

# 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.

Floods caused by heavy monsoon rains have adversely affected parts of India, most seriously the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. The situation in Gujarat is grim, with about 5.1 million people affected in the state. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters, the IRCS state branch in Gujarat and its district branches are closely monitoring the situation in the state and coordinating with the authorities and other agencies to collect and distribute relief materials to the affected communities. The IRCS has released non-food relief items from one of its regional warehouses in Gujarat and has been distributing food packets and water pouches to the affected people in the state, with the help of the local authorities. The IRCS state branch in Andhra Pradesh has also put together a number of relief items for distribution in the affected areas of the state.

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### The Situation

Swollen rivers, caused by heavy annual monsoon rains, have swamped thousands of villages and towns across India's western and southern states, in the past two weeks. According to media sources, the rains have triggered floods in six states in the past week - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa and Chhattisgarh - affecting approximately 4.5 million people and killing 311.

The prime minister's office (PMO) has issued a release that the prime minister will visit the affected areas. The prime minister spoke to chief ministers of the affected states and assured them that the PMO is monitoring the situation. The home ministry has been instructed to provide full support for flood relief. According to the press note, logistic and financial support is being provided to the governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. A 24-hour flood control room has been established in the ministry to coordinate logistic support to the affected states.

### Chhattisgarh

According to media sources, floods still continue in the state and more than 30,000 tribal people have been evacuated and moved into hundreds of government run camps in the Konta block of Dantewara district.

### Maharashtra

Most deaths have been reported from the western state of Maharashtra, with 163 people killed in the four days of incessant rains, including 86 people in the past two days (according to media sources). Floods have forced more than 200,000 people out of their homes in about 3,500 villages of Maharashtra. Six helicopters have been deployed in Nanded and Yavatmal districts, while two helicopters are on standby in Pune and Nagpur districts. Seven naval diving teams with boats have been made available to the state government, six of which are in the city of Mumbai and one in Nanded. Nine teams of the engineering task force have been deployed with boats in eight districts. Seven other army columns and two hundred central reserve police force personnel have also been deployed at Nanded district.

### Gujarat

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates, the flood situation in Gujarat is still grim. The flood-affected districts are primarily Vadodara, Bharuch, Navsari, and Surat, with Surat being the worst affected. In the last 24 hours, the state received heavy rainfall, with rainfall recorded for year in some districts already exceeding the average rainfall for the past ten years. Key rivers such as the Narmada river in Bharuch district, the Tapi river in Surat district and Vishwamitri river in Vadodara district are already flowing 3-9 feet above their danger marks. Warning has been issued to 9 dams and 13 dams in the state are on alert.

A total of 5.1 million people were affected in 129 villages in the state. The number of deaths reported so far is three. Complaints of diarrhea, dysentery, cough/cold, fever and skin diseases have been recorded among the affected population. The number of people evacuated so far and accommodated in relief camps is 190,854.

Affected district	Affected villages	Affected population	Number of people evacuated	Number of camps
Vadodara	103	2,000,000	150,000	70
Bharuch	17	25,000	6,809	7
Navsari	5	75,000	27,281	113
Surat	4	3,000,000	6,764	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>5,100,000</b>	<b>190,854</b>	<b>205</b>

**Table 1: Statistics on the flood-affected population in Gujarat**

Infrastructure services have been affected by the floods, with communication lines down, power supply affected, water supply at risk in 567 villages and a large number of roads damaged. The rail track in Bharuch is submerged in flood water. Industrial production has been adversely affected in the coastal city of Hazira (near Surat), with gas plant and petrochemicals complexes flooded or disrupted. Surveys are on to assess other damages.

Measures taken in the coordinated flood operation		Quantity
Distribution of essential commodities	Distribution of food packets	200,000
	Distribution of water pouches and bottles	50,000
Medical support	Medical teams deployed	383
	Medical officers on duty	221
	Paramedical staff on duty	1,035
Chlorination	Wells	180
	Tanks	491
	Others	2,892
Water purification agents	Chlorine tablets	162,218
	Bleaching powder (kilos)	447
	Oral rehydration salts	1,215

Special flood rescue teams from Rajkot, Vadodara, Jamnagar and other districts have been pressed into action to rescue people. Sixty nine boats are being used for evacuations and five army columns and three central reserve police force platoons have been deployed. Local authorities and NGOs are providing essential relief commodities (including food packets) and accommodation to the affected people. Eight Indian air force helicopters have been deployed to air-drop food packets. The relief measures taken so far are given in the table on the left.

The Meteorological Department of India has predicted heavy to very heavy rains in Gujarat in the following 24 hours.

### **Andhra Pradesh**

In the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, where there were 112 flood-related deaths in the past week (according to media sources), 6,000 villages have been flooded, leaving around 1.5 million people homeless and forcing thousands into trees and onto rooftops. There is a shortage of food and drinking water despite authorities efforts to provide aid. Most challenging are the marooned areas, where air-dropping of food and water is being carried out, but wastage rate is high because of the wetlands. Eight helicopters have been deployed in the districts of Bhadrachalam, west Godavari and east Godavari. Seven naval diving teams with boats are deployed at Amalapuram, Bhadrachalam and west Godavari districts.

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

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been very active since the floods started and has been coordinating at various levels with the authorities and other agencies. The IRCS national headquarters is also coordinating within the IRCS to collect information and share it with the Federation and partner national societies. It is further monitoring the situation in the state and district branches, although the district branches are taking the lead in each state. The national headquarters has issued a press release to the media on its response.

The IRCS state branch in Gujarat has been supporting the efforts of the local administration and, with its district branches, is collecting relief materials from across the state and distributing them to the affected communities. The disaster management coordinator has collaborated with the central reserve police force to distribute all aid the state branch received or had in its reserves.

On 4 August, the Gujarat state branch requested the IRCS national headquarters to release relief items. In response to the request, the national headquarters released an unspecified numbers of kitchen sets, women's clothing, cotton blankets, woollen blankets, tarpaulin and assorted clothes from one of its regional warehouses in Gujarat.

On 8 August, the state branch distributed 10,000 food packets and 5,000 water pouches, with the help of the local authorities in Navsari district. This was facilitated by the ministry of home affairs in coordination with the IRCS national headquarters. The ministry of home affairs has been coordinating with the national headquarters and has requested the IRCS to facilitate distribution of food packets and water pouches.

Similarly, on 9 August, the state branch distributed 30,000 food packets and 7,000 Theplas (local food can stay fresh for a week), collected by the ministry of home affairs through the IRCS national headquarters. On 10 August, the state branch requested for the installation of a water and sanitation unit in Surat. The ground work to transport the unit has already begun. It has been decided to deploy a rapid assessment team as soon as the road network is cleared.

Presently, the Gujarat state branch is negotiating milk tetra packs from dairies and certain medicines from the ministry of health.

The Andhra Pradesh state branch has so far gathered together the following relief items: 200 mosquito nets, 200 blankets, 200 sets of men's clothing, 200 sets of women's clothing, two cartons of medicines, 22 bags of second-hand clothes and 300 tarpaulins.

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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>*