



UPDATE 5

DATE: August 1st, 2008

SITUATION

The monsoon death toll has reached 409 and 12,34,578 people are affected in 2,616 villages of nine districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh. Due to incessant rainfall and overflowing of many rivers, several embankment breaches are reported in the rivers in districts like Baharaich, Kannauj, Sant Kabeer Nagar, Gorakhpur, Lakhimpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Balia Azamgarh and Mau. As a result low-lying areas in these districts are submerged in water.

According to the report of Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs so far incessant rains and flash floods have engulfed 848 human lives, affected a population of 74,43,554, livestock loss is 9508 and demolished 247212 houses in 6779 villages of 57 districts in the country.

According to India Meteorological Department isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected over Madhya Maharashtra and south Gujarat during next 24 hours. Fairly widespread rainfall is expected over peninsular India and northeastern States.

RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The National Headquarters of IRCS is in touch with the flood-affected States and is closely monitoring the situation.

The National Headquarters will be holding the flood review meeting early next week.

Prof (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS during the inaugural function of Family News Service Focal Persons Training Workshop for the States in North held on July 30th – 31st 2008 at DMC, NHQ stated , “ In the times of disaster the affected population does not only need relief in terms of food or medicine. The agony caused by their missing kith & kin triggers emotional outbursts. It has to be understood that Tracing is an integral part of disaster management and tracing activities have been incorporated in the IRCS disaster preparedness plans. In last two years more than 100 persons have been trained across 14 States in Family News Service programme. This meeting would help the participants in understanding the role of tracing at the time of disasters”.



STATE BRANCHES

Bihar

The Capital town of Patna is receiving continuous rain for the last 45 days. Three Red Cross rubber boats were deployed to ferry the people in the affected localities to safer destinations. Red Cross volunteers are involved in relief operation in the affected areas.

West Bengal

SDRT members have been mobilized as a preparedness step in the Cooch Bihar district, where heavy rainfalls (around 618 mm) are reported. The District Administration is keeping a constant watch on the water level in the rivers like Teesta, Torsha, Jaldhaka and Raydak. Red alert will be issued once water starts flowing above the danger level. Communities living on the Char land of Teesta river are getting regular early warning and are in touch with main land. Although advised, they have not yet left their houses. Red Cross branches are ready to render necessary services.

Assam



Red Cross volunteers are working in combat mode for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people in the affected districts. Health check-up camps are being organized in the surrounding areas to cope

up with the health related problems. Free medicine distribution camps are also organized in cooperation with concerned health departments. There is greater emphasis on water purification measures to avoid water borne diseases. Awareness camps are being conducted in affected areas relating to chlorination and filtration techniques. Relief camps are continuing at Lakhimpur, Majuli and Dhakuakhana continuing. Special care is taken in the disposal of dead cattle in and around the inhabited areas.

Working in Partnerships: The National Headquarters of 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. Third Information bulletin is uploaded on <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts08/INf131070803.pdf>

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