

INDIA/GUJARAT: EARTHQUAKE

9 February 2001

appeal no. 04/2001

situation report no. 8

period covered: 7 - 8 February

Two weeks after a devastating earthquake struck Gujarat, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) /Federation has successfully set up a Red Cross compound in Bhuj and a logistics base in Ahmadabad which have been fully operational for over a week. Some 130 delegates have been assigned to the operation. The focus is currently on the provision of shelter, medical care, clean water and essential relief items to earthquake survivors. A tremor of 5.3 on the Richter scale shook the town of Bhachau this morning with 25 people reported injured in the ensuing panic.

The context

At 08.50 hours on Friday, 26 January, a series of powerful earthquakes struck Gujarat state in western India, peaking at a massive 7.9 on the Richter scale, with tremors being felt across several states as well as in Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay) and in neighbouring Pakistan. The epicentre of the quake was 20 km north-east of the town of Bhuj (population of 150,000), the headquarters of Gujarat's Kutch district while, at the same time, seriously affecting all the area within the range of 100 km from the epicentre including Ahmadabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat.

Infrastructure has been severely damaged, resulting in large scale collapse of buildings, mine cave-ins, train derailments and power failure, cutting off the water supply. Some 90 per cent of the buildings in Bhuj were severely damaged and 10 per cent have collapsed completely. A series of aftershocks has hit the region, with 19 registering over five on the Richter scale. Many people have left the area in

search of shelter and food. Those who remain are mostly still sleeping outside and the nights are cold. Therefore, there is a continuing demand for tents, plastic sheets and blankets.

It is estimated that approximately 37 million people of a total population of 42 million (1991 census) have been affected by this earthquake in different ways. According to the government's latest estimates, more than 200,000 houses have been completely demolished and some 400,000 partially damaged.

Latest events

A debate has started within the government circles and the media in Delhi concerning national and state disaster preparedness and response plans. A number of newspapers have been analysing the seismological map of India and raising public awareness in this connection. The national papers have praised the Red Cross Red Crescent disaster response. The government and military have strengthened their presence and accelerated distribution of relief items. The queues in the affected area for relief goods are reported to be lessening.

Local officials have emphasised that medical facilities in place are sufficient and that new efforts should rather be concentrated on rehabilitation. It was pointed out that the affected region is not agricultural, but more trade oriented and food security is one of the priorities in order to prevent displacement or migration of population in search of food.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Overview •

The International Federation seeks CHF 25.6 million in cash, kind and services to assist 300,000 beneficiaries (60,000 families) for four months in an effort to support the Indian Red Cross Society activities in the most affected areas in the district of Kutch, state of Gujarat.

The main objective is to provide the beneficiaries with essential shelter, health and medical services, safe water and other urgently needed relief items.

Operating from the Red Cross compound which was built during the first week following the disaster in the town of Bhuj, the International Federation is presently supporting the IRCS with a Finnish/Norwegian Red Cross emergency response referral hospital with 350 beds, including a German Red Cross water and sanitation unit, largely financed by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) through the Finnish and German Red Cross Societies. The hospital has been operational since 1 February. Further support is provided through the French Red Cross water/sanitation team with water treatment kits, the British Red Cross logistics emergency response team and a telecommunications emergency response team from the Austrian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. A Spanish Red Cross emergency response basic health care unit is expected on Saturday, 10 February.

To date, over 1,200 mt of relief supplies have been forwarded to Bhuj and a total of 67,340 blankets, 3,713 tents and 6,112 plastic sheets have been distributed.

At the moment, as many as 250 patients, mostly with infected injuries, are treated daily in the referral hospital while more serious cases are hospitalised. Surgical operations are also performed on daily basis with the number of cases varying between three and 12.

The emergency operation will be followed by a longer term rehabilitation phase with special emphasis on disaster preparedness.

Indian Red Cross Society •

With the support of the International Federation, the IRCS and its state branch in Gujarat are increasingly coming to the forefront of the Red Cross operation in the district of Kutch. In coordination with the local authorities, the IRCS is taking responsibility for distributions and with the support of the ICRC, the National Society is now actively engaged in tracing activities. The Indian Red Cross has started employing local staff on a salaried basis since, although volunteers have been coming in from different parts of India, insufficient manpower remains a pressing problem.

