

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Floods

Information bulletin n° 1
GLIDE n° [FL-2009-000194-IND](#)
13 September 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The Situation

Continuous rainfall since July 2009 has been causing massive floods in Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam. According to media reports, 11 districts of Bihar and 9 districts of Orissa have been affected. An estimated total of 1,886,000 people have been affected in these states. As of 8 September, government figures place the death toll at 992. Official reports state that 8,100 people have been evacuated in the state of Bihar. According to sources, about 13,581 families of 220 villages in Assam have been rendered homeless as their houses were submerged by flood waters.

Rescue teams of the Sashastra Seema Bal, Border Security Force and National Disaster Response Force have been deployed for relief and rescue operations, and continue to be on standby throughout.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Society, Dhakuakhana District Branch (Assam) is rendering stand by service to the affected people of these areas. The district volunteers have been monitoring the flood situations of these areas and are fully equipped with the availability of relief materials and the provision of other necessary services to the affected people if situation demands.

In Bihar, the Indian Red Cross Society is preparing relief materials for pre-positioning and distribution to all affected districts and is already purchasing 2,000 family packs. A plan of action is being developed for an impending drought situation as well, to assist all 26 districts in the state affected by disaster.

The Muzaffarpur district (in Bihar state) branch is preparing 5,000 food packets for flood victims. In Sitamarahi district Red Cross branch volunteers distributed 200 tarpaulin sheets, bread, candles and 4 kg of rice. Red Cross volunteers are assisting government search and rescue teams, working in makeshift camps for need assessment and first aid. Almost 60 volunteers are working in the affected areas.

In West Bengal, Red Cross volunteers in Basirhat and Bongaon sub-division are providing relief services to the affected people. All Red Cross branches continue to be prepared for rescue and relief work in the coming days.

How we work

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In India:

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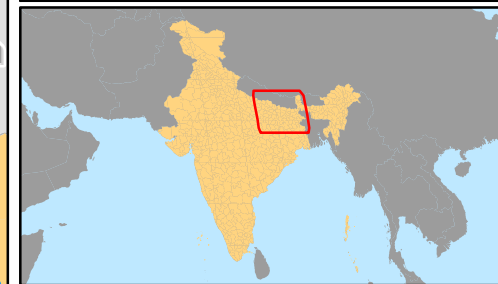
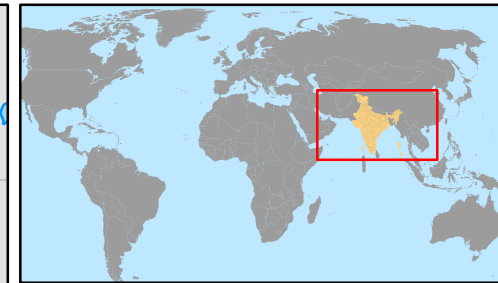
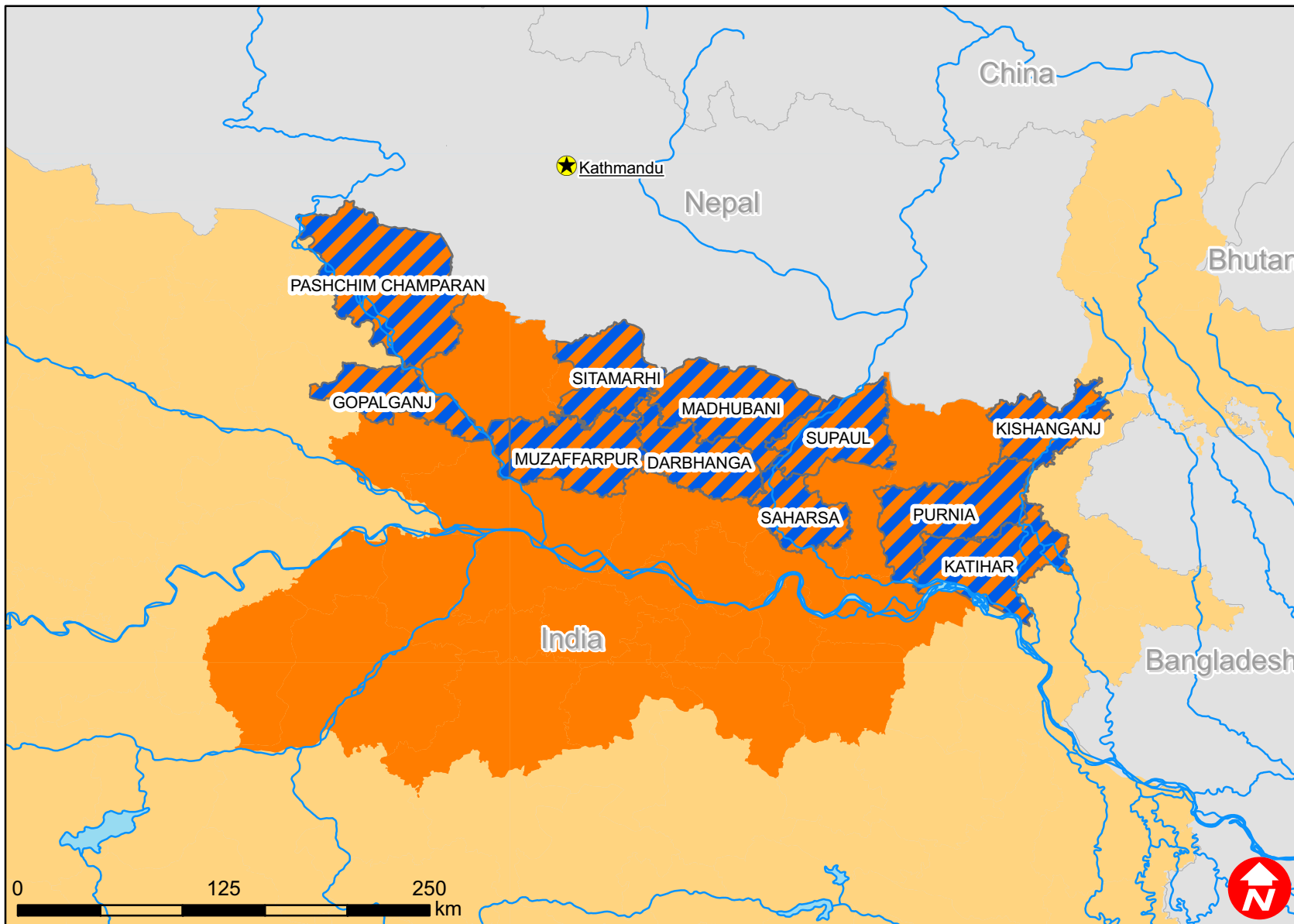
In Malaysia:

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[<A map of the affected areas is below; click here to return to the title page](#)



India: Floods



- ★ Capitals
- Rivers
- ▨ Affected districts
- Bihar