

# 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: FLOODS

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*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the 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

More than 100,000 people have been affected in six major states of India, which include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Chhatisgarh and Jammu and Kashmir. More than 100 people have been feared killed in separate incidents all over the country, owing to destruction caused by these torrential rains.

#### Gujarat

The state has been hit by floods for past two weeks; different cities are experiencing torrential rains cum flash floods. The latest area affected is Surat (the city known for its diamond merchants), which is reeling under floods after the River Tapti burst its banks yesterday. The city is on the coast of Gujarat and is widely affected by the disaster; more than 30,000 people have been evacuated to date. Five army columns have been called to carry out search and rescue operations in the affected areas. Schools have been closed indefinitely in the city of Vadodara when the alert was sounded by authorities due to the rise of water levels in a nearby lake, indicate media sources.

#### Andhra Pradesh

Last weekend, the rains brought chaos in the state, especially to the low-lying areas. The River Godavari and all its tributaries have been and still are flowing above the danger mark since then. More than 100,000 people are stranded in 138 relief camps all over the state.

#### Maharashtra

In western state of Maharashtra, officials say that heavy downpours continued to cripple normal life, with at least 50,000 people marooned, according media sources. Helicopters were dropping food supplies to those stranded,

while soldiers and local emergency workers undertook rescue operations by boats. Media sources indicate that relief work was underway in 15 out of 35 districts, and estimate 20 people have lost lives since last night in separate incidents in the state because of rains. Low lying areas of Mumbai continued to be waterlogged.

Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nanded and Pune districts are the worst affected, with 47 relief camps are being run by the authority in Nanded district alone.

### **Jammu and Kashmir**

In the Himalayan region of Kashmir, incessant rains caused landslides and houses to collapse, killing two people and bringing the total death toll resulting from recent rains to eight in the state. With water levels in the region's main river Jhelum rising, the state authorities have sounded the alert.

In the Leh region, 25 villages were cut off by floodwaters, and the army called in to help step up the rescue and relief efforts.

### **Orissa**

In the state, at least seven people have died and more than 50,000 have been affected by floods in Malkangiri district alone. The state has been facing floods for past two weeks in different areas.

### **Chhatisgarh**

According to media reports in Chattisgarh, eight people have died and 100 people are missing. The army and Red Cross have been called in for help by the local authorities.

### **Government action**

Presently in all the states, the state government is the leading agency in relief efforts, while the national government is monitoring the situation. All relief camps in the affected states are being run either by the government or other civil societies. The army has been called in to three of the six states to help in the search and rescue operations.

Meanwhile, the weather forecast till tomorrow morning is that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at a few places. Extremely heavy rain at isolated places in Gujarat region, Konkan, Goa and north-central Maharashtra is expected in the next 24 hours.

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

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been very active since the floods initiated and has been coordinating at various levels with the authorities and other agencies. The national headquarters is also coordinating within the IRCS to collect and share information with the Federation and the partner national societies. It is further monitoring the situation in the state branches along with the district branches; nevertheless the district branches are taking the lead in each state.

In Gujarat, the state branch is coordinating with the local authorities in the relief efforts as mentioned in the earlier update. Similarly in Orissa, the state branch has mobilized 300 volunteers for the local authorities to depute them to various tasks.

In Andhra Pradesh, the state branch has to date made a purchase of relief items worth more than INR 100,000 (2,650) for distribution in and around Hyderabad. The state has advised the district branches to go ahead and procure more relief items based on the local needs. Today (8 August), a meeting is underway discuss and finalize further procurement that is to be received for distribution tomorrow.

Under the guidelines for relief distribution shared with the district branches, each district branch is targeting about 500 most vulnerable families and providing them with non-food family kits (clothing for men and women, plastic buckets, mugs and tarpaulins). The distribution is currently being carried out in Trikakulam, Pardachulam and east Godavari districts. The boats that were distributed during tsunami have been recalled temporarily and pressed in for rescue and relief services.

Further in Trikakulam, a relief camp which houses 1,300 children is being provided milk supplies from the state branch. In Hyderabad, 36 marooned families have been provided with food and non-food family packs.

In Chhattisgarh, the state branch is coordinating with the district branch of Dantewada (Bastar district), the worst affected area of the state. This is a volatile-prone tribal area, so only the army and the Red Cross are allowed to work here. The local sub-district branch of Dantewada has mobilized around 50 volunteers and is providing dry food rations to the people living in the camp.

In Maharashtra, relief efforts are basically focused on the worst affected districts of Nanded and Pune. In Nanded medical camps have been organized at two major points, consisting of one doctor and two assistants each. Similarly, a mobile medical unit (MMU) has been mobilized, and is visiting all the camps set up in the Nanded district and providing medical services. Further in Yeotmal district, the local district branch has been running community kitchens for 500 people from past three days.

The state branch of Maharashtra is also ready to supply clothing for men and women and kitchen utensils. These items will be despatched to immediately after the state receives a request from the district branch explaining the type and the quantity of aid required.

Another major challenge that the IRCS Maharashtra state branch is facing today is the submerged road network. Currently, the branch is in dialogue with the authorities to provide air lifting of the relief material. In the nearby districts of Thane and Pune, the respective local branches have mobilized around 200 volunteers for possible intervention.

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*The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".*

*Global Agenda Goals:*

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

*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>*