Health •

Information about the Red Cross hospital and its location has been published in the press and announced on television and radio. Thus, the joint Norwegian/Finnish emergency response hospital is increasingly busy and surgical interventions are performed around the clock. On 8 February, the hospital reports 223 outpatients (31 were admitted) and 12 surgical operations. Shortage of local medical staff has been addressed by the Indian Red Cross and, as the result, three orthopaedic specialists have been engaged. High level negotiations with the local authorities are on-going as the International Federation aims to employ more local staff from Bhuj.

The Japanese Red Cross mobile hospital in Sukhpur treated 225 patients on 7 and 8 February. Around 80% were seeking treatment for injuries sustained during the earthquake while the remainder were suffering from respiratory problems and diarrhoea. The Japanese Red Cross team has been reinforced by new staff members (three relief personnel and one administrator/pharmacist), however, Gujarati/English speaking nurses are urgently required.

The advance party from the Spanish Red Cross basic health care emergency response unit made an initial needs assessment in Bhachau on 8 Friday. This town was also severely damaged during the earthquake, damaging infrastructure and the communications network. The National Society decided to set up the unit in Bhachau on arrival. Indian Red Cross representatives have already held negotiations with the local authorities and identified a suitable location for the unit.

Spring is approaching fast and the temperatures will shortly rise considerably. The emergency response hospital in Bhuj is presently purchasing an air-conditioning system for the operating room and the heat will soon become an issue for patients in tents.

Water-sanitation •

Sanitation remains a high priority in the affected area. The government and certain NGOs have started building latrines in some of the towns, but more are needed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, particularly as the weather becomes warmer.

Based on the assessments and discussions with the local authorities, the French Red Cross water/sanitation team has established a water treatment unit in Bhuj. The French team also began to install a water treatment unit in the mobile clinic run by the Japanese Red Cross. This unit will make the clinic self-sustainable and free the truck which was delivering water filtered by the German Red Cross emergency response unit in Bhuj. After an assessment, the French Red Cross has also agreed to prepare 15 strategic sites for storage and distribution tanks in Bhuj in a joint German/French Red Cross effort.

On 8 February a visit was made by the Federation water and sanitation delegate to a water treatment plant near Gandhidham. The plant has been seriously damaged by the earthquake with the result that the efficiency of the filtering has decreased. The plant supplies water to the town of Gandhidham which has a population of approximately 120,000 people. Proposals for renovation of the plant are under consideration and may be included as part of a future rehabilitation phase of the operation.

Relief distributions •

To ensure an equitable distribution system, the IRCS has formed a relief distribution committee consisting of a representative from the Indian Red Cross headquarters, the Gujarat state branch, the Bhuj district branch, the Haryana state branch and the International Federation. Two distributions took place on 7 and 8 February in an orderly way and in the presence of several armed guards. While the Indian Red Cross/Gujarat State Branch have taken the lead in relief distribution, the Federation will continue to work closely with the distribution committee. On 8 February, the Federation target of 20,000 beneficiaries per day was reached. Distributions on 7 and 8 February were carried out in the following locations:

Village	Blankets	Tents	Plastic sheets	Plastic rolls
Mirjapur	350		70	1
Lodai	2,120	568	255	3
Kalitruri	1,100	40	275	
Supka	400	30		
Anjar	3,000	600		
Raphar	16,080			
Sukhpur	1,200			
Lakond	1,700	140		
Chapradi	1,700			
Dharampur	1,000			
Jawaharnagar	1,600			
Bhuj		832		
Ningal	2,040	130		
Khambra	2,430	166		
Dhori		525		
Umedpur	840	125		
Sinkiar	900	50	52	
Ratnal	6,000			
Khejgarper	850	170		
Sumararser		325		
Army hospital	510	12	50	
Sanskarnagar	2,400			
Sugaaria	810		160	
Morsar	1,020		250	
Theru	1,020		250	
Khokhra	900		200	
Raphur	720		150	
Ambapur	1,500		350	
Lakhapur	1,500		350	
Satapur	1,620		400	
Mitha Paswaria	600		200	
Kharapaswari	600		200	
Ajapur	720		200	
Modvador	1,200		200	
Varsamedi	2,010		800	
Mithirihar	6,000		1,500	
Mirjapur	900		200	
Total	67,340	3,713	6,112	4

Logistics •

Although the logistics team is facing problems in securing adequate manpower for loading and unloading, 57 metric tons of relief supplies were loaded for distributions on 7 and 8 February.

