

# INFORMATION 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

*This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

Monsoon rains and flash floods have led to loss of lives and widespread destruction across India over the last two months. Recent floods caused by incessant rain in the state of Jammu and Kashmir have claimed 13 lives and marooned thousands of people. Road links with the Kashmir valley were snapped due to landslides and subsequent shutting of highways. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), through its state and district branches, is assessing the situation and needs as well as providing support to the affected communities, in close coordination with the local authorities.

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### The Situation

The southwest monsoon, which has been active across India from June to August 2006, has caused loss of lives and widespread destruction and damage to property, agriculture and infrastructure due to heavy rainfall and floods. Floods adversely affected the north-eastern state of Assam in June, the states of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka in July and the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Orissa in early August. Subsequently, in mid August, the desert state of Rajasthan in the west faced one of the worst floods in its history.

Currently, the Indian meteorological department forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall in the eastern state of Orissa during the next 24 hours (under the influence of depression formed over north Bay of Bengal), has increased the fear of worsening flood situation in the state. Widespread rainfall is also expected over Gangetic West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and east Madhya Pradesh during the same period. Squally winds, with speeds reaching 50-60 kmph, and rough to very rough sea condition are predicted along and off the coast of Orissa, West Bengal and north Andhra Pradesh. Ports signals and warnings have been issued to fishermen.

In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, incessant rains led to an overflow of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers that cut off the valley for the past few days. According to media sources, so far the death toll due to the floods is 13 and thousands of people have been marooned in flood affected districts. Over 300 houses and shops have been damaged and 400 villages continue to be inundated under flood waters. The road links with Kashmir valley were snapped as Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh highways were shut due to landslides, triggered by heavy rains, in

many areas. Nearly 2,000 people had been stranded at several places on the 300-km Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The torrential rains have hampered road clearance operations but the Border Roads Organisation, which maintains the highways, has been engaged in clearing the blockages. The Srinagar-Leh highway has been subsequently reopened.

There has been no more rain in Jammu and Kashmir and the flood waters have started receding. According to government sources, the water level of Jhelum river and the upstream confluence, which was earlier flowing nearly 12 feet above the danger mark, has receded and is now flowing nine feet above the danger mark.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been responding at all levels covering all the flood affected states. Each of the state branches and districts branches of IRCS, in the flood affected states, are mobilising relief materials locally. There has also been cumulative IRCS national headquarter action (which can be seen in the previous DREF and information bulletins).

Presently, the IRCS disaster management centre, based at national headquarters in New Delhi, is coordinating information at a national level and the Federation's India delegation is assisting the national society in coordinating relief efforts. An assessment was carried out in the state of Andhra Pradesh and, based on an assessment report submitted to the IRCS national headquarters for further action, intervention at a national level is not currently foreseen.

Similarly, the Jammu and Kashmir flood situation is being studied and the IRCS state branch is working round the clock to support the local administration. The IRCS district branches in Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Jammu and Aknoor, some of the worst affected districts, are working in close coordination with the local authorities and public bodies. As the government district collectors are also the presidents of the IRCS district branches, close coordination is maintained between the work of IRCS and government action.

The Jammu and Kashmir state branch is in constant touch with the respective district branch functionaries and volunteers to identify gaps and provide support wherever required. Consignments of relief items have been dispatched to the affected areas (the items and their quantities are not yet known and details will be provided in the coming updates). The state branch has asked the district branches to carry out field assessments and specify the immediate needs on an urgent basis.

### [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 achieve 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>*



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Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation