**Assam Flood Response**

Amidst the COVID19 pandemic, the State of Assam has been concurrently battling a severe flood situation triggered by incessant rains in several parts of the State, impacting more than 1.6 million people in 22 districts.

The situation has remained grim for days as Brahmaputra and its tributaries continue to flow above the danger level in various places, affecting cropped areas, destroying livelihoods & damaging houses in its wake. Rescue and relief operations are underway and affected communities continue to be evacuated to safer places by the SDRF and NDRF personnel.

Since the onset of flooding, staff & volunteers of IRCS Assam have been working tirelessly at the forefront to support those affected with relief aid such as tarpaulins, food material & other essential commodities. All efforts have been made to reach the last mile to ensure that no one is left behind. Post needs assessment, the State Branch established 12 Zonal centers & pre-positioned 13,500 tarpaulins there to launch a timely Emergency Response.

Since then, Red Crossers have distributed 1181 tarpaulins among the needy to provide immediate shelter to people whose homes have been damaged due to the flooding (Districts: Dhemaji, Morigaon, Jorhat, Bilaspara & Nalabari.) Moreover, volunteers are also helping the local communities in erecting temporary shelters in highland areas. 10 family tents (total 16) have also been installed in different COVID19 quarantine centres.

Red Cross teams are also reaching affected communities with dry ration, milk packets, drinking water bottles, soaps, mosquito coils, utensils & candles at their doorsteps & in flood relief camps where thousands have been evacuated.

**Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan, Hon’ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and President of the Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh State Branch launched the AP Red Cross Mobile App (Android based) on the 26th June, 2020 at Raj Bhawan, Vijayawada.**

This App will enable Red Cross Volunteers to register themselves on line, receive online training through the platform & shall also help the State Branch in creating a centralized database of all its volunteers. The State Branch shall also be able to monitor their activities, real time & will be able to recognize them for their contributions to a myriad of activities such as Blood Donation programs, Health Camps, Disaster Management, Community Surveillance, Climate Change, Safe School-Safe College and First Aid Training programs undertaken by the State Red Cross Branch.

Notwithstanding the massive scientific progress made in the last few decades, blood still remains a natural product. It cannot be manufactured & the needy have to depend on generous voluntary donors to meet their needs.

Since the COVID lockdown, IRCS Blood Banks & State/UT Branches have been making tireless efforts to maintain a steady supply of safe blood to meet the needs of patients of Thalassemia, Cancer & other needy people. Through their efforts, a staggering 1,00,000+ units of blood have been collected. Our teams continue to hold mobile blood donation camps, arrange transportation for VBs & motivate past donors to donate blood amidst the pandemic. Several Red Crossers have themselves stepped forward to donate blood to make their individual contribution towards this crisis. 365 such dedicated Red Crossers from IRCS Manipur have donated blood during the pandemic. Besides, IRCS Khargone, M.P. recently collected 72 units of blood at a camp organized in Baalsamud village. Thank you Donors!

**Despatch to State/UT Branches**

**IRCS Odisha:**
- Face Masks: 1,02,000;
- Gloves: 6000 pairs; Face shields: 540; PPEs: 150; Jackets: 170; Thermal guns: 02

**IRCS Mizoram:**
- Masks 3ply: 35,000; Masks N 95: 10,000

**Jalgaon Blood Bank Starts Plasma Pheresis**

The Red Cross blood bank in Jalgaon, Maharashtra was congratulated by the State Chief Minister for starting trial of Plasma Therapy (Project Platina) during the week passed by.