

# 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

## NEW ZEALAND: FLOODS

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

*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 180 countries.*

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

*This document is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### The Situation

Unseasonable summer storms have caused widespread flooding in the Manawatu-Wanganui, Wellington region of the North Island of New Zealand. Some parts of upper South Island have also been affected. Civil Defence emergency declarations are in place for the region including Manawatu, Rangitikei, Taranua, Horowhenua, Ruapehu and Wanganui districts and South Taranaki. Flooding due to heavy rain and strong winds has caused several key roads to be partially closed including State Highways 4, 54 and 56. A number of local and provincial roads also remain closed. Detours in place on State Highway 1 just North of Wellington, and slips threatening State highway 2, have left the capital city, Wellington with minimal accessibility. Continued rain has delayed openings of several main routes. Most of the North Island rail lines have been also been affected.

Flooding has caused widespread property damage and over 400 people have been evacuated at this stage. At least 19 bridges have collapsed or been damaged and a major gas line in the region is in need of repair. Water supplies and sewage systems have also been badly affected. Communities in some rural areas in the lower North Island have been without power and communication for four days. An estimated 1,500 phone lines are without service and some areas are still without electricity.

Major rivers are at a 100 year level high and continue to threaten to cause further evacuations of thousand's of people.

A severe rain and wind storm again hit the areas of Taranaki, Wellington and Marlborough last night. Further severe weather warnings have been issued for these areas with heavy rainfall predicted.



As the areas concerned are predominately rural the long term consequences of the flooding may affect the viability of some farms. The total cost of damage to cereals and crops, along with loss of livestock is unknown at this stage.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

New Zealand Red Cross is leading a co-ordinated effort in launching a national emergency appeal to assist people affected by the flooding and storms in the lower North Island and upper South Island. An independent body will be appointed to co-ordinate and administer the allocation of donations.

New Zealand Red Cross provincial Branches in the affected areas are working in conjunction with other front line welfare groups to plan for distribution of the significant stock of clothing and other emergency items already donated.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.