

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Floods

Information bulletin n° 1
GLIDE n° [FL-2009-000217-IND](#)
5 October 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. Indian Red Cross Society will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population in the country.

The heaviest flood in more than 100 years has hit parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Krishna River is threatening several villages with the death toll due to heavy rains and rampaging floods climbing to 205 and displacing 750,000 people.

Several towns and villages, particularly in Kurnool, Mahabubnagar and Krishna districts in Andhra Pradesh, have been inundated by the mighty Krishna river and its tributaries over the past five days.

All the reservoirs built across the Krishna River have been receiving heavy inflows; their gates have been opened to discharge water downstream.

The monsoon season usually begins in June and wanes by September. Heavy cloud formation over the Arabian Sea to the west of India's southern peninsula and a depression over the Bay of Bengal in the east have caused the unusually heavy rains, according to the Meteorology Department.

Relief camps were set up in schools and temples located on higher ground in the flood-affected districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to house over 400,000 people.

More than 1,400 people have died across 19 of India's 28 states during the monsoon rains this year.

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

The Situation

Andhra Pradesh

A depression in Bay of Bengal caused heavy rains and resulted in flooding, particularly affecting the districts of Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Kharimnagar, Prakasm, Visakapatnam, Ananatapur, Krishna, Kadapa, Guntur, Khamam and Nalgonda. At present, the death toll stands at 26 people. The rains have destroyed 13,980 houses; more than 40,900 people have been evacuated, and 59,983 acres of agricultural land has been damaged.



AP Photo

Families making their way through the waist-high flooded street in Andhra Pradesh. Photo: Associated Press.

Hyderabad city was affected with some roads destroyed, and drainage overflowing, resulting in inundated houses and traffic jams.

At least 1.8 million people in 400 villages of Andhra Pradesh have been affected. This number includes 180 villages in Kurnool, 89 in Mahbubnagar, 100 in Guntur and 22 in Nalgonda.

Thousands of people are reported missing, with many more still stranded. Casualty figures are expected to rise.

Karnataka

With a let up in the rains, the flood situation in north Karnataka has begun to ease slightly. However, all dams in the region remain full and rivers carrying water to Andhra Pradesh remain swollen.

At least 169 people have died in the floods since 2 October. In the 15 affected districts – Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bagalkote, Bellary, Koppal, Haveri, Bidar, Gadag, Davanagere, Karwar, Dakshina and Kannada – thousands of people remain in shelters as their homes have been destroyed. The state government's 589 relief centres currently house 177,000 people.



More than 17 villages in Bijapur district – the worst affected in the state – are marooned, with more than 10,000 people being left homeless.

Families in Karnataka being driven out of their homes due to the flood waters. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

The Indian Air Force is continuing to fly helicopters to rescue stranded people and drop food to the needy. Most families have no food as their stored grains and other commodities have been washed away.

The Central Government has sent a team of 144 National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) personnel with 29 boats to various districts. Additionally, a batch of 1,100 personnel of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) is on ground supporting relief operations.

The Chief Minister has announced INR 12 million (CHF 261,007, USD 252,601 or EUR 172,768) in relief aid to each affected district.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India provided the following logistical support:

- 694 water rescue trained personnel of the NDRF along with 173 inflatable motorized boats have been deployed in the districts of Kurnool, Krishna and Mehboobnagar for rescue and relief operations.
- A team of 19 water rescue trained personnel and 20 inflatable boats from Palam airbase is being airlifted to Vijaywada (Krishna district).

In Karnataka, the Government of India provided the following logistical support:

- 249 water rescue trained personnel of NDRF along with 73 inflatable motorized boats have been deployed in the districts of Bagalkote, Raichur, Gadag and Bijapur for rescue and relief operations.
- 250 water rescue trained personnel and 60 inflatable boats of NDRF from Gandhinagar are set to be airlifted

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is monitoring the situation and is in constant contact with the state branches.

Prepositioned stocks of relief supplies, such as kitchen sets and mosquito nets will be deployed to the affected area, in addition to the already deployed relief items from the state branches.

The IRCS national headquarters will also deploy water and sanitation units that are capable of producing 5,000 litres of water each hour for drinking and hygiene purposes. Trained Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers will be leading health education discussions in temporary camps to help reduce the risk of disease among those displaced.

The IRCS has scheduled a Movement Emergency Flood meeting to review the situation and to discuss the next steps. This meeting will include all Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. Several other technical meetings are being held between the IRCS and International Federation to coordinate relief efforts. The IRCS Control Room (Flood Operations) has been activated to receive and consolidate information from the disaster areas.

Flood assessment

It was agreed that the International Federation Secretariat and partner national societies will support the IRCS in a needs assessment. Secretariat support will come from the International Federation country and regional offices in Delhi. An evaluation of the current and mid-term needs will also take place. It was agreed that the team would comprise of IRCS-trained state disaster response team and disaster management- trained people, together with International Federation and/or partner national society-trained staff.

Andhra Pradesh state branch action

The Andhra Pradesh state branch activated staff and volunteers who have collected information from all affected districts branches and started dispatching the relief items.

Nellore and Anantpur district branches have mobilized volunteers to provide relief. Some 10 to 15 volunteers from Nellore district branch will move to the affected areas along with the following relief supplies: 500 water packets; 100 sarees; 100 blankets; 100 kitchen sets; milk powder; and bread. Food packets have been distributed by IRCS Kurnool district branch. Two IRCS State branch staff were sent with relief supplies to Kurnool. Because of a damaged bridge, however, relief could not get through. These supplies were diverted to Mahbubnagar district.

The state branch has prepositioned stocks of blankets and sarees. The branch has ordered 1,000 kitchen sets.

Karnataka state branch action

The Karnataka state branch is in constant communication with the sub-branches where emergency teams have made a needs assessment. The state branch has distributed bed sheets and blankets to the affected districts. Red Cross members and volunteers, community health workers, and first aiders are working in coordination with the district authority. The branch is supplementing government action.

The Karnataka state branch and local civil administration has started relief support to the affected populations. The branch indicates that the immediate needs include water purification tablets and family packs/kitchen sets, including clothing, cooking utensils, buckets and jerry cans.

International Federation Action

The International Federation country office is working closely with the IRCS to provide assistance to affected communities. The International Federation is ready to send an additional team to the field if required.

The country office has recently replenished stocks used during the West Bengal Cyclone Aila operation. The procurement, thanks to funds provided by OFDA and Hong Kong Red Cross, were:

Item	Quantity
Kitchen sets	8,800
Plastic buckets with lids	18,450

Cotton blankets	18,500
Towels	18,550
Sarees	18,450
Dhoties	18,450
Bed sheets	18,450

The country disaster management manager is on standby for deployment to assist the joint assessment. In the meantime, the India country office is coordinating international media requests in relation to the disaster.

The country office will hold regular meetings with Movement partners to discuss latest developments and effectively coordinate support to the IRCS.

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

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:

- Indian Red Cross Society: Dr. S P Agarwal, Secretary General; email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org; phone: +91.11.2371.6441; fax: +91.11.2371.7454
- International Federation country office in India: Peter Ophoff, Head of country office; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11.233.4235

International Federation South Asia Office in Delhi:

- Mr. Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office, email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.

International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:

- Jagan Chapagain, Deputy Head of Zone, email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org, phone + 603 9207 5700
- Michael Annear, Disaster management coordinator, phone: +603 9 207 5726, mobile: +6012 234 6591, email: michael.annear@ifrc.org

[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



India: Floods

