

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRIN006
Update n° 01
19 October, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:

30 September to 19 October, 2010.

Summary: CHF 358,313 (USD364,547 or EUR 270,543) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 September 2010 to support the Indian Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 families), or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

During the reporting period, the India Red Cross Society (IRCS) has conducted rapid assessment in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to analyze the needs of the affected population and capacity of the branches to deliver the relief. Based on the recommendations from the numerous rapid assessments, IRCS's national headquarters (NHQ) has released relief supplies to Bihar, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. State branches have released disaster preparedness (DP) stocks from their warehouses to the flood affected districts. In Bihar, the district branches assessed the situation and based on the needs of the affected population, a request for assistance was sent to the Bihar state branch. The basic needs identified by the district branch were for the migrating population: Items needed include tarpaulin sheets, family tents, blankets, food items, bleaching powder and halogen tablets. The Bihar state branch released 500 family packs. These were given to five district branches: namely, Saharsa, Munger, Siwan, Chapra, and Gopalganj. In addition, 100 kgs of bleaching powder and 100,000 halogen tablets were also sent to these five branches. Saharsa, Mumger, Siwan and Chapra district branches have distributed family packs received from the state branch while delivery confirmation from the Gopalganj district branch is still yet to be received. Saharsa, Siwan, Chapra and Gopalganj branches coordinated with the camp coordinators and the medical officer and distributed bleaching powder and halogen tablets. This operation is expected to be implemented in four months, and completed by 30 January, 2011. In line with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 April, 2011).



Medical check-up camp conducted by the Haridware district branch.
Photo Credit: India Red Cross Society

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The situation

This DREF has been launched to support the ongoing relief efforts in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar following severe flooding which has affected more than 3 million people. Though a very big number of people are affected, the India Red Cross Society (IRCS) has decided to assist 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) initially, and then scale up if required.

State	Affected Population
Uttar Pradesh	1,345,183
Uttarakhand	1,200,000
Bihar	722,000

Source of information: Secondary source – media and Ministry of Home Affairs

The situation in many areas has improved significantly as the flood water has receded. However, many people are still struggling to bring their lives back to normalcy. This is difficult as grain stock at home and in the fields are rotten; sources of drinking water are contaminated; houses have collapsed and are partially damaged; and household items have been washed away.

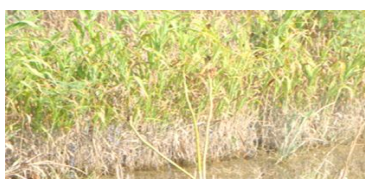
In response to the floods in Uttar Pradesh on 5 October 2010, IRCS's NHQ deployed a team with IRCS representatives from Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, to conduct a rapid assessment of the affected area. The team randomly visited the flood affected areas of Harpalpur, Sandi, Lamkan, Kundanpurwa, Karanpur, Sawaijpur and Magrosa in the Hardoi district. The same team also made random visits to the flood affected areas in the Lucknow district: Lahasa, Intoza, and Chandrikadevi where the situation was similar to that of the Hardoi district as the villages on the bank of Gomati River.



Mud houses cannot withstand gushing water and can be badly damaged. Photo credit: India Red Cross Society

Following are the sectoral findings of the assessment done in Uttar Pradesh:

- 1. Shelter:** Houses in the affected areas are mainly constructed with mud, and thatched roofs. These houses could not withstand the gushing water of the river and are severely damaged. With the receding water and the increased exposure to sunlight, cracks are developing and making some houses structurally unsafe. People have started rebuilding their thatched houses in the same locations.



There is a clear sign of rot in the fields. 100,000 hectares of crop on what was good agricultural land has been damaged. Photo credit: India Red Cross Society

- 2. Livelihood:** Due to the flood waters, crops and grains have suffered and signs of rotting in the fields were noticed. This is leading to a public health problem. As the majority of crops have been damaged it is likely that the second crop preparations are going to be delayed. The district administration in a press conference on 28 September 2010 reported that around 1,155 villages in the district are affected by the floods, crop from 100,000 hectares of agricultural land has been damaged and 450,000 people are affected.

- 3. Water and Sanitation (watsan):** In the areas which were partially submerged, raised deep bore hand pumps are continuing to provide safe drinking water to the affected communities. However, in places where hand pumps were submerged, muddy water is coming out of the hand pumps, which is not safe for consumption. There is a need to increase and spread awareness on the treatment and storage of safe drinking water. People generally practice open field defecation in the villages visited.



Raised deep bored hand pumps give safe drinking water. But if the pump is submerged then muddy water is being pumped up. Muddy water is not safe for consumption. Photo credit: India Red Cross Society.

4. Health: The Chief Medical Officer mentioned that there is no alarming public health issue in the affected areas except the cases of the usual viral fever. It was also noted by the assessment team that the health facilities available are very limited compared to the needs of the population. Hygiene standards observed were very poor and IRCS is looking to play a big role in the promotion of good hygiene practices. As the flood waters recede, sludge and pockets of stagnant water remain in the nearby fields and houses. Measures are required on an urgent basis in order to ensure that no breeding grounds are left for mosquitoes.



As the flood recedes stagnant water pockets remain in nearby fields and houses. These could be breeding grounds for mosquitoes and have a potential to become very dangerous.

Photo credit: India Red Cross Society

Interviews with affected the population revealed that only few cases of skin and eye infections have been reported; during the assessment, there were no severe health conditions reported.

Apart from analyzing the situation, affected people were also interviewed for any particular disease like typhoid, jaundice, gastro enteritis, malaria and so on. People reached were also asked if they are receiving proper treatment on time for such diseases. In affected areas nothing abnormal was reported except the few cases of high fever, skin infections and eye flue.



Recovered grain is not consumable.

Photo credit: India Red Cross Society

5. Relief and Non-food items: In the villages where houses have collapsed or were submerged in the flood waters, many people lost their personal belongings such as utensils, clothes, and so on. It was observed that many are using earthen pots or broken and damaged utensils for cooking food.

6. Food and Nutrition: Many people have reported that they lost all their grain stocks in floods. Grains retrieved from their houses have a strong smell and are not consumable. However, these grains are being dried and used by some of the affected communities. There is a lack of vegetables and only roti and chapati is being eaten with salt.

In the state of Uttarakhand all 13 districts were affected but six districts: namely, Pithoragarh, Bagheswar, Uttarkashi, Haridwar, Almora, and Udamsingh were the worst affected districts in the recent floods and landslides. 22 persons have died and nearly 673 villages have been affected, more than 900 houses have been damaged. Nagar was severely affected more than 194 people have died: 12 lakh people were affected. A total of 5,000 kacha houses were damaged. 2,300 pakka houses were completely damaged. Uttarkashi and Haridwar saw large areas submerged under water, collapsed houses, agricultural fields damaged in landslides, roads blocked, and important connecting transportation links cut off.

The government has taken the following emergency measures:

- Evacuating of people from vulnerable areas
- Mobilizing National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) units for search rescue and relief including mobilizing helicopters for air dropping food
- Running of relief camps
- Deploying medical teams
- Ex gratia to the deceased or injured person's next of kin
- Affected people have been moved to temporary shelters

Government is now planning to relocate the affected population and a rehabilitation plan is under process.

The assessment team deployed in Uttarakhand initially planned to visit the Haridwar and Uttarkashi districts. However, due to landslides, the team could not access Haridwar. The following are some findings from the Uttarakhand flood and landslide affected areas:



National disaster response team member assessing damaged houses during rapid assessment in Uttarkhand.

Photo credit: IFRC

1. **Shelter:** In most of the affected areas, there are pakka houses. Thousands of such houses have been damaged and washed out fully or have collapsed partially. Mud and big boulders have spread everywhere due to the landslides. Fissures and cracks which may result in the collapse of houses put some communities at more risk. People are forced to leave their unsafe houses and look for alternative shelter. The government is planning to shift people to new sites. IRCS has been requested to provide tents and tarpaulins for temporary shelter to affected people at new sites.



Pakka houses made of gravel and cement and supported with simple bricks tend to be easily washed out and damaged. Photo credit: IFRC

2. **Health and Sanitation:** Health and sanitation in the villages assessed are stable and no public health issues have been reported except some cases of common fever in the area. The affected area houses a scattered population but the same area has clean water sources and no major disease(s) outbreak is expected. (However, large piles of rubble and garbage can be seen in these areas).

3. **Relief and Non-Food Items:** Mud slides and heavy rains did not allow many families to save any belongings on time. With the upcoming winter seasons approaching and as many families are co-hosted with their relatives, it is recommended that non-food items, including stoves are provided in order to facilitate the rehabilitation for these families.

IRCS's Bihar State branch proactively responded to the floods through its district branches. IRCS in Bihar dispatched 2,500 family packs along with 500,000 water purification tablets to Gopalganj, Chapra, Munger, Saharsa and Siwan district branches. Though the situation has improved considerably, people still need humanitarian assistance to bring their life back to normal.

Coordination and partnerships

IRCS being auxiliary to the government will compliment and supplement the efforts of the state governments and district authorities.

IRCS's assessment team in Uttarkashi met the Inter Agency Group (IAG) which is a coordinating platform of different non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations working in the field of disaster management in the state. The Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) group is leading the platform with technical support from Sphere, India. CASA is doing search, rescue and relief in some villages. IRCS was requested by CASA to facilitate first aid training programmes.

Remaining neutral and independent, IRCS will continue to assist the flood affected population in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

IRCS's NHQ and IFRC have been conducting regular coordination meetings for quick decisions and to monitor the execution of the proposed operation.

Movement partners in the country are also being informed about the progress of the ongoing relief operations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food and emergency shelter items)

Objective: To assist up to 25,000 flood affected people (5,000 families) in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar with non-food items.

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy at State branches in coordination with the district administration. And proper beneficiary selection process will identify the beneficiaries to be selected;

and a registration system will be established to deliver intended assistance. All this will ensure that there is no duplication of work.

- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Replenishment of 5,000 family pack items. (Each family pack consists of a kitchen set, dhoti/lungee, saree, blanket, bed sheet, towel, tarpaulin, and a plastic mug.) The replenishment of these family pack items are done in accordance to IFRC procurement procedures; and
- Transportation of family packs item from the regional warehouse to Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar until it reaches beneficiaries.

Progress and impact: Based on the recommendation from the rapid assessment reports and requests from state branches, the following relief supplies have been released by IRCS's NHQ to the state branches:

Relief Item	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand	Total quantities
Tents	-	-	50	50
Tarpaulin Sheets	-	100 rolls (1,000 pcs)	1,000 pcs	2,000 pcs
Woolen Blankets	-	1,000	1,000	2,000
New Garments	-	-	500	500
Sarees	2,500	1,000	1,000	4,500
Kitchen Sets	500	-	1,000	1,500
Plastic Buckets	2,500	-	1,000	3,500
Bed Sheets	2,500	-	1,000	3,500
Towels	2,500	-	1,000	3,500
Kerosene Stove	-	-	1,000	1,000
Dhoti	2,500	1,000	-	3,500
Cotton Blankets	2,500	-	-	2,500
Mosquito nets	2,500	-	-	2,500

IRCS State branches in coordination with the district administration will properly select beneficiaries in flood affected areas in order to avoid duplication of work.



Distribution of family packs in Saharsa. Photo credit: India Red Cross Society

Capacity Building and technical support

Objective: To build the capacity of the community and state and affected branches in disaster response.

Activities planned:

- Conduct an IFRC and IRCS rapid emergency needs and capacity assessment.
- Provide technical support in conducting assessments, resource mobilization, information dissemination, reporting, relief distribution and community empowerment.
- Mobilize the national disaster response team to support the state and district branches with coordination and response operation.

Progress and impact: The joint rapid assessment between IFRC and IRCS has been completed in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. This took place from 5 - 9 October 2010.

Uttar Pradesh

1. After consulting the state of Uttar Pradesh and the district branch officials: Based on the available statistics it is recommended that the distribution of non - food items (family packs) like kitchen sets, woolen blankets, clothes, buckets and bed sheets are distributed to the affected peoples. The exact number of beneficiaries is still under discussion with the local authorities.
2. Hygiene promotion and cleanliness drives at community level with the help of IRCS volunteers are highly recommended. One-day or two-day training sessions should be conducted for volunteers as this activity will enhance the visibility to IRCS in the field.
3. As water is stagnated in many places, advocacy with the government for the spreading of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) or fogging; the sprinkling of kerosene and petrol on the stagnant water puddles in and around the houses and villages is recommended. This activity can be undertaken by district branches in coordination with the district administration.

Uttarakhand

1. Non-food items like plastic sheets, woolen blankets, kitchen sets, towels, sarees, plastic buckets and tarpaulins are distributed to 2,000 families in the Uttarkashi and Haridwar districts.
2. Stoves to be provided to 2,000 targeted families in the Almora district.
3. Advocacy by IRCS to the government to strengthen the root level disaster risk reduction programmes to concentrate on earthquake and landslides preparedness.
4. Initiate long-term community based disaster risk reduction programmes. The state branch needs to develop and submit the proposal to IRCS's NHQ.
5. Volunteer mobilization of two teams each, where each team has five volunteers; in the Uttarkashi and Haridwar districts.
6. Watsan needs were evaluated and it was found that watsan is not required as the population is scattered and people do have access to safe drinking water
7. Deployment of two national disaster response teams (NDRT), each team has three NDRT trained members. Each team will be coordinating and be involved in the distribution of items recommended in the proposed districts of Uttarkashi, Haridwar and Almora for one week.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Item/details
1	Family packs to Uttarkashi and Haridwar districts	2,000 family packs
2	Cash assistance to meet the relief coordination and distribution	Deployment of two teams for coordination and the distribution of relief items
3	Family tents to Almora district	500 family tents

Saharsa branch volunteers conducted rapid assessment and generated a report on 22 September 2010. Nawhatta and Salkhua blocks were visited during the assessment and the following needs were identified by the volunteers in addition to the family packs that have been distributed:

1. Deployment of two small water purification machines.
2. Distribution of relief supplies: tarpaulin sheets, clothes and grains; and
3. Livelihood support to the people affected in the villages of Alana, Chanan, Bengha, Jagira Bara, Asai, Kedli, Kasimpur, Aziz Nagar, Dhapari, Phursahi, Piperpanti, Dumri, Pranpur, Dibra, and Ramauti.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

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MDRIN006 - INDIA FLOODS

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	139,778
Utensils & Tools	133,333
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	22,222
Total Supplies	295,333
Distribution & Monitoring	22,222
Total Transport & Storage	22,222
Workshops & Training	8,889
Total Workshops & Training	8,889
Travel	6,667
Information & Public Relation	1,111
Office Costs	500
Communications	1,500
Other General Expenses	222
Total General Expenditure	10,000
Program Support	21,869
Total Programme Support	21,869
TOTAL BUDGET	358,313