



Indian Red Cross Society
National Headquarters, New Delhi

UPDATE ON CYCLONE AILA

UPDATE 03

DATE: June 11th, 2009

BACKGROUND

According to India Meteorological Department a severe cyclonic storm (SCS), **AILA** crossed West Bengal coast near Sagar Island between 1330 and 1430 hrs IST on 25th May 2009. Widespread rain/thundershowers with scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall and isolated extremely heavy rainfall occurred over Orissa on 25th and over West Bengal & Sikkim on 25th & 26th. Widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall also occurred over Assam & Meghalaya on 26th & 27th May.



Several parts, mainly of West Bengal were affected due to the severe cyclonic storm, **AILA**. Based on media report, the state chief secretary has put the number of storm-affected people at 2.2 million. More than 61,000 houses collapsed and more than 132,000 houses were partially damaged. About 100 people died in the state due to **AILA**.

Most severely affected districts are South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba & Paschim Midnapur, Howrah, Hooghly and other districts namely Burdwan, Birbhum, and Murshidabad have also been affected.

RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The Secretary General of IRCS is regularly monitoring the situation by holding daily review meetings of disaster management department and is in constant touch with IRCS West Bengal State Branch' Chairman and Secretary.

On the request of West Bengal State

STATE BRANCH

The IRCS West Bengal State branch activated its emergency operations centre (EOC) and is closely monitoring the situation.

Immediately after AILA hit the area the West Bengal State branch Chairman rushed to the worst ravaged area of South 24 Parganas-Sundarban, to assess the damage caused by

Branch the IRCS, National Headquarters has sanctioned relief items like tarpaulin sheets (5000), dhotis (1000), saris (2000) , frocks (400), shorts (350) and ezar (250) valued at to Rs. 29.50 lakhs to be released from Salt Lake Warehouse, Kolkata.

The National Headquarters sent two WATSAN units with a capacity of 4000 ltrs/hr for deployment in the flood-affected areas. One has been installed at Basanthi Block of 24 South Pargana. The state branch is locating the site for the installation of the second large unit. Consumables/ spare parts and trained volunteers have been provided to run these units.

Further, the National Headquarters has sent three hand operated water sanitation units with a capacity of 70-80 litres per hour to the branch and has also placed another three WATSAN units at the Salt Lake warehouse, Kolkata for deployment by the West Bengal State Branch.

The state branch has been sanctioned rupees one lakh to cover expenditure on transport/fuel etc. Further financial help to carry out relief activities has also been assured.

the calamity. A medical camp was opened on May 25th, 2009 at Jharkali, which continues to operate there. The village has been adopted by the State branch for total development.

DP Supervisor, JRC Secretary and DDRT members of North 24 Parganas District branch distributed relief items along with dry food among the victims of cyclone in the affected areas of Sandeshkali II block on 31st May 2009.

Relief and shelter items like tarpaulin, dhoti, saree, kitchen sets and children garments for 1156 persons were distributed at Herobhanga Vidyasagar High School in Jharkali in Basanti block on June 4th 2009.

Red Crossvolunteers from the district branch were deployed to prepare a list of beneficiaries and the identified families received the relief items. The whole operation was conducted by the State Branch Personnel, Secretary South 24 Parganas District, DP Supervisor with the help of Red Cross volunteers.

A WATSAN unit has been installed at the Basanti Police Station campus in South 24 Parganas District on June 4th, 2009 in the presence of the General Secretary of IRCS, West Bengal State Branch, Disaster Management Coordinator and Store Superintendent, Regional Warehouse, Salt Lake, Kolkata to cater to the water sanitationl needs of the villagers of the adjoining areas affected by the cyclone.

SDRT/DDRT members along with DP Supervisor of North Parganas district conducted an assessment of the needs of the people of Shetolia and Hatgacha village in Sandeshkhali II block and around 1000 families were identified to receive relief material from Red Cross. Subsequently consisting of tarpauline, dhoti, saree, children garments was distributed on June 10th. Volunteers worked under the supervision of DM Coordinator and DP Supervisors.

Medical team from the State branch has set



up two field units in Gosaba to serve the victims. Local UNICEF office has contributed 25000 ORS packets to

the State branch, which have been distributed amongst affected people.

Medical camps have also been set up conducted on June 9th in Kolkata, which is providing medicines and ORS.

To combat the situation arising out of cyclone AILA and to mitigate the sufferings of the victims tarpauline, dhoti, saree, children garments and kitchen sets were dispatched to the most affected Districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Medinipur (East) & Howrah.

The branch is still waiting for the location to install the second WATSAN Unit. The place earmarked earlier was not suitable for installation for non-availability of sweet water source. Suitable sites for installation of other three WATSAN units are being identified in coordination with the Government. Most of the areas are still under water, which is contaminated.

DISTRICT BRANCHES

South 24 Parganas

SDRT members and Hony. Secy Mr. Shyamlal Baran Mukherjee, with the help from another SDRT member Mr. Gautam Kar sent medical and relief teams to Jagdishpur in Kakdwip block, Gopalnagar in Patharpratima block, Boatkhali and Mousumi Island in Sagar block, Ganesh Nagar, Durganagar & Budakhali Phatikpur in Namakhana block. One doctor, one paramedical person and eight Red Cross volunteers are working in each camp set up

	<p>in these blocks. Around 300 families have benefited at each camp. Altogether 1500 families have received medical and other relief support.</p> <p>North 24 Parganas</p> <p>Ten DDRT members and 20 volunteers trained in FA, WATSAN, S&R and VCA have participated in assessment and relief related work and are continuing assessment in Sandeshkali II and Hingalgunj areas of the district. It is being monitored by DP Supervisor of the district.</p> <p>Purba Mednipur</p> <p>The Medical team under the supervision of SDRT members, Mr. Alok Bhowmik and Mr. anupam Palodhi, have been sent to Nandigram, affected in the cyclone.</p>
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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: India Meteorological Department & IRCS State branch and National Headquarters Disaster management team.