

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

31 December 2005

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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

Request for assistance No. 16/2004; Operations Update no. 10; Period covered: 1 July to 31 October 2005; Request for assistance coverage: 99.2%; ([click here to go directly to the attached contributions list](#)) ([click here for live contributions list](#))

Request for assistance history:

- Launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,982,000 (USD 2,352,706 or EUR 1,929,189) for ten months to assist 250,000 beneficiaries.
- Operations update 7 reduced the number of beneficiaries to 200,000 due to low request for assistance coverage and delays in implementation, leading to a change in the vulnerability of targeted beneficiaries.
- Operations Update 8 extended the operational period by three months to 31 August 2005.
- Operations update 9 revised the budget down to CHF 2,034,911 and extended the timeframe by another two months (to 31 October).
- This operations update marks the end of the operation with remaining mitigation activities to be transferred to the disaster management programme of India annual appeal. A final report will be issued by January 31 2006.

Outstanding needs: CHF 16,898 (USD 12,880 or EUR 10,867).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [India Annual Appeal 05AA047](#), [South Asia Regional Appeal 05AA051](#) [Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 2005-2010](#)

Operational Summary:

The emergency phase of the operation was completed (see [operations update 8](#)) assisting 37,350 families (approximately 186,750 people) with emergency food and non-food assistance in the states of Bihar and Assam. In addition to assistance provided through this request for assistance, approximately 300,000 received some form of health care from various Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) district branches in the two states.

The planned mitigation activities (which had been revised from the original request for assistance – see [operations update 9](#)) were not able to be completed within the extended timeframe of the request for assistance. A long transition period following the leadership change in the IRCS during the reporting period caused significant administrative delays in the transfer of funds from national headquarters to branches. The delays combined with the arrival of the annual monsoon season resulted in little progress.

With the closure of this relief operation, the Federation and IRCS have proposed to transfer the remaining balance of approximately CHF 229,000 to the long-term disaster mitigation activities, including:

- Construction of 70 tube wells in Bihar;
- Construction of one raised platform and five toilets and five hand tube wells in Assam; and
- Procurement of 4,000 family packs as disaster preparedness stock.

Progress on these activities will be reflected in the regular Federation's programme updates under disaster management programme and IRCS annual report. Donors are requested to respond to this reallocation through the desk officer before 15 January 2006.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The north-eastern states of Assam and Bihar were severely affected by heavy flooding in June/July 2004 as a result of the monsoon. More than 30 million people were affected and infrastructure and crops suffered severe and significant damage.

On 27 July 2004, the Indian Red Cross and the Federation launched a request for assistance, seeking to assist 250,000 beneficiaries with food and non-food relief items. The operation includes a disaster mitigation component, aiming at improving local capacities to cope with this recurring disaster. In the course of the operation, the number of beneficiaries was revised to 200,000 people, due to re-assessed needs in Assam, following initial delays in the distribution of relief items because of inaccessibility to some areas in the state.

Operational developments

After the approval of the revised mitigation elements proposed to the acting IRCS secretary general from the state branches of Assam and Bihar, a 50 percent working advance was forwarded to the Assam branch for initiating the activities. In Bihar, 37 raised tube wells have been constructed from locally raised resources, which will be reimbursed by the national headquarters.

The second disaster preparedness capacity building workshop was organized by the Bihar state branch and was facilitated by the Federation programme coordinator, the organizational development manager and the information and reporting officer.

The India delegation disaster management delegate visited the Assam state branch in September and identified the need to repair the regional warehouse. The delegate also visited the site for the raised platform. This investment will provide support to 5,000 families from five nearby villages. Five acres of land have been granted by the government and is ideally located along a state highway. The platform will be used in a multi-faceted way, as there will be a fishing lake created after the excavation work, which will provide revenue to maintain the platform. Moreover, the platform can be used during non-flood season for disaster preparedness trainings and other activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief phase — this phase has been completed. See operations updates 8 and 9 for details.

Disaster Mitigation and Capacity building phase

Objective: Twenty raised tube wells to be constructed in flood-prone areas in Assam and 4000 family packs to be procured for the replenishment of the IRCS general disaster preparedness stock.

Progress/Achievements

The further extension sought by the IRCS Assam state branch was granted for the construction of the raised platform, but the activity could not be completed due to delays in transfer of funds and anticipation of bad conditions because of the annual monsoons. The revised mitigation element of constructing the raised tube wells was accepted by the headquarters, but due to delay in fund transfers from the national headquarters the activity has not been initiated. It is proposed that the construction of a flood platform (with five hand tube wells and five toilets) and the procurement of disaster preparedness stock of 4,000 disaster family packs be carried out under the IRCS disaster management programme.

Outside of this request for assistance operation, the Assam Branch made all the necessary arrangements for constructing the raised platform including identification of land and gaining the allotment of the site free of charge from the government. The branch has come up with a revenue earning scheme of digging a small lake for fishing. During non-flood periods the platform will be used for other IRCS and community activities. The five latrines and raised tube wells will be constructed on the platform. The community located around the raised platform will be oriented on its usage and will be responsible for the maintenance of the platform and its utilities.

The procurement of disaster preparedness stock has not been undertaken but this will be completed before the end of 2005.

Impact:

As the activities have not been completed, there is no impact to report. However, similar mitigation activities in the 2002 floods response proved very effective. Not only will the raised platform provide refuge during times of flood, it is a community resource for other activities such as social gatherings and IRCS trainings. The strong community participation element relating to the construction and maintenance of the platform has from past experience led to good utilization and maintenance of the facility.

Constraints:

The predominant constraint was the much delayed transfer of funds from national headquarters to the branch due to a long transition in leadership situation.

Objective 2: Seventy raised tube wells to be constructed in the most-affected districts of Bihar.**Progress and achievements:**

The groundwork for the raised tube wells had been done by the branch, including selecting the sites, getting necessary approvals from the government and most important feasibility study of the raised tube-well for each site. Out of the total 70 tube wells, 37 have been constructed by the branch from their local resources. The branch will be reimbursed by the IRCS national headquarters on these expenses. The construction of the raised tube wells are planned for the districts of Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, East Champaran and West Champaran.

The wells will be handed over to the community and they will be responsible for their maintenance and security. From previous experience in other operations, the provision of raised tube wells is highly effective in providing clean drinking water during times of flood.

Impact:

The impact of the raised tube wells which were constructed during the 2002 floods has been significant. Most of these wells have been functional even in times of extreme flooding, providing vital clean drinking water to affected communities. The wells promote social integration and harmony as communities come together in times of need to utilize the facilities. There have been quite a few examples where the community has taken initiative in repairing these tube wells.

Constraints:

The only constraint has been the delayed transfer of funds from national headquarters to the branch.

Objective 3: Disaster response capacity of the IRCS in flood-prone areas to be further improved through lessons learned and documentation.

Progress and achievements:

The participatory action learning study was conducted during this operation and documented as a case study. The document provides a glimpse of the IRCS potential in terms of disaster preparedness and response. The study also highlights a variety of shortcomings in the National Society which need to be addressed.

Federation Coordination

The 2004 India floods operation presented the IRCS with an opportunity to document the efforts of the National Society through a participative action learning study.

The Federation and the IRCS regularly participated in inter-agency meetings convened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the IRCS under the SPHERE banner.

The IRCS Bihar state branch hosted a joint United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/SPHERE meeting on coordination on the theme of 'flood preparedness in Bihar state'. Hosting this meeting gave the Bihar state branch good exposure and also valuable feedback from the government and civil society. During this meeting the Bihar state branch gave a presentation on the floods 2004 response and preparedness for floods 2005.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Further to the distribution of relief goods which attracted good media attention, the two disaster preparedness capacity building workshops hosted by the Bihar state branch have also received media coverage.

The Movement principles will also be regularly disseminated through all community-based trainings and the construction of tube wells.

National Society Capacity Building

Resources such as the national disaster response team and volunteers at state and district branch level gained valuable experience from the floods operation. The operation faced numerous challenges and delays and these will provide valuable lessons for future operations.

The participatory action learning study is being used to refine and improve disaster management practices and is being fed into future planning (details of the study are available in earlier updates). This operation provided an opportunity for an integrated approach between programmes such as disaster management, health, organizational development and humanitarian values. This was especially demonstrated in the disaster preparedness capacity building workshops in Bihar held during the reporting period.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The construction of 37 raised tube wells in Bihar presented the IRCS with opportunities to reinforce various disaster preparedness and response messages to communities and officials. The subsequent meetings with government officials in Assam and Bihar have allowed the IRCS to reinforce the National Society's goals and strategies in relation to disaster management.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

India - floods

ANNEX 1

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE No. 16/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,034,911	TOTAL COVERAGE 99.2%			
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID	150,000	USD	189,675	23.08.04	PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES, TRANSPORTATION
AUSTRIAN - RC	35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04	
BELGIAN - RC	220,000	EUR	339,020	03.09.04	NON-FOOD ITEMS (7000 FAMILY PACKS), FIELD ADMINISTRATION COSTS
BRITISH - RC	25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - RC	24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
CANADIAN - RC	25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA	250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04	
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH	132,376	HKD	21,418	30.07.04	PROCUREMENT OF FOOD ITEMS F/1500 FAMILIES FOR 1.5MONTHS
DANISH - GOVT	334,992	INR	9,313	28.10.04	
FINNISH - RC	200,000	EUR	305,800	10.08.04	
IRISH - RC	60,086	EUR	93,284	04.10.04	
IRISH - GOVT	75,000	EUR	114,675	28.07.04	
JAPANESE - RC	114,700	USD	145,035	06.08.04	
MONACO - RC	3,000	EUR	4,658	12.10.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			6,338	16.09.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			5,656	20.01.05	
SPANISH - RC	30,000	EUR	45,870	11.08.04	
SWEDISH GOVT/RC	1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			1,873,307	CHF	92.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT		5,205,256	INR	144,706	28.10.04	4'150 FAMILY PACKS, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				144,706	CHF	7.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	