Work on rubhalls is progressing well and four out of five are already in use. During the reporting period, 10 new emergency health kits and 1 million water purification tablets provided by the Austrian Red Cross have reached Bhuj. A total of 111,000 blankets have now been delivered in Bhuj, including a consignment of 55,000 provided by the Japanese Red Cross. A Turkish military flight brought in 100 tents, 2,000 blankets and one tonne of medical supplies on 8 February.

The Federation daily flight continues to operate between Delhi and Bhuj, flying in newly arrived delegates, equipment and supplies for personnel.

Local procurement is being reconsidered as delivery periods quoted by local suppliers are proving longer than initially estimated. However, the procurement of kitchen sets will take place as planned, with a guaranteed time frame on the part of the local supplier.

Telecommunications •

Work on the Federation radio network in Bhuj continued with two VHF base stations installed at the Federation compound. This network links the various National Society teams working in Bhuj and surrounding areas. An alternative site for the repeater is under consideration as the initially agreed site is situated on military grounds. The ERU telecommunications team from the Austrian Red Cross has been reinforced today (9 February) with the arrival of the Spanish Red Cross specialist. The team is working on establishing a VSAT connection and a 'phone exchange made available by Ericsson is being sent from Sweden.

Tracing •

The assessments carried out on 7 February in 12 villages north-east and east of Bhuj reconfirmed that needs in tracing services are relatively small. Various information channels including the media, mobile and satellite 'phones are in place, there is a well-functioning network connecting Gujaratis across the world. Village officers established lists of those dead and injured which are available to relatives world-wide. Therefore, it appears that no large-scale Indian Red Cross/ICRC intervention is needed.

Messages were collected in Kukma (2) and Sukhpur (16) and follow-up visits were made to Mirjapur and New Madhapur.

Further assessments will focus on hospitals and organisations working with unaccompanied minors. Data processing by the local government will be followed-up by the ICRC as well as the access of the Indian Red Cross to these lists. The results are expected to be posted on a website at a later stage. The requests from abroad will be addressed as they come from the relevant National Societies, especially from the USA, Canada, UK, East Africa and the Gulf countries which have large Gujarati communities. In the meantime, work will begin on the translation of the lists of dead, survivors and hospitalised which appears on daily basis in the Gujarati newspaper "Kutch Mitra".

Psychological support •

In conjunction with the IRCS and the International Federation, the American Red Cross is preparing a field mission to assess the need and potential for providing psychological support and social services in the affected area.

Delegation •

There are now over 130 delegates in the field from more than 15 national societies. The Red Cross compound's kitchen has become fully operational. Federation rules and regulations have been fully implemented including driving regulations and field trip forms. Alternative accommodation for delegates is being considered for the fast-approaching hot season.

Outstanding needs

In addition to the appeal budget, at the request of the IRCS and the Indian government, the International Federation is seeking to mobilise urgently some 50,000 tents as temporary shelter for earthquake victims over the next 12 to 18 months. Positive indications of support have been received from the British and Danish Red Cross Societies and stocks/facilities within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are being reviewed, including those of the Iranian Red Crescent. The cost of the mobilisation is estimated at more than CHF 20 million, including transport and storage.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Delhi •

On 8 February, the second coordination meeting of NGOs and UN agencies active in Gujarat took place in Delhi. Most agencies appear to be in the initial phase of setting up activities themselves in Bhuj and Ahmadabad and coordination meetings are also taking place in these two towns. It was again pointed out that coordination of activities is essential for efficient targeting of beneficiaries and avoidance of duplication. A more comprehensive presentation of Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the affected area was given followed by a presentation of WFP plans and objectives. OCHA, UNDP and CARE presence in Bhuj and Ahmadabad is being strengthened.

Maps of blocks in the district of Kutch were distributed as a tool for improved coordination of activities. This is essential, particularly in view of the fact that slightly different or even conflicting needs are reported from different sources.

Bhuj •

At two coordination meetings, both led by OCHA, emphasis was put on reconstruction. Local authorities suggested that a small area or a group of villages be adopted by different organisations to avoid duplication of services. A new sector has been formed with a special focus on orphans, children without parents and tracing issues. The meeting on tracing issues will be hosted by the International Federation and led by the ICRC today (9 February).

The International Federation is encouraging efficient coordination of overall relief activities. OCHA will set up a relief-health database for all organisations and the International Federation will be responsible for issuing daily statistics.

An extensive workshop with all local and international NGOs (157) will be held on Sunday, 11 February with the aim of facilitating coordination of domestic and international organisations' work. Gujarat state's supreme collector paid a brief visit and expressed his appreciation to the International Federation for the earthquake relief operation.

Interviews were given sectorally to AFP, VOA, Reuters, NPR, Swedish Radio, BBC. A group of national press and television including the Hindustan Times and Jain TV and India Abroad Agency are also in Bhuj and have carried out interviews with the team leader and doctors at the hospital. However, interest is fading quickly and journalists are now leaving Bhuj.

The Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Commission in India visited Bhuj on 8 February. He complimented the well-integrated activities of the Red Cross emergency response unit referral hospital which is funded by ECHO.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details. The appeal coverage currently stands at 90.5 per cent.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Head
Asia & Pacific Department

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

India earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 04/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/09/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				25,596,629		90.5%
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		100	USD	162	21.01.01	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		100,000	AUD	89,890	06.02.01	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		1,000,000	AUD			
AUSTRIAN - RC		500,000	ATS	55,899	28.01.01	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		237,787	GBP	573,066	01.02.01	EARMARKED TO RELIEF ITEMS (100'000 GBP)
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		15,284	GBP	36,834	31.01.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		1,441	GBP	3,473	31.01.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		6,968	GBP	16,793	01.02.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
BRITISH - RC/DEC		4,806	GBP	11,582	01.02.01	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
CANADIAN - GOVT		350,000	CAD	378,875	01.02.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - GOVT		200,000	CAD	216,500	30.01.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CANADIAN - RC		100,000	CAD	108,250	29.01.01	
CANADIAN - GOVT		200,000	CAD	216,500	05.02.01	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
CHINA HONG KONG - RC		150,000	HKD	31,796	02.02.01	
CHINA HONG KONG - GOVT		1,500,000	HKD	313,084	08.02.01	PURCHASE OF FOOD ITEMS ONLY
CHINA HONG KONG - RC		2,500,000	HKD	521,807	08.02.01	SHELTERS & RELIEF SUPPLIES
DANISH - GOVT		1,330,000	INR	46,539	03.02.01	
DANISH - GOVT		1,187,500	DKK	244,625	30.01.01	
DANISH - RC		185,000	DKK	38,110	29.01.01	
FRENCH - GOVT		1,000,000	FRF	234,500	30.01.01	
GERMAN - RC		100,000	DEM	78,660	06.02.01	
IRISH - GOVT		250,000	IEP	488,325	29.01.01	
IRISH - RC		50,000	IEP	97,665	02.02.01	
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	410,520	06.02.01	DAILY FLIGHT EXPENSES FOR 14 DAYS
KODAK		75,000	USD	122,100	07.02.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - PRIVATE		10,000,000	WON	12,650	29.01.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				50,000	29.01.01	MATERIALS FOR SHELTER
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				40,000	08.02.01	
MONACO - RC		400,000	FRF	93,800	28.01.01	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		500,000	NLG	349,041	26.01.01	PURCHASE OR RELIEF ITEMS & TRANSPORTATION
NETHERLANDS - RC		100,000	NLG	69,808	26.01.01	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	72,140	28.01.01	
NOKIA		75,000	USD	122,100	06.02.01	
NORWEGIAN - RC		250,000	NOK	46,773	29.01.01	
OPEC		200,000	USD	325,600	31.01.01	
REUTERS		300,000	INR	10,498	03.02.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				10,000	02.02.01	
SINGAPORE - RC				40,000	02.02.01	RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD, SHELTERS & MEDICAL
SINGAPORE - RC				30,000	02.02.01	RELIEF ITEMS, FOOD, SHELTERS & MEDICAL

