removal of dead bodies. The mayor of Surat has written a special letter to the Gujarat state branch to express his thanks to the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

The flood operation in Gujarat concentrated on four main areas: rescue, relief, health needs and removal of dead bodies. The volunteer strength was good at all levels from sub-district to state level and this was a real motivating factor that the state branch could pull off such a huge operation at the state level.

Maharashtra: The efforts of the Maharashtra state branch were mentioned in the previous report. As reported, 500

non-food family packs, supported through DREF, were distributed in Washim, which was the most affected suburb of Mumbai city. In addition, state branch mobilised chlorine tablets and bleaching powder were also distributed.

Andhra Pradesh: Out of the total disaster preparedness (DP) stock provided by the IRCS national headquarters to the Andhra Pradesh state branch, it has distributed the following:

S.no.	Name of the district	Item	Quantity
1.	Karim Nagar	Bedsheets	250
		Men's clothing	250
		Bleaching powder	1 tonne
		Chlorine tablets	20,000
2.	Srikakulam	Bedsheets	250
		Women's clothing	1000
		Men's clothing	250
		Towels	250
		Kitchen sets	248
		Bleaching powder	1 tonne
		Chlorine tablets	20,000
3.	East Godavari	Kitchen sets	248
		Women's clothing	1000
		Men's clothing	250
		Towels	250
		Bleaching powder	1 tonne
		Chlorine tablets	20,000
4.	Bhadrachalam	Bleaching powder	1 tonne
		Chlorine tablets	20,000

The remaining stock is presently pre-positioned as DP stock for any future disasters. In addition, the Andhra Pradesh state branch also mobilised the below-mentioned material from its own resources:

S.no.	Name of the district	Item	Quantity
1.	Adilabad	Blankets	250
		Men clothing	250
		Women clothing	250
		Tarpaulin	100
		Biscuits	2 Tonnes
2.	Nizamabad	Blankets	250
		Men clothing	250
		Women clothing	250
		Tarpaulin sheet	100
3.	Bhadrachalam	Water	500 cases
		Biscuits	2 Tonnes
4.	West Godavari	Water	250 cases
		Biscuits	5000 packets
5.	East Godavari	Water	750 cases
		Biscuits	10,000 packets

The main donors to the Andhra Pradesh state branch are private companies, who have a steady relationship with the branch.

Chattisgarh: In this state, the action has already been reported in the previous update and the national headquarters had released relief material earlier in the operation. The utilisation report has been received and all the material has been distributed to the beneficiaries. The selection criterion for beneficiaries has been to tap the most vulnerable, in consultation with the local authorities.

The IRCS national headquarters is coordinating the DREF response and trying to gather utilisation reports for the remaining stock.

[Please return to the title page for contact information](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>