



SITUATION

According to the updated report of the Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far, incessant rains and flash floods have engulfed 1906 human lives, affected a population of 199,69326, estimated livestock loss is 19940 and demolished/damaged 583255 houses in 13634 villages of 117 districts across the country.



In Bihar there is some improvement in flood situation as the water level has receded by three to four feet in the flooded areas of Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul and Araria districts. So far 40.37 lakh people from 2319 villages in 16 districts have been affected. Over ten lakh-marooned people were evacuated and shifted to safer places. About three lakh people have taken shelter in 350 relief camps. The reported death toll reads 84.

Relief in cash and in kind has been spontaneous for the flood-affected victims of Bihar. The State government of Bihar continues unrelenting efforts for evacuation and adequate distribution of relief material. Donations in kind are routed through Red Cross on the directions of the State Government.

Earlier the prime Minister, after an aerial survey, announced Bihar floods a national calamity and announced a relief package of 1,000 crore of rupees and ordered release of over a lakh of tones of food grains.

In Assam & Bihar, isolated cases of water-borne diseases have been reported.

According to Indian Meteorological Department there are indications of isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over Andaman Nicobar Islands, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



The emergency operations centre (Control Room) at the National Headquarters is functioning round the clock to monitor the flood situation and coordinate rescue, relief and resource mobilization efforts. A duty roster has been prepared to make sure that inquiry from media, donors and others are answered even on holidays and beyond office hours. The Joint Secretary of the Society is directly

supervising this centre.

A high-level meeting was held on September 5th 2008 at IRCS in which the IRCS team led by Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General and International Federation team led by Head of the Regional Delegation Al Panico reviewed the flood situation. The Secretary General briefed about the good media coverage provided to the Red Cross and the response provided by the local units in the State of Bihar. HoRD, Regional Delegation expressed the anxiety and concern of the Federation Headquarters, Geneva and desired to have a quick assessment of the affected areas.

The National Headquarters has been coordinating and sharing information with the communication and disaster management unit of the International Federation, India office, International Committee of the Red Cross and the Partner National Societies in New Delhi. Flood Situation updates are also being posted on the website regularly.



Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS, informed that Australian Red Cross has offered one water treatment plant along with some sanitation units. WHO has contributed half a million rupees to meet operational costs. Many national, multinational companies, resident welfare associations, social/religious groups and others are making donations in cash & kind for the flood victims. State and district branches have dispatched relief supplies consisting of dry ration, tea, sugar, clothing, candles, and kitchen utensils etc., which are arriving in State and district headquarters.

Dr. Agarwal further informed that a Tata Sumo car has also been provided to the State branch to help them coordinate assessment and relief efforts. Nine watsan units are placed at the disposal of the state branch to meet the water & sanitation requirements in the affected areas. 45 boats offered by the National Headquarters have been kept in abeyance as 400 boats have been provided by Indian Navy & Army to the branch. Store-in-charge of Arakonnam warehouse has been temporarily posted at NHQ for coordination of relief supplies received and its despatch. Apart from this, technical and experienced personnel may be deputed shortly, if needed, to assist the Bihar State branch.

BIHAR

The emergency operations centre at Bihar State branch is functioning round the clock to monitor the situation and coordinate rescue and relief efforts. As donations in kind are routed through Red Cross on the directions of the State Government, work at the branch has increased many folds. Staff members, volunteers and senior officials are working long hours to mitigate the huge impact of the unprecedented havoc caused by river Kosi.



In Katihar district, the Reliance Club with the help of Red Cross volunteers prepared 10,000 food packets consisting of chura, sattu, gur, candle and blankets and distributed them among the flood victims.

Nalanda IRCS, District Branch has set up a disaster management control Room. The District Magistrate of Nalanda had made an appeal to the general public to make donations in cash or in kind, which is evoking good response.

In Supaul, 650 families have taken shelter in a camp. Secretary of the district branch together with volunteers distributed 500 family packs collected locally. A UK based organization, Divine Omkar Mission, together with Red Cross district branch distributed one truck load of relief materials in village Belli. Items consisted of torch, matchboxes, candles, biscuits, blankets and plastic sheets.

In Saharsa, the Hony. Secretary & Joint Secretary of the district branch with eight volunteers distributed 100 family packs in a Harijan tola (a hamlet housing scheduled caste people) named Sohra vickta of Sonbarsa block.



In Bhagalpur District there are four Dharamshalas where community kitchens are being run with the help of Red Cross volunteers. Two time meals are prepared for the migrant flood affected people.

The state branch has requested for 50,000 family packs, 50,000 candle packets, 1,00,000 match boxes, 20,00,000 water purification tablets, 5000 tents, 50,000 ORS sachets and 1,00,000 packets of milk powder of 500 gram each.

ASSAM

The State branch has reported that 21 out of 28 districts in the state are affected by floods. A total of 5.5 lakh people are marooned and two lakh displaced are living in 400 relief camps.

The branch has State disaster response team of five members and 12 districts have district disaster response teams of 20 members each. It also mobilized its members and volunteers, numbering 1500 to help in rescue, medical and relief distribution activities.

The Governor of Assam and the President of IRCS, Assam State Branch Mr. Shiv Charan Mathur himself visited the worst affected Majuli district for relief distribution.

The state branch has supported 3000 families in nine districts with family packs worth Rs. 12,00,000, water purification tablets, cooked food and medicines.

Trained Red Cross Volunteers are taking precautionary measures to avoid the spreading of any kind of epidemic that usually strikes after heavy floods. Health check-up camps are organized in the affected areas.

The State branch has requested for 60,000 family packs and Rs.16.6 lakhs to cover the operational costs.

A statement of the relief supplies sent by the national headquarters

SI No.	Name of Items	Units	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Punjab	West Bengal	Total
1	Bed Sheet	Nos	2500	5000	15000	500		23000
2	Gents Dhoties	Nos	2500	5000	15000	500	2000	25000
3	Sarees	Nos	2500	5000	15000	500	2000	25000
4	Towels	Nos	2500	5000	15000	500		23000
5	Cotton Blanket	Nos		5000	15000	500		20500
6	Kitchen Sets	Nos		5000	15000	500	1000	21500
7	Mosquito Nets	Nos		10000	25000	1000		31000
8	Tarpaulin Rolls	Pcs			21000			21000
9	Tents	Nos			550	200		750
10	Stove	Nos	2500					2500
11	Plastic Bucket	Nos		5000		500	1000	6500
12	Mat Plastic	Nos					1000	1000
Value			1537500.00	5960000.00	29585000.00	2392000.00	831000.00	40305500.00

Working in Partnerships: The National Headquarters of the Indian Red Cross Society is coordinating and sharing information with the communication and disaster management unit of International Federation, India office, International Committee of the Red Cross and the Partner National Societies in New Delhi.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: National Disaster Management, India & IRCS State branches and National headquarters Disaster management team.