

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 (no. 02/2007) 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.

The Situation

During the 10 days prior to the date of reporting, the country experienced severe torrential rains, causing floods in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala (in the south), Orissa and Bihar (in the east), Assam and Tripura (in the north-east), Maharashtra and Gujarat (in the west), Madhya Pradesh (in the centre) and Kashmir (in the north). While the previous information bulletin on this reflected figures (for the number of people killed, evacuated and affected in the country) based on media reports, the figures given in this bulletin are verified from the Indian government's National Institute of Disaster Management.

Following the situation reflected in the previous bulletin, during the weekend of 30 June-01 July 2007, a depression passed from the Bay of Bengal over to the states of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, accompanied by heavy rains and gusty winds. In the northern state of Kashmir, heavy monsoon rains caused flash flooding and surface damage and disruption.

In Maharashtra, 45 people were killed and 5,000 people were evacuated to safer areas, even as the intensity of the showers weakened and flood waters receded from low-lying areas of Mumbai city. Pune and Konkan regions were the worst affected, along with some areas in Vidarbha region. Districts in Pune region received over 200 percent of annual rainfall during the two days prior to reporting.

In Gujarat, 14 people were killed and about 6,600 people were evacuated, as major dams overflowed. A total of 1,500 villages are without power and 22 dams are overflowing and have been put on high alert. Rail and road services are disrupted in low lying areas, the worst affected being the districts of Bharuch, Surat, Bhavnagar and Surendranagar. The army has been put on alert in several parts of the state, including Ahmedabad city, with health and rescue teams deployed and two national disaster response force columns being deployed in Bhavnagar district.

In Madhya Pradesh, the water levels in rivers and rivulets rose to threatening levels in Khandwa district, which recorded rainfall of 185 millimetres since 30th June. Around 60 families were evacuated from the banks of the Aamna river and lodged in temporary camps at different schools. Water from the river caused damage to several huts in the Chamarwadi area of the district.

In Andhra Pradesh, eight districts were affected and 37 people killed. The worst affected districts were Guntur and

Kurnool, the others being Mehboob Nagar, Andhapur, Prakasham, Krishna, East Godavari and Kadappa.

In Assam, 250,000 people in 125 villages in six districts were affected by heavy rainfall and flooding, and 150,000 people were displaced. The affected districts were Dabanji, Dagkuakanna, Lakkimpur, Mangolai, Murgaon, and Tinchukkia.

The Indian meteorological department has predicted that heavy rains will continue in Maharashtra, Konkan, Goa and Mumbai, with the low pressure system still centred over the states of Gujarat, south-east Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Government Action:

The national disaster response force (comprising central paramilitary forces) has swung into action in all the affected states. The government is playing a major role in search and rescue, and evacuation of people to safer areas. The state governments of the affected states are running relief camps and providing free basic medicines to the affected population, through government-run primary health clinics and dispensaries.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Further to the information given in the previous information bulletin, regarding the action taken by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters of releasing 2,000 family packs to the Andhra Pradesh state branch, another 2,000 family packs were released by the IRCS headquarters to the Assam state branch and distributed among affected communities in the state (a report on this is forthcoming).

On 27th June, a meeting was called by the IRCS Secretary General to provide an update to the Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and all the in-country partner national societies. During the meeting, it was decided to form an IRCS taskforce for the floods response, to be headed by the IRCS Joint Secretary, and comprising two staff members from the IRCS disaster management team, an appointed emergency response director, and an information officer. Through this taskforce, the IRCS headquarters contacted all its affected state branches, to get reports on the current situation in these states and information on the kind of support the branches required from headquarters.

According to the latest information from the field, the Andhra Pradesh state branch carried out an assessment, the report of which was submitted to the IRCS headquarters and shared with the Federation. The Assam state branch deployed 10 state disaster response team members, and trained volunteers, to carry out search and rescue and supervise the relief operation in the field. The Maharashtra state branch has, so far, not asked for any assistance from headquarters and is coping on its own with the present situation. During the deep depression that affected the state of Orissa, during the week prior to reporting, the disaster management coordinator at the Orissa state branch mobilised volunteers to shift affected people to IRCS's cyclone shelters. After the floods receded, these people have shifted back to their houses.

The disaster management centre at the IRCS national headquarters has been monitoring the situation closely and providing daily updates to enable the national society to plan ahead.

How we work

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.

The Federation's Global Agenda

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.

