

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 INDIA FLOODS

5 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

This Bulletin (no. 2/2005) 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In (India): Indian Red Cross Society (Dr S P Agarwal, Secretary General, New Delhi), email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org, phone: +91 11 23716441/2 & 3, fax: +91 11 23717454
- In (India): Azmat Ulla, HOD, India Delegation, New Delhi, email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 23324203, fax: +91 11 23324235
- In Geneva: Regional Department, Jagan Chapagain Regional Officer, email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org, phone: +41 22 730 4316, fax: +41 22 733 0395

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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Renewed heavy downpours over the weekend in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu have caused further misery for flood affected communities which have been deluged over the past fortnight. Neighboring Andhra Pradesh to the north has also been hit by flooding caused by torrential rain.

More than 160 flood-related deaths have been reported in Tamil Nadu since the flooding began there two weeks ago while there have been 13 reported fatalities in Andhra Pradesh.

Rail and road traffic in both states has been affected with damage to highways, roads and tracks.

There are approximately 100,000 people in relief centres in the Tamil Nadu state capital of Chennai and surrounding areas while officials state that 200,000 people are getting some form of assistance from these centres. It is estimated two million people have been affected across the state.

Approximately 100,000 people in the two states have had to be evacuated since the weekend as a result of the recent bad weather.

A depression over the Bay of Bengal has led to the latest spate of heavy rain lashing the south eastern areas of India and more rain is forecast this week.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Indian Red Cross district branches in affected areas in **Tamil Nadu** have been responding to the situation for the past fortnight. Volunteers have been mobilized and assisting with providing cooked and dried food and maintaining hygiene in camps for evacuees.

The Indian Red Cross and the Federation are mobilizing 25,000 family packs for distribution in Tamil Nadu. Each pack consists of a kitchen set, bed sheet, sari (women's clothing), dhoti (men's clothing), towel, plastic mat, kerosene stove, candles and 10 kg of rice.

Of the 25,000 packs, 17,500 are funded by the Federation, 5,000 by the Canadian Red Cross and 2,500 by the Spanish Red Cross. The order for procuring kitchen sets, saris, towels, bed sheets and plastic mats has already been placed and will be delivered to the Tamil Nadu regional warehouse shortly. The order for kerosene stoves, dhosis, candles, and rice will be placed as soon as suppliers are identified.

Indian Red Cross national headquarters has mobilized a water sanitation unit (capacity of providing 10,000 litres of drinkable water per day) for affected areas in Tamil Nadu. The plant has been deployed from the Maharashtra regional warehouse.

As outlined in information bulletin No. 1 of 28 November, relief items including 8 tonnes of rice, 1,000 dhosis, 1,000 saris, 1,000 blankets and 1,000 saris have already been distributed in Tamil Nadu.

In **Andhra Pradesh**, the state and district branches are assisting local authorities with rescue and evacuation efforts. The Indian Red Cross is primarily operating in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor and Katapa. The state branch is mobilizing 1,000 family packs for distribution to affected people.

Indian Red Cross district and state teams in both affected states are sharing information on a regular basis with all stakeholders and coordinating with the government to ensure speedy assistance.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)