

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

INDIA - SOUTH GUJARAT FLOODS

29 June 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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Non-stop heavy rain over the last three to four days has caused four rivers in south Gujarat to flow above the danger mark. There has been extensive flooding affecting approximately 50,000 people in 11 villages. No deaths have been reported to date. The Indian Red Cross Valsad district branch reported that the district received 38 centimetres of rain in just five hours on the morning of 28 June.

Media reports state that more than 15,000 people have been evacuated in the region over the past week. A flood alert was sounded by the state government on 27 June in the districts of Navsari, Valsad, Surat and Dang. The Valsad administration has asked the coastguard for help.

The rains have continued unabated in the affected areas. Sonagadh Taluka has received a record rainfall of 53 centimetres in the last 24 hours while Dharampur, Vansda, Dangs, Pardi, Jalapore, Mahuva, Bardoli and Olpad have all recorded heavy rainfalls.

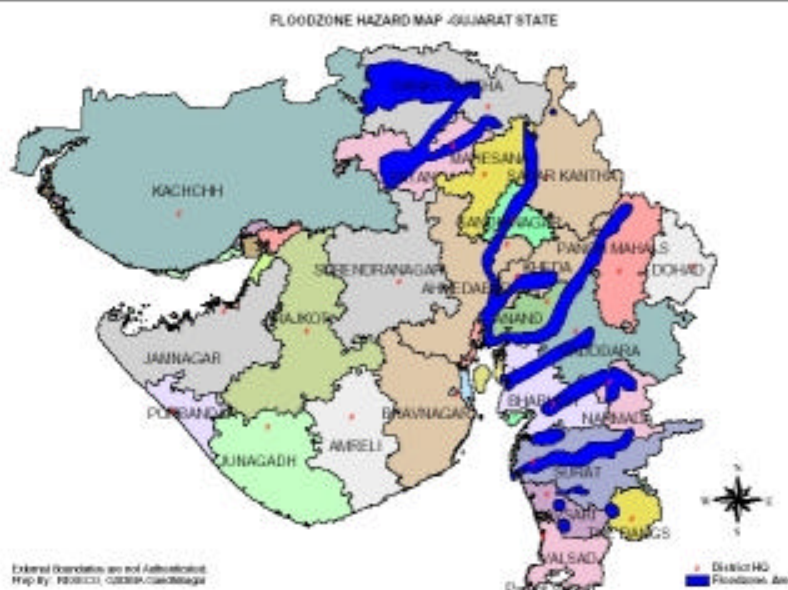
The heavy rain and flooding has disrupted rail traffic with 15 trains stranded for up to nine hours on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Mumbai-Delhi routes today.

Heavy rain is causing problems in other parts of the country as well. A dam under construction at Shahpur in Maharastra state breached due to heavy rains, killing one person. Fourteen workers are said to be trapped in the dam, while seven others were rescued during the night.

Red Cross action

The Indian Red Cross Navsari district branch, located in south Gujarat, had put volunteers on alert once the flood alert was issued by state authorities. Volunteers are involved in rescue and relief operations in coordination with local authorities. The branch has benefited from the Indian Red Cross community-based disaster preparedness programme run by national headquarters in the area for the past 18 months.

Map showing flood-zones in the state of Gujarat. Map courtesy of Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority.



The Gujarat state branch despatched the first consignment of relief materials on 28 June from Ahmedabad and the second batch was sent today. The relief materials consisted of the following items:

Item	Quantity
Blankets	100 pieces
Bed sheets	200 pieces
Tarpaulins	534 pieces
Candles	2 cartons
Assorted clothes	2 cartons
Jackets (cotton)	1 cartons
Water jugs	100 pieces
Slippers	60 pairs
Baby cups	100 pieces
Nylon bags	182 pieces
Cotton rolls and bandages	1 carton
Hygiene kits	100 kits

The Indian Red Cross Society disaster management centre, based at the national headquarters, in Delhi is monitoring the situation and is in touch with the Gujarat state branch. The Navsari district branch has been reporting on an hourly basis to the Gujarat state branch on the flooding situation and relief efforts being conducted.

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