

# 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

## UNITED KINGDOM: 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.**

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*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>*

### The Situation

This summer's devastating flooding and extreme weather has wreaked havoc across the United Kingdom, destroying homes and livelihoods, and bringing misery to hundreds of thousands of people. Access to drinking water and electricity has been cut and there has been major disruption to travel routes.

Improved weather conditions in the past few days bring hope that the worst is over. Reports also indicate that river levels are stabilizing, allowing residents of flooded areas to survey the damage and begin the cleanup.

### The British Red Cross response

The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) National Floods appeal has raised more than £1 million for those affected by the crisis. The supermarket Sainsbury's has agreed to support the appeal with store collections across the UK. The supermarket's own staff members will be carrying out the collections.

Response to the crisis has come from across the BRCS. Volunteers from Glasgow, Falkirk, the Borders and Northern Ireland have joined the floods relief effort in parts of the country that are badly affected.

As the situation is quietening down with weather conditions improving, the BRCS is moving from emergency response into recovery in affected areas.

Latest reports (1 August) from **Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire** show that 5,161 people have now been helped. Volunteers and staff have distributed 192,841 litres of water, 1,038 food parcels, 551 hygiene bags and 8,740 toilet bags.

BRCS volunteers dropped off two tonnes of water, 50 food parcels and 50 hygiene kits to the Dorchester Hotel in Gloucester, which has been home to several evacuated families for more than a week. The drop was filmed by the BBC Points West programme.

The Red Cross in **Gloucester, Avon and Wiltshire** has been involved in a Silver welfare meeting and tasked with responding to the future need for water distribution and the overall management of the remaining supply of water. It is hoped that by Monday 6 August the drinking water supply will be back on, but until then the BRCS will lead in the distribution operation. As a result, current support and staffing levels will be maintained.

The specific needs of people are being looked into as the BRCS moves into the recovery stage of the operation in the coming week and building community resilience for the future.

The Red Cross in Gloucester, Avon and Wiltshire has now finished assisting at the Womad festival with the majority of festival goers leaving the site on Tuesday. Womad is the biggest event where the BRCS provides first aid support. Between 26-31 July over 100 volunteers were available to assist.

Volunteers in **Berks, Oxfordshire and Bucks** also rose to the demanding challenges at Womad. They also provided normal services with fire and emergency support service (FESS) call outs and first aid at events including Ascot.

The Thames Valley Area emergency response to the flooding has now ended. The remaining evacuees at the Kassam Stadium rest centre were returned to their homes, sheltered housing and care homes on 28 July by the transport and escort service. Volunteers from *Home from Hospital* supported.

This will be the last Information Bulletin posted on the International Federation's website related to the flooding in the United Kingdom and the BRCS's work in the flood-affected areas. More information can be found at the following BRCS link: [floods information sheet](#).

## **Red Cross Red Crescent response to extreme weather**

There have been several examples of extreme weather across Europe this summer. At the same time as parts of the United Kingdom have been hit by severe flooding, central and southern Europe was sweltering in temperatures of over 40 degrees Celcius (for more information on the heat wave in central Europe and Red Cross Red Crescent work in response, [click here](#)).

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre based in the Netherlands supports National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reduce the impact of climate change and extreme weather on people's livelihoods. For more information on the work that they do, [click here](#).

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