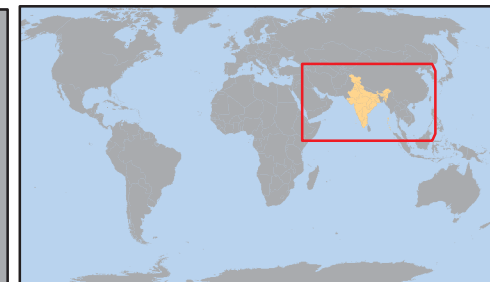
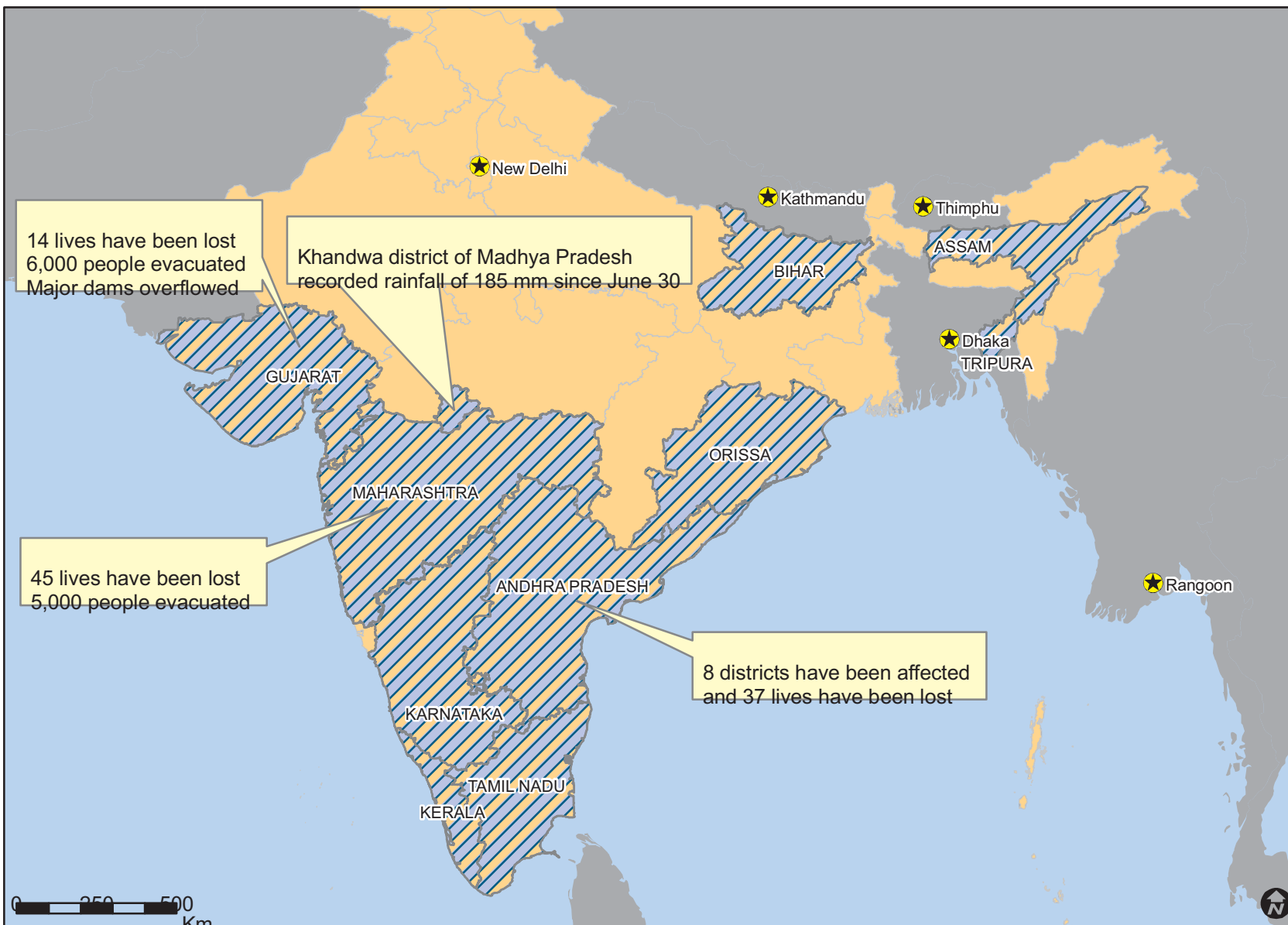
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. S.P. Agarwal (secretary general), email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org; phone: +91.11.2371.6424; fax: +91.11.23711.7454*
- *In India: India office, Mohamed Babiker (head of India office), email: mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11.233.4235*
- *Federation South Asia regional delegation in India, Nina Nobel (acting head of regional delegation), email: nina.nobel@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128*
- *Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific Department): Christine South (regional officer, South Asia); email: christine.south@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4273; fax: +41.22.733.0395 or Gokce Balcik (senior assistant); email: gokce.balcik@ifrc.org; phone: +44.22.730.4429; fax: +41.22. 733.0395*



India: Floods



During past 10 days the country has been experiencing severe torrential rains causing floods in nine states of India.

The impact of climate change is visible with new states facing floods each year with Maharashtra and Gujarat facing floods every year since past two years and new states like Tripura and Karnataka have also added to the list.



Affected states

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation