



INDIA: FLOODS

Appeal no:19/2000
25 September 2000

***THIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SEEKS 5,969,270
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 200,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 4 MONTHS***

***THIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE REPLACES THE PRELIMINARY REQUEST OF 11
AUGUST FOLLOWING A DETAILED NEEDS ASSESSMENT. THE PRESENT FLOODING
IN WEST BENGAL WILL BE REPORTED ON IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT TO BE
ISSUED SHORTLY***

Summary

More than five million people have been made homeless by floods in north and north eastern India, as the south western monsoon arrived early. Reports of flooding in the state of Assam started coming in by late July. The situation worsened dramatically at the beginning of August when flash floods resulting from heavy rains in the Himalayas swept south, causing breaches in the embankments along many parts of the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries, inundating the surrounding area. The combined death toll in north east India has now reached more than 250 people. The state of Assam has experienced the worst flooding and local authorities state that over 3.5 million people have been made homeless. Heavy rainfall continues, most recently causing further disasters in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. On 3 September, the authorities reported that over 100 people had been killed by the floods in Uttar Pradesh, as well as causing further havoc in Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. There are fears that further flooding may be expected in the coming weeks since the monsoon is not expected to abate until late September.

The request for assistance has been revised in accordance with the findings of a joint assessment team from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and the Federation which visited the affected regions in early September. The flood victims are in acute need of relief, including water purification tablets, basic health care, tarpaulins, shelter and household materials, and to a lesser extent, food.

The Disaster

During July and early August 2000, the annual monsoon rains caused extensive flooding in north and north eastern India. According to government figures, between four and five million people were made homeless by the floods in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh, with entire villages being cut off by the flood waters and millions being displaced. Major damage to local infrastructure was sustained, with road and railway links being severed. The central and state governments responded immediately with search and rescue operations and food and non-food relief for villagers in hundreds of rapidly-established camps. The Indian Red Cross Society also reacted quickly, working in co-ordination with the local authorities to provide relief to affected populations. On 11 August, in response to an approach from the IRCS, the Federation launched a preliminary request for assistance totalling CHF 6 million, covering food, non-food items, and health and water and sanitation activities. The Federation immediately released CHF 100,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) which was used for the purchase of relief goods. On 15 August an assessment team arrived in Delhi tasked with defining more precisely the impact of the floods on the affected population, and crafting a response with the IRCS. The assessment team determined that, in the short term, the most pressing need was for clean water, health care, shelter and household goods to replace those lost in the flooding. It also concluded that food needs may emerge more strongly later in the year as the damage to the rice harvest becomes evident.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The Indian government, both at central and state levels, has a long experience in reacting to monsoon flooding. The armed forces - in particular the Indian Air Force - was very active in the early stages of the year 2000 flooding, operating in a search and rescue capacity and delivering food packages to marooned communities. The local authorities in most locations have stocks of reserve food for use in emergencies. The authorities also have the capacity to deliver rapidly non-food relief goods, including shelter materials and water purification tablets, and they have done so on a large scale in the present emergency. In each state, data on the impact of the flooding, in terms of population affected, houses destroyed, crop losses, and casualties, is collected at the district level and forwarded on a daily basis to the state Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation. The Commissioner is responsible for co-ordinating the government's response, which in the present case has included food and non-food relief, water purification, medical aid, sinking of tube wells at camps for displaced populations, repair and cleaning of contaminated wells, and provision of rice seedlings to communities which have suffered extensive crop losses.

However, despite the considerable resources that it can mobilise at short notice, the governmental response cannot cover the full needs.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The IRCS has many years' experience in the field of disaster response, most recently in connection with the 1998 floods and the 1999 Orissa cyclone. It is a long-established National Society (NS), with branches at the state level and a network of volunteers reaching down to the district and sub-district level. Although the capacities of IRCS branches vary greatly from state to state, local officials such as District Magistrates (DMs) and District Health Officers are often *ex officio* functionaries of the IRCS, and this creates a close link with governmental initiatives in disaster response scenarios.

In the context of the present flooding, IRCS branches have responded with distribution of food and non-food relief, in close collaboration with the local authorities. In some states such as Assam, distribution began in July. DREF funds were rapidly transferred by the IRCS headquarters to four state branches in mid-August, and used for local procurement of relief items, mainly tarpaulins and clothing.

In addition to the Federation and IRCS response, two PNS initiated bilateral activities. The American Red Cross fielded a six-person team in Delhi and Assam from 18 August, and by 24 August had procured non-food relief items for 5,000 families in Delhi and arranged its transport to Assam. Following a visit by a Spanish Red Cross Delegate to Andhra Pradesh in late August, the Spanish Red Cross is considering mounting a relief action in that state.

Other Agencies' Action w

Few international NGOs are operational in the flood-affected areas of India. Oxfam has programmes in Upper Assam, working through local NGOs; it undertakes preparedness activities each year before the onset of the monsoon, and this year carried out relief activities - distribution of non-food items and seeds. Several small local NGOs have distributed limited supplies of relief commodities during the present flooding. WFP, which has had a food-for-work (FFW) programme in Assam, as well as a child feeding project, responded in the early stages of the emergency with an input of 500 MT of corn-soya blend (CSB) for children.

Co-ordination w

The Federation continues to liaise closely with the American Red Cross team currently in India organising assistance to flood victims in Assam. On 4 September, the Federation assessment team briefed UN specialised agencies and representatives of the NGO community on plans to assist 200,000 people with health care, purified water, and food and non-food relief.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

Assessments took place in August and September. As a result, the Federation is currently setting up a team of up to five delegates to assist the IRCS in implementing the programme. The IRCS will appoint a Floods Co-ordinator to liaise with the Federation team. The South Asia Regional Delegation will provide administrative and technical support. In addition to implementing the current plan of action, this joint Federation/IRCS team will be tasked with monitoring the situation in flood-affected areas, to detect any change in priority needs as the impact of flooding becomes clearer. In order of priority, and in direct relation to contributions received for this appeal, the plan of action will focus on dealing with health, water sanitation, non-food relief, and food.

Immediate Needs •

Health:

The aim of interventions is to secure the affected population against waterborne and vector-borne diseases in the immediate aftermath of the floods. To provide immediate coverage, ten New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) are being procured from Federation supplies, since these are quickly mobilised. These kits will provide coverage while arrangements are made for the local procurement of medicines. To distribute medicines to remote and flood-affected communities, mobile units in the form of rented vehicles and boats will be needed. Professional health staff will be needed to run the mobile clinics, but IRCS volunteers will be trained to assist in the clinics and to undertake community health and hygiene training. Small allocations are also included to meet emergency needs, and for the use of permethrin for vector control.

Water and Sanitation:

The main activity is the distribution of household chlorination kits for drinking water. Each kit comprises two 15 litre plastic buckets with lids, chlorination tablets, and pictorial instruction leaflets. Each chlorination pill will disinfect 15 litres of non-turbid water. Daily rations of treated water are calculated at 15 litres per beneficiary per day. The support period is 60 days, corresponding to the post-flood

recovery period during which the local authorities will rehabilitate damaged and polluted tube wells. A one-off distribution is to be carried out - 100,000 beneficiaries will be assisted in Assam, 50,000 in Bihar, 40,000 in West Bengal, and 10,000 in other states as additional needs are identified by the implementation team in consultation with IRCS branches. In Assam, 5,000 families have already been flagged to receive an assistance pack from the American Red Cross containing one bucket and 30 halogen pills. These beneficiaries will be included in the Federation programme. They will receive one plastic bucket per family of six in order to standardise assistance between American Red Cross and Federation beneficiary groups. The chlorine distribution rationale and leaflet distribution provide for identical assistance to both American Red Cross and Federation beneficiary groups.

Non-food Relief Goods:

The programme will provide one tarpaulin, two mosquito nets, and one kitchen set to 35,000 families in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and other target states, to provide shelter, protect against malaria, and replace goods lost in the flooding. In addition, the 5,000 families in Assam who received non-food goods from the American Red Cross will also receive two mosquito nets each, since nets were not included in the American Red Cross distribution.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Food:

Food was not mentioned as an immediate priority to the assessment team, but a considerable food element is included in this plan of action to take account of pockets of food deficit in remote areas, losses caused by further flooding, and a worse-than-foreseen rice harvest later in the year as a result of crop destruction during the present floods. Provision is made for the distribution of two months' supply of rice and dahl to 200,000 beneficiaries, and oil to 170,000 beneficiaries (the American Red Cross has distributed oil to 30,000 beneficiaries in Assam as part of its family pack programme).

State-level Procurement:

The plan of action foresees a sum set aside to facilitate local procurement at the state level of non-food and food items. Funds would be utilised by state IRCS branches to undertake supplementary procurement of items identified as specifically and urgently needed - for instance, clothing, nutritious food for children, or locally-preferred food stuffs.

Strengthening of IRCS Capacities:

CHF 20,000 will be allocated for the strengthening of IRCS capacities at state level through the provision of office equipment, refurbishment of storage facilities, etc. Expenditure of these funds will be at the recommendation of Federation field staff and subject to the agreement of IRCS headquarters.

Red Cross Objectives •

- { To provide relief to populations affected by flooding in north and northeastern India in the form of health care, water purification tablets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and a limited amount of basic food commodities (rice, oil, and dahl), in accordance with priorities.
- { To build the capacities of the National Society, particularly at state level.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: July - September 2000 •

Distribution of food and non-food relief took place in close collaboration with the local authorities. In DREF funds were rapidly transferred by the IRCS headquarters to four state branches in mid-August, and used for local procurement of relief items, mainly tarpaulins and clothing.

Phase Two: October - December 2000 •

Relief assistance will be focused on the states of Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal as priority areas, with provision also for operations in Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh. The beneficiary population totals 200,000 persons, as follows:

Assam	100,000
Bihar	50,000
West Bengal	40,000
Other states	10,000

These numbers may be changed in response to the evolving situation on the ground - for instance, further extensive flooding in certain areas, or the intervention of other agencies. Some of the 100,000 beneficiaries in Assam will have received certain goods already through the American Red Cross project currently underway to provide assistance to 30,000 persons.

Capacity of the National Society •

The Indian Red Cross Society is a long-established National Society with branches at the state level and a network of volunteers reaching down to the district and sub-district level. Although capacities of IRCS branches vary greatly from state to state, there is a close link with local authorities in disaster response. The IRCS will appoint a Floods Co-ordinator to liaise with this Federation team, and nominate three technically-qualified staff members to act as counterparts to the Federation delegates

Present Capacity of the Federation in India •

The Federation is currently recruiting a team of five delegates for the flood operation to assist the IRCS in implementing the programme. The South Asia Regional Delegation will provide administrative and technical support.

Evaluation •

The IRCS/Federation team will be tasked with monitoring the situation in flood-affected areas, to detect any change in priority needs as the impact of flooding becomes clearer. Standard Federation reporting on the flood operation will be issued on a regular basis.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Response to the request for assistance launched on 11 August has been low, while the scale of needs in India following extensive flooding is vast. The Indian Red Cross Society, supported by the Federation, aims to assist 200,000 of the most vulnerable whose priority needs, identified through assessments, are curative and preventive health services and non-food items such as tarpaulins to ensure temporary shelter. It is essential that funding is secured urgently and that health and water and sanitation activities are implemented without delay.

Jean Ayoub
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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

<u>BUDGET SUMMARY (REVISED)</u>	APPEAL No. 19/2000		ANNEX 1
India Floods			
TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF	
Tarpaulins: 35,000		297,500	297,500
Mosquito nets: 80,000		400,000	400,000
Food items : 7,200 mts	3,400,000		(3,400,000)
Rice: 4,000 mts		1,652,000	1,652,000
Dahl: 800 mts		904,000	904,000
Cooking oil: 190.000 l		285,000	285,000
Health, sanitation, water	250,000	543,500	293,500
Kitchen sets: 35,000		525,000	525,000
Non food items	900,000		(900,000)
Other relief supplies		70,000	70,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		4,677,000	
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Vehicles: 3 field vehicles	60,000	60,000	0
Computers, telecom. equipment	40,000	40,000	0
Office furniture & equipment	10,000	10,000	0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme management	404,580	402,508	(2,072)
Technical support	121,110	120,490	(620)
Professional services	134,310	133,622	(688)
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	220,000	200,000	(20,000)
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	200,000	143,650	(56,350)
National staff	120,000	90,000	(30,000)
Personnel (support costs)	40,000		(40,000)
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	10,000	25,000	15,000
Information expenses	10,000	9,000	(1,000)
Administrative & general expenses, assessments/evaluations	80,000	58,000	(22,000)
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		1,292,270	
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	6,000,000	5,969,270	
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		(1,659,027)	
NET REQUEST		4,310,243	

India Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 19/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09/25/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6,000,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 27.7%
BRITISH - RC		50,000	GBP	126,000	11.08.00	PURCHASE, TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION OF RICE
BRITISH GOVT/RC - DFID		245,098	GBP	617,646	11.08.00	
CANADIAN - GOVT/RC		99,000	CAD	111,118	11.08.00	
DANISH - RC		250,000	DKK	52,650	21.08.00	
DANISH - RC		950,000	DKK	200,070	14.08.00	
FINNISH - RC		84,094	EUR	132,162	11.08.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,456	11.08.00	
JAPANESE - RC				150,000	14.08.00	
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF - RC				30,000	28.08.00	
SPANISH - RC		5,000,000	ESP	47,225	18.08.00	SPANISH DEL. MEMBER OF FACT TEAM
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		750,000	SEK	140,775	11.08.00	
SWEDISH - RC		250,000	SEK	46,925	11.08.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,659,027	CHF	27.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						