

India floods 2017: Relief and recovery plan

Date: 22 September 2017

The Indian Red Cross seeks **26 crore INR** (approx. **4 million USD**) to deliver humanitarian assistance and recovery support to 250,000 people affected by floods across India, with a focus on **health, shelter and non-food relief items, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, livelihoods, education and disaster risk reduction**.

This plan is an extension of the immediate emergency response already provided since the onset of the 2017 monsoon season partners. The planned response and recovery reflect the current situation and information available at this time.

The disaster and Red Cross response to date

- **July 2017:** Monsoon season with above average heavy rains cause intense flooding across western, northern and north-eastern parts of India. Relief operations commence.
- **28 July 2017:** A first allocation of the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) amounting 323,333 Swiss Francs (approx. 2.6 crore INR) is released to assist 25,000 people affected in Assam and Manipur.
- **22 August 2017:** A second DREF allocation of 397,440 Swiss francs (approx. 2.7 crore INR) is released to assist 25,000 people affected in Bihar.
- **September 2017:** Emergency relief distributions continue, along with recovery and long-term support to those most affected.



Situation assessment



According to official figures, more than 30 million people were severely affected by floods across India, with over one thousand killed and a million displaced. An estimated one out of three of the affected population are children. At the height of the emergency, 1.1 million people were hosted in 3,271 camps.

While heavy monsoon rains and related flooding are common, this year's situation was unprecedented in its scope and severity, with extreme rainfall causing flash floods which contributed to the high death toll. Waters have now receded in many areas and people have begun to return to their homes, however, there has been extensive damage to houses, dwellings and vital infrastructure with 12,400 schools affected in Bihar state alone. The floods have also caused massive damage to agricultural land and livestock, which will likely have impacts on food security and livelihoods¹.

While hygiene and sanitation issues are a key issue of concern in the affected areas, stagnant flood waters have also increased the risk of mosquito borne diseases. Many of the tube wells and hand pumps have been contaminated or need repair, with thousands of people still lacking access to safe drinking water.

¹ [UNOCHA](#) humanitarian snapshot, 1 Sep 2017

Summary of the response so far

From the very onset of the disaster Indian Red Cross branches in affected states mobilised their “SERV” Social and Emergency Response Volunteers and quickly scaled up their flood response efforts. This included initial evacuations, search and rescue, providing first aid, distributing hot meals as well as food rations, organising medical camps and supporting temporary shelter & family tents. All activities were closely coordinated with respective disaster management authorities at district and state levels.

Red Cross branches in Bihar, Assam, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal continue to distribute relief materials to 50,000 most vulnerable persons, supported by Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IFRC and ICRC) and local partners. Relief items include mostly non-food items such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, family packs including clothing, sheets and blankets, buckets, solar lanterns and hygiene items.

Four water purification units are installed in Assam and Manipur, which are currently supplying drinking water to affected families. 50 life straw community membrane water filters are currently being installed in Bihar. Chlorine, bleaching powder, lime and allum are being used to purify water and used as disinfectant. One hundred temporary toilets have been erected in the neediest areas of Manipur. Soaps and sanitary napkins are distributed to promote hygiene and safe menstrual practises. Jerry cans and buckets were distributed to ensure water storage for families in need.



Houses destroyed due to the flood in Bihar, (IFRC)



Red Cross branches in affected states also started fundraising and collecting donations towards the relief effort. In Bihar, 12 truckloads of dry rations were collected through local donations and distributed across the affected districts. Meanwhile, branches in other parts of the country have also contributed actively, through dispatch of relief items from their stocks as well as through the deployment of trained staff. National headquarters assumed the overall coordination of relief efforts, including the mobilisation of pre-positioned relief stock from its six regional and national warehouses.

Needs assessment & selection of people to be assisted

Initial needs assessments were carried out by Indian Red Cross volunteers across all affected states to identify the immediate, medium-term and long-term needs. Where possible such assessments were coordinated with government authorities and other actors. Indian Red Cross teams work closely with the local administration, coordinating efforts during the emergency phase as well as recovery and future interventions. The current operations as well as this relief and recovery plan are based on the assessments, as well as on an analysis of current gaps, needs, and capabilities.

Displaced populations, including in temporary shelters or makeshift houses, will be prioritized in the selection of people to be assisted throughout the affected locations. As per assessment reports as well as lessons learned from previous operations, the vulnerability criteria prioritize the elderly, women, farmers with marginal income, women-headed families, lactating mothers, and persons living with disability.

The Indian Red Cross promotes community engagement and accountability by holding consultation sessions, and putting in place mechanisms to capture feedback, complaints and suggestions. It will work in close coordination with other humanitarian actors to avoid potential overlapping in case of selection of geographical locations and households to receive assistance.





IRCS volunteers verifying names for relief material distribution in Manipur, (Photo: IFRC)


Overall Goal:


The Indian Red Cross is now seeking support to further scale up relief and recovery efforts during the next 12 months.


The overall goal of the operation is **to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and support the recovery of 250,000 people affected by the floods.**


Proposed sectors of intervention


	<h3>Health</h3>	INR 97 lakh / USD 150,000
Goal 1: Reduce immediate health risks		
Output 1.1: Epidemic prevention and control measures are undertaken in target communities		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute mosquito nets and train communities on their appropriate use & maintenance • Organize training on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) • Mobilize trained volunteers for epidemic and disease prevention/control awareness • Undertake awareness campaigns for epidemic and disease prevention/control in communities • Distribute Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), accompanied with guidance on their usage • Implement community plans for the prevention and control of water and vector borne diseases (especially diarrhoea and malaria) 		
	<h3>Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)</h3>	INR 6.5 crore / USD 1,000,000
Goal 2: Reduce the risk of water and sanitation related diseases		
Output 2.1: Provide safe water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene items to target population and schools		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute safe drinking water using water purification units • Distribute and replenish water buckets/ jerrycan, water purification tablets • Disinfect and repair contaminated/damaged tube well using standard technical guidance • Repair and/or install water point (tube-well) with elevated platforms • Carry out survey to map the water sources in the target areas • Form and orient Water Users Groups 		
Output 2.2: Promote access to improved sanitation		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install temporary latrines in communities • Repair and/or construct school latrines • Construct model elevated toilets & facilitate training on latrine construction • Provide technical guidance for community members to construct latrines • Mobilize community members for clean-up campaigns • Undertake monitoring to ensure that latrines in communities and schools are constructed & used properly 		
Output 2.3: Raise awareness on safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute hygiene items (soap, detergent, sanitary napkins, toothbrushes and washing powder) • Mobilize and train volunteers in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) activities • Conduct hygiene promotion linked with distribution of hygiene items • Promote active participation of junior Red Cross committees in schools • Training of Trainers on “3-star approach” and roll out activities in schools 		


	Livelihoods; Nutrition; Food security	INR 5.2 crore / USD 800,000
Goal 3: Restore livelihoods and improve food security		
Output 3.1: Provide multipurpose grants to restore livelihoods		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select priority beneficiaries based on pre-defined criteria • Set up grant distribution process, community engagement and accountability mechanisms • Provide multipurpose cash grants to buy seeds, tools, livestock etc • Conduct close pre/post monitoring and evaluation to ensure compliance • Conduct impact assessment of livelihoods assistance 		

	Shelter & non-food items	INR 7.8 crore / USD 1,200,000
Outcome 4: Meet immediate shelter and essential household needs		
Output 4.1: Provide emergency shelter and essential household (non-food) items		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute and replenish tarpaulins and selected non-food items (clothing, blankets, sheets etc) • Conduct post-distribution satisfaction survey 		
Output 4.2: Provision of shelter repair assistance		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize sessions on safer shelter construction techniques for target households • Provide grants and tools for shelter repair • Mobilize technical teams to provide technical guidance on shelter repair 		

	Education	INR 32 lakh / USD 50,000
Goal 5: Support children as they return to school		
Output 5.1: Provide children with educational material and school kits		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select target school children through a participatory approach • Mobilize volunteers for distribution of school supply materials • Conduct post-distribution satisfaction survey 		

	Disaster Risk Reduction (including response preparedness; early warning)	INR 65 lakh / USD 100,000
Goal 6: Reduce future disaster risk and build community resilience		
Output 6.1: Support communities to reduce risk through an integrated approach		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise and train community volunteers using the Red Cross “SERV” modules – including first aid, risk reduction and community health promotion • Scale up existing Red Cross programmes on integrated risk management at community level • Mobilize community members for small-scale risk mitigation projects • Ensure disaster risk reduction approaches cut across all sectoral interventions 		

	Red Cross capacity building	INR 87 lakh / USD 135,000
Goal 7: Strengthen Indian Red Cross' capacity to respond to future disasters & crises		
Output 7.1: Build emergency response capacity of Red Cross branches in affected districts		
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate branch disaster management training and capacity building • Conduct disaster management training for staff & volunteers • Roll out "open data kit" training & tools for information management in disasters • Conduct Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and develop Plan of Action • Conduct technical training on communications, finance, planning, monitoring, evaluation & reporting 		

	Operational Costs (max 15%)	INR 3.9 crore / USD 600,000
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To reach the goals above the following direct and indirect operational costs are included here: transport of relief materials, logistics, warehousing and supply chain; programme technical support, information technology & communications; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting; partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.

Total Budget	INR 26 crore / USD 4 million
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Indian Red Cross capacity

The Indian Red Cross is a voluntary humanitarian organization with a network of more than 1,100 branches & units throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies and promoting a range of long-term services in areas such as health & care, disaster risk reduction, social inclusion, youth and volunteering. It has some 300,000 active volunteers and 2,500 staff, as well 350,000 members and approximately 9.5 million youth and junior Red Cross. Well-trained "SERV" Social and Emergency Response Volunteers form its operational backbone at community level; they are supported and guided by dedicated disaster management staff as well as specialist teams who can be deployed at short notice – including state and national disaster response teams, and national disaster water & sanitation teams.

Further technical support is provided by Red Cross Movement partners including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); both have a permanent presence in India.

As part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, all work is guided by seven fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Quality programming, monitoring and evaluation

All Red Cross assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. Principles of dignity, access, participation and safety of all individuals and groups are core protection principles of the Humanitarian Charter and the Core Humanitarian Standard.

The Indian Red Cross and its partners are committed to quality programming and ensuring high standards of transparency and accountability. Ongoing operations are informed by continuous assessment and analysis to identify needs and gaps and to select people to receive assistance. The management of the operation is also informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism, supported by International Red Cross Movement partners. Post distribution monitoring, joint monitoring visits, evaluations and lessons-learned workshops are also planned. A systematic community engagement and accountability approach will ensure that targeted communities and households have access to life-saving and actionable information regarding their safety, health and wellbeing, and they will also be able to engage with Indian Red Cross to influence and guide decision-making. Key activities in this regard include orientation of staff and volunteers on community engagement and accountability, dissemination of community engagement material for stakeholder groups, setting up a complaint response mechanism to gather people's feedback, and conducting post-assistance satisfaction surveys as part of monitoring efforts.

How can I contribute?

For details on how to contribute please visit <http://www.indianredcross.org/donate-now.htm>

Please note that Indian Red Cross is unable to accept:

- donations of food, medicine, used clothing
- individual / unsolicited in-kind donations

For additional information you may also contact:

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