



**UPDATE 7**

**DATE: August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

**SITUATION**

The flood situation in Bihar has worsened with major rivers, including Ganga, Punpun, Ghaghra, Burhigandak and Bagmati flowing above the danger level. In all, about 6,14,000 people from 802 villages in 10 districts (Muzaffarpur, Supaul, Patna, Katihar, Nalanda, Araria, West Champaran, Shekhpura, Saharsa and Khagaria) have been severally affected. 734 boats have been pressed into service for rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. Five relief camps have been opened in which 2792 people have been accommodated.

In Uttar Pradesh, heavy to moderate rains lashed Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Faizabad divisions during the last twenty-four hours. Major rivers such as Ganga, Ramganga and Ghaghra continue to be in swell due to heavy rains in their catchment areas. Road communication has been badly affected. Flood is again creating havoc in Gorakhpur division. The situation has become grim in southern part of Gorakhpur district where river Ghaghra is in spate. More than 30 villages have been submerged in Gorakhpur division. Many link roads are submerged in water affecting the road traffic. 50 metre breach has been developed in Amwa Khas embankment in Kushinagar.

In Punjab, the water level in flood-affected villages of Jalandhar district, including most affected village Gidderpindi, is receding. Plugging of breaches is continuing on war footing.

So far incessant rains and flash floods have engulfed 1385 human lives and affected a population of 101,47,296 in 10942 villages of 96 Districts in the country.

Light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy falls have been reported from some parts of Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan.

**RED CROSS ACTION**

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Headquarters of the Indian Red Cross Society released 500 family packs and 200 tents valued at Rs. 22,84,500 to IRCS Punjab State branch and 5000 family packs costing Rs. 44,30,000 to IRCS Bihar State branch.

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

**STATE BRANCHES**

**Punjab**

The IRCS Punjab State branch is closely monitoring the situation in the flood-affected areas. The Branch Secretary has asked all the districts branches to be alert and do regular assessment of the flood situation. Volunteers have been mobilised who are helping in rescue and relief operation.

**Karnataka**

Asst. Secretary of IRCS Karnataka State branch



Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS stated, " Due to incessant rains, Ropar, Jalandhar, Moga, Kapurthala, Taran taran

& Ferozepur districts have been flooded and about 37903 people from 244 villages are reported to have been affected severely". He said "Punjab, like Uttar Pradesh is not in the list of eleven disaster prone states where disaster management programme is being run. It also has limited response capacity. Therefore it becomes our duty to garner support for the flood victims in the state".

has reported that they are scheduling a meeting of the district Secretaries of the Districts that are affected by floods. The State Branch is making an assessment of the situation and will be forwarding a report to IRCS, NHQ.

### Gujarat

IRCS Navsari District Branch deployed 12 volunteers and one SDRT member to 5 schools providing refuge to flood victims. The District Branch distributed food packets and water to the people in the shelters. Emergency Control room of IRCS Gujarat State Branch is working around the clock to provide timely information.

### Maharashtra

A four storey 70 years old building, called Datta Nivas, collapsed at Bhindi Bazar, Kumbharwada on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008. 21 people died and 20 were injured. The IRCS Maharashtra State Branch, immediately deployed a team of Red Cross Staff and volunteers for relief operation. The team distributed 5 boxes of water, tea and biscuits to the affected people. Volunteers helped in clearing of rubble in the area. The team also visited the hospital that treated the injured. A comprehensive list of those injured and the kind of treatment they were getting was prepared to facilitate medical care for them.

### Bihar

A six-member team in the flood affected Beldaor block, which is 50 kms away from Khagria District, carried out an assessment. Almost 60 percent of the block is submerged under water. Red Cross volunteers are involved in the rescue operation with local authorities.

**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:** AIR News, National Disaster Management, India & IRCS State branches and National headquarters Disaster management team.