



UPDATE 2

DATE: July 3rd, 2008

SITUATION

Due to continuing rains and flooding number of deaths during the current monsoon has risen to 241 against 156 reported in the first flood situation update. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Jharkhand are getting moderate to heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy rainfall at a few places. So far 55, 21,088 people have been affected in 2183 villages of 25 Districts. The total economic loss is to the tune of Rs. 852. 94 (lakhs).

West Bengal State has been the worst hit. In two Districts about 37.03 (lakh) people are reported to have been affected. 1158 relief camps continue to be in operation in which 5, 11,402 people have been accommodated. 168 boats continue to be deployed for rescue and relief operations.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall, with isolated extremely showers are reported in the last 24 hours in the State of Bihar, Chattisgarh & Rajasthan and light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy falls at a few places in Konkan & Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttarakhand .

Apart from this, a strong earthquake shook India's remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands on June 27th, 2008 but no tsunami alert was issued.

RED CROSS ACTION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The Indian Red Cross Society released dhotis (2000), sarees (2000), kitchen sets (1000), plastic buckets (1000), plastic mats (1000), children frocks (250), shorts (500) and shirts (500) to the tune of Rs. 9,06,000 to West Bengal State branch.

The Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society reviewed the flood operations on June 27th, 2008. He informed the representatives from the International Federation and Partner National Societies about the Red Cross action at the State and District level in the flood affected regions.

The disaster preparedness coordinator at the NHQ along with Head of India office, International Federation, visited the flood affected Moregaon district in Assam from June 27th – 29th, 2008 for the assessment of the situation.

STATE BRANCHES


ASSAM



The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Moregaon district branch has been actively involved in relief operations in the area. Over 300 Red Cross trained volunteers are assisting in

the search and rescue and are also providing humanitarian relief to the affected population. The district branch has been coordinating with the district administration in the relief activities and is planning to mobilize non food items locally.

After the assessment visit two review meetings were held at Guwahati and Moregaon to chalk out future course of Red Cross response. At Guwahati the meeting was chaired by honorary state secretary, IRCS Assam state branch. Head of India office, International Federation, IRCS disaster preparedness coordinator and state governing board members were

<p>The National Headquarters is assessing the needs of the people and is in touch with the State branches.</p>	<p>also present in the meeting. Similarly at Moregaon, the honorary district secretary chaired the meeting. IRCS disaster preparedness coordinator, Head of India office, International Federation, Red Cross volunteers and a UNDP representative attended the meeting. Two of the recommendations which were made after the review meetings are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To procure search and rescue boats • Provision of shelter for the displaced people
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>“The role of communication technology has been recognized as integral to disaster management for a long time, be it mitigation, preparedness, response or recovery. The communication and information technologies that have emerged over the last two decades lend themselves to greater possibilities of integration. The profile of the Society is widely recognized in India but much more needs to be done to improve ICT systems at the IRCS. Therefore the issue of ICT development is one of the important priorities for the IRCS over next couple of years. Establishment of a Video Conferencing system at National Headquarters, IRCS and linking the system with the State Branches and the Regional Warehouses is an important step in this direction and in this we are almost on the stage of completion. During the current floods we are looking forward to its optimum utilization,” says Prof (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS during an interview with Mr. Dean Loxton, a filmmaker from Britain.</p> </div> </div>	<p>West Bengal</p> <p>The flood affected districts of Poorva Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur are still getting moderate to heavy rainfall.</p> <p>The volunteers, community health workers and SDRT members continues to carry search and rescue operations in these districts.</p>
<p>Working in Partnerships</p> <p>The National Headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society is coordinating and sharing information with the communication and disaster management unit of International Federation, India office. Two Information bulletins been uploaded on the http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=84</p>	
<p>SOURCE OF INFORMATION: National Disaster Management , India & IRCS State branches and National headquarters Disaster management team</p>	