



UPDATE 1

DATE: JUNE 26, 2008

SITUATION

According to the report of Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, incessant rains and flash floods have affected the States of Assam, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal and killed 156 people, affected a population of 47, 93,806, loss of 11,503 livestock, damaged crop area of 8, 77,034 hectares and demolished 72168 houses in 1933 villages of 16 districts. The total economic loss is to the tune of Rs. 192. 27 (lakhs).

The States of West Bengal, Orissa and Assam are the worst hit. In West Bengal 31.89 (lakh) people are reported to have been affected in the State. 4, 56, 916 people have been evacuated so far. In 1497 relief camps about 3, 69, 338 people have been accommodated. In Orissa about 12.75 lakh population in 1526 villages in five Districts namely Bhadarak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Kendrapara and Jajpur have been affected due to flood/current spell of heavy rains. In Assam 14 relief camps continue to be in operation in the affected areas in which about 20,000 people have been accommodated.

According to the India Metrological Department there will be an increase in rainfall activity along the west coast and northwest India.

RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has recently taken measures on flood response and community contingency planning. The disaster management centre at the national headquarters has been activated. The national disaster response team (NDRT) and state disaster response team (SDRT) members have been put on alert. The IRCS national headquarters has pre-positioned 45,000 non-food family packs as disaster preparedness (DP) stock, which are stocked at six strategically located regional warehouses. It has also kept five water purification units on standby at these regional warehouses, which can be deployed at short notice, if required.

The disaster management department of the National Headquarters this year has streamlined the reporting system. This improvement has been made possible from the last year's lessons learnt. There is now quick exchange of information between the NHQ and the State branches and vice-versa.

STATE BRANCHES

Assam



During the floods the branch mobilized state and district disaster response team members to help assess the situation. Local IRCS members, first aid-trained volunteers and community health workers are working in coordination with the local administration and are providing their services in the relief camps and shelters run by the government. Up to three IRCS psychosocial support teams, 72 first aid-trained volunteers and four hospitals (each with 100 beds' capacity) are available within the state.

The branch Secretary on her visit to the NHQ informed that many parts of the capital city of Guwahati are submerged. Red Cross volunteers have collected dry ration in donation and are supplying cooked food which are being transported in boats.

The National Headquarters is assessing the needs of the people and is in touch with the State branches.

The volunteers attract marooned people and hand over food packets. On an average two to three hundred people are being helped daily.

West Bengal

Some areas in the districts of Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur are in the grip of serious flood situation.

SDRT members and volunteers are engaged in search and rescue operations in these districts.

Orissa

The IRCS' Orissa state branch has mobilised 5,000 pieces of tarpaulin sheets for the flood victims in the Balasore District. About 100 volunteers have been Mobilized to work round-the- clock for relief distribution. The Honorary Secretary is monitoring the situation on daily basis and is attending daily meetings at relief commissioner's office.



“The Indian Red Cross has this year geared itself to face the floods by adopting better flood response and community contingency planning. We will ensure that we reach out to the maximum number of affected population. We are closely monitoring the situation and are in regular touch with the affected States. I would also like to pay my condolences to late Mr. Shibanarain Mishra's (DM Coordinator, Orissa State branch) family and branch on his sudden death” says Prof (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: National Disaster Management , India & IRCS State branches and National headquarters Disaster management team

RELIEF MATERIAL DATA SHEET