SINGAPORE - RC				420,000	07.02.01	PURCHASE OF SHELTERS
SLOVAKIAN - RC		200,000	SKK	6,920	31.01.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	173,700	28.01.01	
SWEDISH GOVT/RC		16,000,000	SEK	2,779,200	30.01.01	
SWISS - RC				80,000	29.01.01	
TAIWAN - RC		100,000	USD	162,800	31.01.01	
WHO - VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND				2,500	02.02.01	
FEDERATION DONATIONS ON LINE (PROVISIONAL)				286,000	08.02.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				9,519,085	CHF	37.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIAN - RC		1,000,000	ATS	111,799	04.02.01	TELECOM ERU
BELGIUM - GOVT		600,000	BEF	22,881	30.01.01	3 WHO KITS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BELGIUM - GOVT		8,800,000	BEF	335,588	31.01.01	40 MT BP-5 HIGH PROTEIN BISCUITS, INCL. TRANSPORTATION
BELGIUM - GOVT		2,050,000	BEF	78,177	02.02.01	6 WHO KITS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BELGIUM - GOVT		5,970,000	BEF	227,666	05.02.01	10'500 TARPULINS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		305,685	GBP	736,701	31.01.01	107250 BLANKETS, 600 TENTS, TRANSPORTATION
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		28,829	GBP	69,478	31.01.01	12480 BLANKETS, TRANSPORTATION
BRITISH - GOVT/ DFID		139,360	GBP	335,858	01.02.01	400 TENTS, 3'870 BLANKETS, 840 JERRYCANS, 1'000 TARPULINS, CHARTER
BRITISH - RC/DEC		96,120	GBP	231,649	01.02.01	200 TENTS, 3'300 BLANKETS, 1'200 JERRYCANS, 1'000 TARPULINS, CHARTER (PART SHARED WITH LOGS ERU)
BRITISH - RC		82,854	GBP	199,678	07.02.01	LOGISTICS ERU
CANADIAN - RC		275,000	CAD	297,688	05.02.01	1'776 BALES OF TARPULINS, TRANSPORTATION
DANISH - GOVT		1,906,000	DKK	392,636	06.02.01	5 RUBBHALLS, 1 FORKLIFT, TRANSPORTATION OF BP-5, FOOD RATIONS, TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS, WATER TANK, SAT. PHONE
FINNISH - RC / ECHO		1,500,000	EUR	2,307,600	27.01.01	EQUIPMENT AND 15 PERSONS FOR 2 MONTHS
FRENCH - RC		2,342,000	FRF	549,199	05.02.01	CAMP, FAMILY TENTS, BP-5L + TRANSPORTATION, ERU WATER FOR 50'000 PEOPLE
GERMAN - RC / ECHO		1,910,000	DEM	1,502,406	27.01.01	WATER & SANITATION EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL, PARTLY FUNDED BY ECHO (DEM 1'000'000) & GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (DEM 750'000)
JAPANESE -RC		144,100,000	JPY	1,971,864	06.02.01	2'000 U. PLASMA EXPANDER, 10'000 PLASTIC SHEET, 85'000 BLANKETS, 5 VEHICLES, 1 UNIT MEDICAL EQUIPEMENT TRANSPORT/INSURANCE, 20 PEOPLE
NORWEGIAN - RC / GOVT		14,636,115	NOK	2,738,299	27.01.01	ERU HOSPITAL , EQUIPMENT & PERSONNEL. 44% FINANCED BY ECHO CHANNIELED THROUGH FINNISH RC
SPANISH - RC		50,000,000	ESP	462,300	03.02.01	AIRLIFT OF BASIC HEALTH CARE UNIT, INCL. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, MOBILE WATER PLANT & AMBULANCE & TEAM OF 10 PEOPLE
SAUDI ARABIA - RC		2,234,400	SAR	969,859	03.02.01	FOOD, TENTS, BLANKETS, CARPETS
SWISS - GOVT/SDR				67,872	29.01.01	3'280 BLANKETS, 50 ROLLS PLASTIC SHEETINGS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
Australia	Delegate(s)			8,049		
Finland	Delegate(s)			8,706		
Norway	Delegate(s)			9,199		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			7,720		
Switzerland	Delegate(s)			4,600		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				13,647,472	CHF	53.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CHINA - RC		50,000	USD	81,400	27.01.01	BILATERAL
SPANISH - RC		15,000,000	ESP	138,690	03.02.01	BILATERAL
SPANISH - GOVT		18,000,000	ESP	166,428	03.02.01	BILATERAL
THAI - RC		10,000	USD	16,280	02.02.01	+ MEDICAL SUPPLIES, BILATERAL
THAI - PRIVATE/RC		10,000	USD	16,280	02.02.01	BILATERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				419,078	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PIN514						

