July happens to be a month when generally maximum rain fall is recorded in India. This year some parts of our country are getting more than their quota while some are reporting rain deficiency. Hence, floods are rampaging several districts of a few states.

I was glad to see that the Red Cross volunteers and staff swung in to action and took part in evacuation alongside the local administration. They are sharing pictures of their kitchen, packing of food & relief measures. Pictures of food distribution and health camps are also being shared on a regular basis. The state branches submitted their assessment reports for garnering support from the NHQ. News of action from the field through social media by teams is continuous and heartening.

Social media is becoming more and more relevant. In this light, I request my staff and volunteers to be cautious and relevant to the situation. A workshop is scheduled to be hosted in early September in which there would be emphasis on this aspect. Have a happy and safe monsoon.

ToT for SERV master trainers focused on First Aid training for four days and last 2 days were devoted to Disaster Management concepts. 33 participants attended the training program from 13 States. Through these trainings, IRCS will build a pool of SERV Master Trainers at the National level who will further scale up SERV pan India by conducting cascading training programs at State level for SERV Instructors and at District level for SERV volunteers.
Students of Home Health Aide (HHA) course are undergoing internship at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. The first batch of HHA course was inaugurated on April 15, 2019. Admissions will open for second batch in September, 2019. Updates will be available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/training#HHA

Admissions for PG Diploma in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation, 2019-20 academic year, have been closed on 31 July 2019. The 1 year course is affiliated to GGSIP University, New Delhi. Details available at https://indianredcross.org/ircs/training#PGDDR

**IRCS– NHQ Blood Bank**

**Month of July 2019**

- Donors - 2175
  - Voluntary Donors in camps – 1704
  - Voluntary Donors in house – 353
  - Replacement Donors in house – 118

Percentage of voluntary donors—94.57%

**Livelihood Project of IRCS-ICRC**

Distribution of seeds for Kharif crops—Paddy and varieties of different vegetables (7 types of seeds) and farmers training was held in Koraput, Malakngiri, & Kandhamal Districts of Odisha. Farmers were trained on SREI methodology of farming and line transplanting method for sowing of paddy. Details at https://indianredcross.org/ircs//program/livelihood#odishakhariff
In order to enhance the visibility and impact of relief measures undertaken by Indian Red Cross Society, need was felt to standardise specifications of various relief items and dress of the Red Cross staff & volunteers engaged in relief, manning Red Cross posts, rehabilitation and other work. It is also felt that IRCS also needs to fix some colour combinations for all its relief materials; be it tents, tarpaulin, mats/daris, saris, gents dhotis, buckets etc. While the colour combination will be same, the pattern may vary from product to product. But the pattern will be the same for the same item.

In view of the above, an exercise is being done at IRCS, NHQ to come out with all possible colour combinations and patterns.

Views from State branches, National Managing Body members and movement partners have been invited on the various options.

Based on response, final standard colour and patterns shall be finalized.
Bihar and Assam Floods (Preparedness and Responses)...
IRCS State & District branches interventions

Relief distribution, installation of water purification units and organizing medical camps in Morigaon, Dhubri, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Majuli districts of Assam

IRCS response in flood affected districts of Bihar by Bihar State and District Red Cross Branches.