



**UPDATE 11**

**DATE: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

**SITUATION**

The Delhi government has evacuated people living on the banks of river Yamuna following Haryana releasing a record of 4 lakh cusecs of water to Delhi. River Yamuna crossed the danger mark on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and water level touched a high of 205.25 meter. Control room is working round the clock to monitor the levels and boats have been pressed in to evacuate affected people, who are being sheltered along roadside temporary camps.

In Orissa, about 43.43 lakh population in 3462 villages in 17 Districts have been affected due to floods. More than 45190 houses have been damaged and 119400 lakh of crop area has been destroyed. Relief has been provided to worst affected people and 689 relief camps are established in which about 240754 persons have been accommodated. 65 medical teams have been deployed that are providing medical care.

In Gujarat, boats have been pressed into service in the affected areas for rescue and relief operations. So far 18.56 lakh people in 122 villages in 15 districts have been affected. 137 relief camps are running in the affected districts of the State in which about 56,992 people have been accommodated.

In Bihar, 177 medical teams are deployed in the affected areas and 409 health centres have been opened. Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Nitish Kumar has announced that every family, ravaged from Kosi floods, will get free foodgrains for the coming three months. According to the media reports the State Government has prepared a plan of 134 crores to re-construct houses in flood-hit districts of Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Araria and Purnea.

According to the India Meteorological Department there are threats of isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over Orissa, Uttarakhand, north Uttar Pradesh and north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

So far incessant rains and flash floods have engulfed 2403 human lives and affected a population of 242,83,444 in 14194 villages of 133 districts in the country.

**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.

The National Headquarters has deployed one water sanitation unit in Assam, which was donated by the

**STATE BRANCHES**

**Delhi**

The Honorary Secretary of the Delhi State branch along with a team of five Red Cross officials provided the relief assistance to almost 800 flood affected victims of Jamia Nagar in South Delhi. Relief items included bread loafs, rice, pulses, sugar, milk, tea leaves, refined oil, salt etc.

Flood waters entered low lying areas in South Delhi and on the request of the authorities Red Cross team under the Secretary is distributing bread, biscuits, milk and other food items today.

Australian Red Cross (ARC). Since the unit is technically new to operate two delegates from ARC are in the field and are providing training to local volunteers in handling it.

The National Headquarters has released relief items valued at Rs. 578,72,500 ([Annexure](#)). It is also mobilizing donations from Corporate Sector, State branches and from public. The first consignment of in kind donation, which was raised at NHQ, was sent to Bihar on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In addition to this Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has deployed the CGHS doctors who are the alumni of IRCS run Post Graduate Diploma Course in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation.

Two Red Cross assessment teams, which left last week from New Delhi for Bihar, are back. These teams included members from the IRCS, IFRC, the Spanish Red Cross and the American Red Cross. They made a presentation to the Secretary General on their findings today.

During the presentation it was informed that IRCS Bihar State Branch is actively supplementing the efforts of the State Government in relief operation. The team also spelt out the needs, which included 60,000 family packets, 60,000 woolen blankets, 10,00,000 jerricanes and provision for raising of 2000 disaster resilient low cost houses to be built with local material

Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General of Indian Red Cross Society stated that, "Earlier Studies have shown increased symptoms, such as anxiety, depression and insomnia among flood victims due to loss of near and dear ones and belongings. Behavioural change in children has also been observed. Therefore a psychosocial support intervention needs to be made by Red Cross in the flood affected areas".

The tracing team, which was deployed by the National Headquarters on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Bihar, continues to be in the field. It is working in coordination with other agencies like Jeevika, UNICEF, Save the Children and Don Bosco. So far 700 cases of missing people in the districts of Araria, Purnea and Supaul have been registered. Around 60 volunteers have been trained. The tracing team also helped in improving the application form for registering the missing persons, which was developed by Jeevika. Following this, the database was adapted to new tracing forms. The IRCS and other organisations are assisting Jeevika in running the help line number by designating volunteers in order to make it functional 24 hours a day.

## Gujarat

The Emergency Control room at IRCS Gujarat State Branch has been activated. A team of 12 members under the supervision of DP Supervisor is carrying relief operation in the worst affected district of Surendranagar. Volunteers of Surendranagar District Branch and Thangadh Taluka Branch are actively supporting the Government in rescue and relief operation. SDRT members from Surendranagar District visited schools, which are inundated and evacuated students and teachers. Thangadh Taluka Branch distributed 5000 food packets among the affected people.

## Orissa

The IRCS Orissa State Branch, Honorary Secretary participated in the coordination meeting organized by the State Government last week. He also attended an inter-agency group meeting to discuss flood response mechanism. The disaster management centre at the branch has been activated. The branch has deputed over 100 volunteers that are supplementing the Government and defense personnel in evacuation and distribution of food. Six marooned people evacuated from Jagatsinghpur district by Indian Air Force Helicopter were received by IRCS medical team and were shifted to a government hospital in its ambulance.

## Bihar

The emergency operations centre at Bihar State branch is working round the clock to monitor the situation and coordinate rescue and relief efforts. The branch has also drawn a plan of action for phase wise implementation of flood relief operation. It has proposed to distribute 50,000 family packs, construct 10,000 dwelling units, hold medical camps, supplement Government efforts in providing safe-drinking water & life jackets and boats to the affected people. The branch has requested National Headquarters for assistance for achieving it.

Apart from this, non-affected districts like Begusarai, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Madhubani and Gaya have adopted Saharsa, Purnia, Araria, Supaul and Madhepura. These non-affected districts are mobilizing and coordinating resources to mitigate the impact of flood in the affected districts.

In Supaul District, Red Cross volunteers are helping local administration in packing of relief items. The branch provided boats for rescue operation and also distributed medicines among the flood-affected people. The Honorary Secretary of Ramgarh (Jharkand) has reached the district with six trucks loaded with relief

	<p>items and thirty volunteers. They plan to distribute relief materials in two blocks named as Duaania and Trivanigunj.</p> <p>In Bhagalpur, a medical camp was organized at Jawhari Chowk wherein 139 men, 102 women and 117 children were treated. The Red Cross volunteers are also assisting the patients in the hospital either by arranging blood for the needy or providing psychosocial support.</p> <p>Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and other branches have sent relief material in trucks and by rail in large quantities. They also deputed volunteers and officials to help in distribution.</p> <p><b>Assam</b></p> <p>IRCS Assam State Branch and the civil administration has started immediate flood relief operation in Rangia district which has been affected by floods.</p> <p>The Watsan unit received from the Australian Red Cross has been operationalised in the flood affected Kamrup District.</p>
<p><b>Working in Partnerships:</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>SOURCE OF INFORMATION: National Disaster Management, India &amp; IRCS State branches and National headquarters Disaster management team.</b></p>	