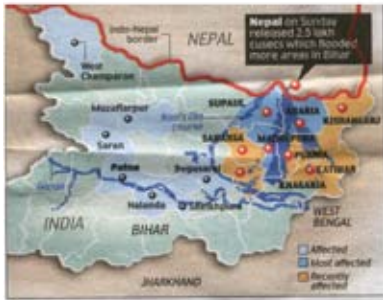




SITUATION

According to the report of Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far incessant rains and flash floods have engulfed 1736 human lives, affected a population of 17,9,95,540, estimated livestock loss is 17,521 and demolished/damaged 4,48,409 houses in 12065 villages of 110 districts across the country.



In Bihar, the flood situation continues to remain grim in Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa, Araria, and Purnia districts. The flood waters have now entered new areas in Katihar district. About 25 lakh people are trapped between the old and new stream of the Kosi river. Another ten lakh people are affected by the floods in Muzaffarpur, Patna, Nalanda, West Champaran, Khagaria, Sheikhpura, Saran, Begusarai, Bhagalpur and Vaishali districts. The Bihar government says all

marooned people will be evacuated within next three days. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that over five lakh 40 thousand people have been shifted to safer places. A high level committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary will be visiting the flood-affected areas of Bihar on Tuesday. The National Crisis Management Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary is constantly reviewing the flood situation in the state. More than 5,700 tents have already been sent to Bihar and more than 900 will be sent shortly. 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.

According to the India Meteorological Department there is a warning for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim.



RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Before the onset of the monsoon season the Indian Red Cross Society, NHQ made its nine Watsan units operational, video-conferencing system was operationalized in the disaster prone States and in six regional warehouses and relief materials were pre-positioned. Along with these a meeting on flood response and community contingency planning with the disaster prone states was convened to assess flood preparedness and prepare plan for the ensuing floods.

The emergency operations centre (Control Room) at the National Headquarters is functioning round the clock to monitor the flood situation and coordinate rescue and relief efforts.

Three coordination meetings have been organised on June 27th, August 6th and September 1st 2008 to review IRCS flood operations. Representatives from the IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies working in India attended the meetings. The NHQ also negotiated with the International Federation and Partner National Societies (PNS's) for replenishing its disaster preparedness stocks.

The National Headquarters has been 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. Flood Situation Updates are also being posted on the website regularly.



Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS, informed that yesterday, i.e. on September 1st 2008 the National Headquarters sanctioned the third consignment of relief items comprising of tarpaulin sheets (1,000), family packs (10,000) and tents (300), which would soon be reaching the State of Bihar. Twenty aluminium alloy rescue boats, 15 rubber and 20 zodiac boats with the capacity of carrying 60 and 12 people respectively, have been mobilized to reinforce the existing boats deployed in the rescue and relief work. In addition to this three watsan units are also being deployed. Each unit has the capacity to give 5000 litres of purified water every day. The units are capable of making even floodwaters potable.

Apart from this family pack and other relief items valued at Rs. 9,06,000 were released to West Bengal State branch. 5000 family packs, 200 tents and 500 mosquito nets amounting to Rs. 2 392000 were released to Punjab State branch. All these items have since been distributed.

IRCS rapid response mechanisms like National, State & District disaster response teams, mobile disaster unit (MDU), disaster health response unit (DHRU) and field sub-halls are also in position.

BIHAR

The State Government has directed all Districts that in kind donations for flood victims should be made to the Red Cross branches.

In Purnea, Katihar, Bhagalpur and Saharsa Districts Red Cross teams are working in close coordination with the defence and state Government Officials. In Katihar Red Cross volunteers are taking care of the sanitation needs by cleaning the dharmshalas and school buildings, which are housing over 2000 displaced people.



Supaul District branch mobilized 10 volunteers and eight boats. The volunteers helped in saving the lives of 60 marooned people by shifting them to safer zones.

St. John Ambulance, which is the first-aid and ambulance wing of the Red Cross has trained first-aid and relief workers. It has mobilized its cadres for rescue and relief work. The volunteers in the districts are supplementing the rescue and relief work started by the Government.

In Saharsa, 300 families evacuated from Madhepura have been provided shelter in the school opposite the Red Cross office at the district headquarters. Red Cross is helping the government in the arrangement of food and medical care for these 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, 6 watsan units, 40 aluminium boats preferably with motor, 50 motorized rubber boats, 5000 tents, 50,000 ORS sachets and 1,00,000 packets of milk powder of 500 gram each.

ASSAM



Monsoon floods have affected 16 districts and five sub-districts in the State. A total of 7.92 lakh people living in 1069 villages have been affected and the floodwaters have destroyed standing crop in one lakh hectare of cultivated land.

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 flood relief material distribution districts are Majuli, Morigaon, Lakhimpur, Dhakuwakhana, Kamrup, Mangaldoi (Darrang), Rangia, Karbi Anglong etc.

The lists of the Relief Materials are as follows-

Sl. No	Relief Items	Quantity in Nos
1.	Mosquito net	1000
2.	Blanket	1000
3.	Tarpaulin	1000
4.	Dhuti/Sari	500/500
5.	Toilet Pan	25/25
6.	Jaricane	100

Red Cross members and volunteers, Community Health Workers, and First Aiders are working in coordination with the district authority. Due to paralyzed communication system assessment process is slow. 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. Free medicine distribution camps are also held in cooperation with health department. Awareness camps are being conducted in which chlorination and filtration techniques are disseminated. Special precaution is taken in the disposal of dead cattle.

The State branch has requested for 30,000 family packs and Rs.16.6 lakhs to cover the operational costs.

UTTAR PRADESH

Floods affected districts of Hamirpur, Etawah, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Lucknow and Baharaich. The State branch distributed items like salwar kameez (390), bed sheet, (1184), towel (1058), woollen blanket (550), frock (25), blouse (10), rajai (20), sari (1727), dhoti (1750), kitchen sets (1180), feeding cup (100), plastic roll (76) first-aid box (13), cotton blankets (12) and assorted used clothes (300) to the affected population. Pilibhit district branch was paid Rs. 2:00 lakhs for undertaking relief work.

ORISSA

The Disaster Management Control room at the State branch headquarters has been activated. Interagency meetings were held for reviewing of flood situation. SDRT & DDRT were deployed as and when needed. In Balasore district 100 Red Cross Volunteers distributed 5000 pieces of tarpaulin sheets and other relief items. They also participated in rescue of the affected population.

PUNJAB

Four districts in the state of Punjab experienced flooding due to breach of embankments inundating many parts of the districts namely Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar and Kapurthala. On the request of the state branch, the IRCS, National Headquarters released relief items valued at Rs.23.92 lacs which were distributed by the volunteers in the supervision of the district branch officials. The volunteers in these districts also helped in running community kitchens set up by the local communities.

Details of Relief supplies from the National Headquarters

Andhra Pradesh

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Sales</u> <u>Eff. Rate</u>	<u>Value</u>
Bed Sheet	2500 Nos.	73	182500
Gents Dhoties	2500 Nos.	72	180000
Sarees	2500 Nos.	87	217500
Stove	2500 Nos.	350	875000
Towel	2500 Nos.	33	82500
	12500 Nos.	123	15,37,500

Bihar

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Sales</u> <u>Eff. Rate</u>	<u>Value</u>
Bed Sheet	15000 Nos.	71	1065000
Cotton Blanket	15000 Nos.	97.67	1465000
Gents Dhoties	15000 Nos.	70.67	1060000
Kitchen Sets	15000 Set	325.33	4880000
Mosquitos Nets	25000 Nos.	215.80	5395000
Sarees	15000 Nos.	85.67	1285000
Tarupline Rolls	2100 Nos.	4295.24	9020000
Tents	550 Nos.	9000	4950000
Towel	15000 Nos.	31	465000
			2,95,85,000

Punjab

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Sales</u> <u>Eff. Rate</u>	<u>Value</u>
Bed Sheet	500 Nos.	70	35000
Cotton Blanket	500 Nos.	96	48000
Gents Dhoties	500 Nos.	70	35000
Kitchen Sets	500 Set	320	160000
Mosquitos Nets	1000 Nos.	215	215000
Plastic Bucket	500 Nos.	83	41500
Sarees	500 Nos.	85	42500
Tents	200 Nos.	9000	1800000
Towel	500 Nos.	30	15000
			23,92,000

West Bengal

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Sales</u> <u>Eff. Rate</u>	<u>Value</u>
Gents Dhoties	2000 Nos.	72	144000
Kitchen Sets	1000 Nos.	336	336000
Mat Plastic	1000 Nos.	90	90000.300
Plastic Bucket	1000 Nos.	87	87000
Sarees	2000 Nos.	87	174000
			8,31,000

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.