

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 لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDIA: FLOODS

No. 01/2006
21 June 2006

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 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.

Heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have struck the north-eastern states of India, most seriously in Assam and Tripura. The India government has set up 65 relief camps for 27,000 affected by the floods in Assam. The Indian Red Cross Society has been monitoring the situation over the two weeks, the Assam branch has mobilised resources locally, distributed clothes and food packets in affected areas through its volunteers

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. S.P. Agarwal (Secretary General), email: spagarwal@indianredcross.org; Phone: +91.11.2371.6424 ; Fax: +91.11.23711.7454
- In India: India Delegation, Mohamed Babiker (Head of Delegation), email: mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org; Phone: +91.11.2332.4203; Fax: +91.11.233.4235
- In India : South Asia Regional Delegation, Bob McKerrow (Head of Regional Delegation), email: bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org; Phone: +91.11.2411.1125; Fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Jagan Chapagain (Regional Officer), email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4316, or Nelly Khrabraya (Senior Assistant), email: nelly.khrabraya@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4306; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

The Situation

Heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have affected normal life in the north-eastern states of India. The states of Mizoram and west Manipur states have been partially affected, but Assam and Tripura are the worst affected. According to official figures at the time of reporting, the death toll in the area stands at 12. In the state of Assam, the floods have affected over 5 lakh people in 16 districts. The worst affected districts in Assam are Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Kamrup and Nalbari.

According to government estimates, floods and landslides have so far claimed 5 lives and affected 847 villages in the state. There has been a significant damage to agriculture. Official records show that a total land area of about 45,957 hectares has been submerged, out of which nearly 9,310 hectares is farmland. However, the flood situation in the state is improving as water levels in the major rivers, viz., the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries, have begun to recede.



The flood affected region.

The state of Tripura has received a record rainfall of 1,169 mm this year, as compared to the amount of rainfall received during the last 15 years. The agro-meteorological advisory service of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Lembucherra, Tripura, has reported that the total rainfall during the month of June 2006 has been 373.4

mm, of which 214.8 mm of rain has been received in just a week. So far, five people have died in landslides and an estimated 10,000 people have been displaced by floods in the state.

The government has set up 65 relief camps in the state of Assam, which are catering to the needs of over 27,000 people affected by the floods. The Assam government is distributing food items like 346,700 kilos of rice, 51,800 kilos of lentils, 13,900 kilos of salt, 2,400 kilos rice flakes and 45 kilos of jaggery.

Relief activities have also been carried out by several other NGOs and agencies like Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, Doctors Without Borders, Nehru Yuva Kendra, World Vision, UNICEF, European Commission and Save Guwahati Build Guwahati. A coordination mechanism has not been established as yet.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Indian Red Cross and Federation and representative on an assessment visit to the affected area.

The IRCS national headquarters has been monitoring the situation over the two weeks prior to the date of reporting and has been in constant touch with the Assam Red Cross branch. A high level joint team from IRCS national headquarters and the Federation visited Assam. The team met the Assam branch secretary and had a detailed discussion on the existing flood situation in the state.

The Assam branch has mobilized resources locally, distributed clothes and food packets in affected areas through its volunteers and collected donations, in cash and kind, for its relief operations. A 5 member state disaster response team has been deployed to

assess the situation in Darrang district. The branch has shared its needs and requirements with the IRCS national headquarters and provided an assessment of the potential danger of a second bout of floods in July 2006. Information is also being shared with and coordination being maintained with the government, to provide help to the affected people.

The IRCS national headquarters has provided essential relief items to the affected areas as shown in the table below:

Items	Quantity
Kitchen sets	3000
Saris (women's clothing)	3000
Dhotis (men's clothing)	3000
Towels	3000
Cotton blankets	3000
Bed sheets	3000
Cloth rolls	399 metres
Tarpaulin rolls	450 metres
Items below provided by ICRC	
Shawls for men	400
Shawls for women	400
Male Slippers	300 pairs
Female Slippers	300 pairs
Woolen Vest	250
Female dress cloth	300 metres
Dhoti	200
Petticoats	200
Kitchen Sets	250
First Aid Kits	50
Mats plastic	400
Shoes for men	300 pairs
IRCS Jackets	50

Further relief items (men's and women's clothing, kitchen sets, first-aid kits and plastic mats) provided to IRCS by the International Committee of the Red Cross have also been transported by train to Assam and are now at the warehouse awaiting distribution.

Please see the title page for contact information.

Please see map on next page

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:

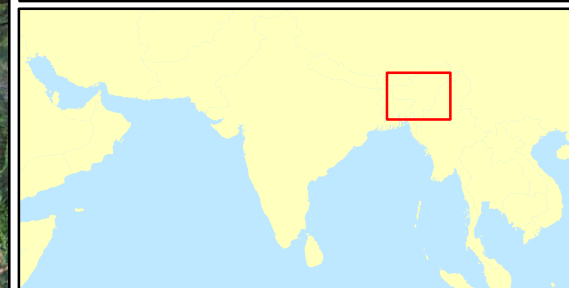
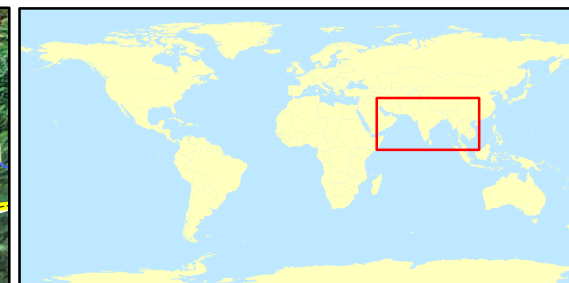
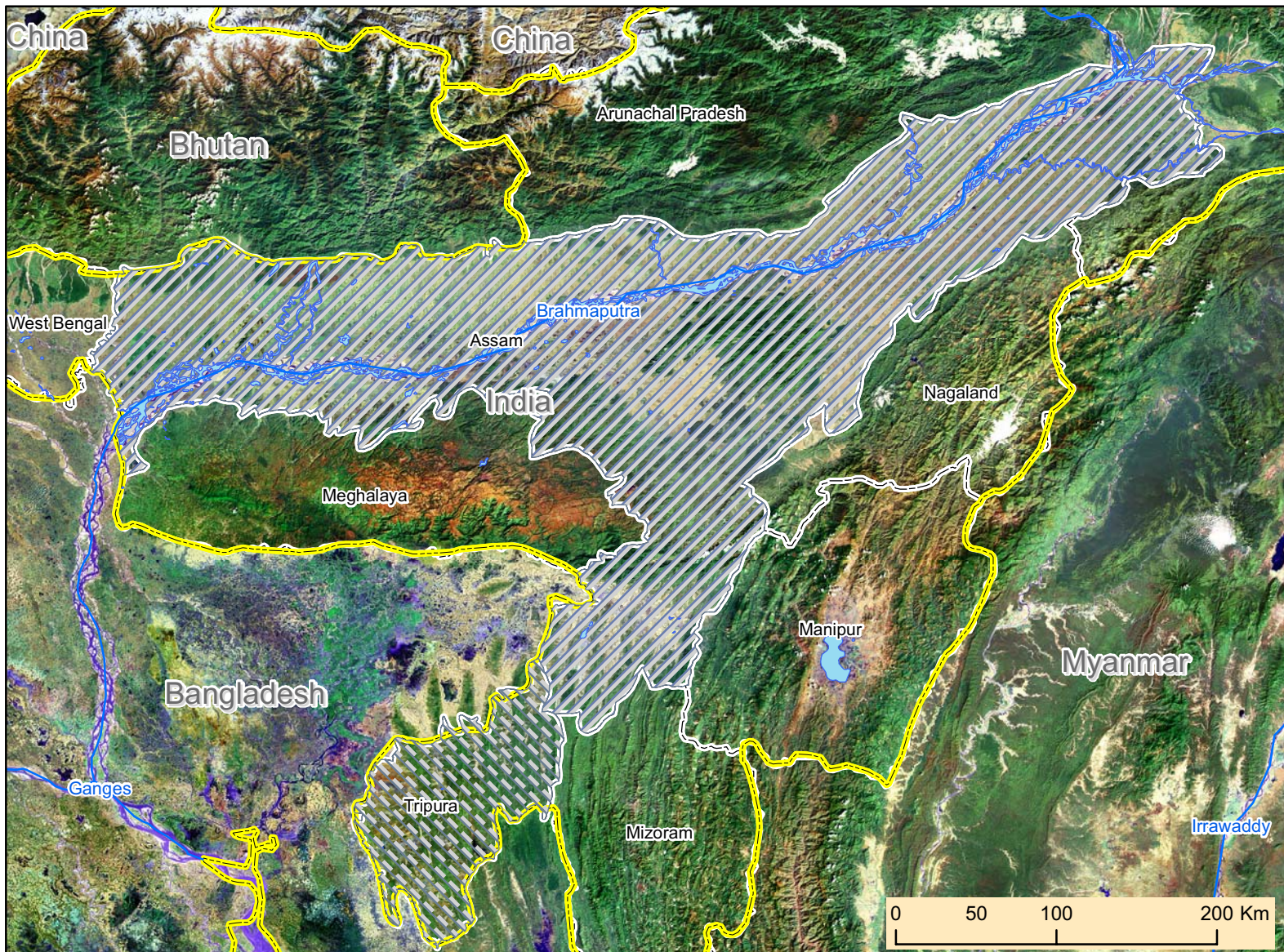
- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *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>



India: Floods in Assam state



-  Indian states
-  Other countries

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation