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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

India: Floods



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

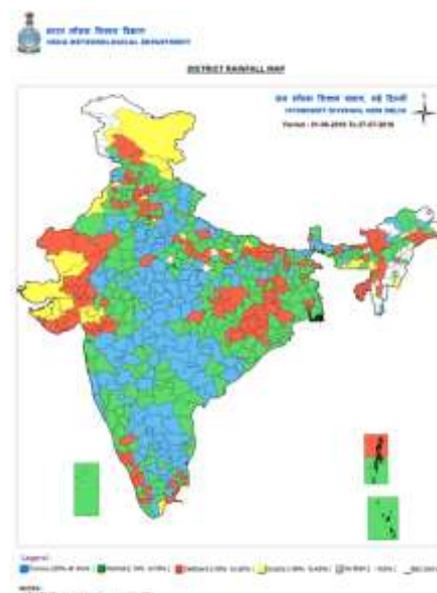
DREF operation n° MDRIN017	
Date of issue: 2 August 2016	Date of disaster: 24 July 2016
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Mr. Vijay Kumar Ummidi, Disaster Preparedness Manager	Point of contact (name and title): Dr. Veer Bhushan, Acting Secretary General
Operation start date: 1 August 2016	Operation end date: 31 October 2016 (3 months)
Operation budget: CHF 235,036	
Number of people assisted: 25,000 people (5,000 families)	
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is India's largest voluntary humanitarian organization; it has 35 State/Union Territories Branches with more than 700 districts and sub district branches throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 700 staff and volunteers are trained in disaster response, forming First Medical Responders (FMR), National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT). IRCS has also trained disaster response teams, including 30 members who are specialized in water and sanitation.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: At the time of launching this DREF operation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively supporting the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS). IRCS is maintaining close coordination with other Movement partners with in-country presence – the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Belgium Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Assam, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, army, volunteers and other civil society organizations	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Following wide-spread drought affecting large parts of India early during the year, the 2016 monsoon season was predicted to bring above average rainfall. The monsoon rains progressed most parts of India by the third week of July, with some parts of India receiving excessive rainfall. When the monsoon progressed to the north, east and northeast parts of the country, it caused havoc with floods affecting 21 districts of the Assam state.

Rainfall and floods are not a new phenomenon for the region or the Assam state, and the Brahmaputra and Barak River with more than 50 tributaries cause severe flooding each year. However, this year rains have been above average, and the situation may have been exacerbated by several factors, including river erosion and increased flooding in neighbouring states. The width of the river Brahmaputra has increased up to 15 km at some places due to bank erosion.



The map¹ above indicates an excess amount of rainfall by around 20% during this year's monsoon period in the areas indicated in blue. By the end of July, over 1.7 million people are affected by floods in 21 districts of Assam, of which 10 districts are severely affected². National and state disaster response forces (NDRF and SDRF) and army along with volunteers are coordinating with and supporting district administrations in the affected districts in search and rescue and relief operations.

Relief camps have been established and relief supplies including food and non-food items are being supplied to the affected people. The government in coordination with disaster response forces (NDRF and SDRF), army and volunteers has been providing relief supplies. Reports indicate damage to public infrastructure, embankments, roads and bridges.

Government has sought assistance from Indian Red Cross Society and other civil society organizations. Interagency group lead by Sphere India is coordinating disaster needs assessment and publishing situation updates. The following statistics are as published by the Assam state disaster management authority as of 27 July 2016.



First Medical Responders (FMR) trained for disaster response support across India have been assisting the authorities in providing first aid support. They are trained for first-aid, needs assessment, relief distribution, psychosocial support (PSS), etc. Based on the immediate assessed and based on the existing capacities of the Assam state branch, immediate relief supplies (including hygiene kits) will be distributed.

Worst Affected Districts	Lakhimpur, Golaghat, Jorhat, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Dhubri, Morigaon, Darrang and Nalbari
Number of people confirmed dead	3
Number of affected people	1,668,865
Number of affected villages	2964
Number of relief camps established	472
Number of people sheltered in relief camps	112,853
Number of relief distribution centers established	186
Number of damaged or destroyed houses	98 fully washed away and 225 partially damaged
Number of livestock washed away in floods	18
Type of relief items distributed	Food items: Rice, lentils, cooking oil and baby food Non-food items: Tarpaulins, cattle feed, bleaching powder and candles
Other Damages	Damage to infrastructure, roads, embankments, bridges, etc.
Crop area affected	194,309 hectares

¹ Source: Indian Meteorological Department web portal: <http://www.imd.gov.in/Welcome%20To%20IMD/Welcome.php>

² Source: Assam State Disaster Management Agency

Summary of the current response

Response by Indian Red Cross Society

- First medical responders have been alerted and deployed by the state branch;
- IRCS headquarters released 500 family packs from one of their regional warehouses (1 family pack consists of 1 bed sheet, 1 cotton blanket, 1 sari (female clothing), 1 dhoti (male clothing), 1 towel, 1 plastic bucket, 1 kitchen set, 1 tarpaulin and 1 mosquito net);
- Volunteers are providing first-aid, search and rescue and evacuation support to the authorities and disaster response forces and army;
- Actively supporting efforts by state and district authorities and response forces in relief operation;
- Conducting disaster needs assessment.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In addition to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in-country Movement partners include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Belgium Red Cross- Flanders. The IFRC has a regional delegation in New Delhi, which has been closely monitoring the rainfall and flooding situation, providing technical support to the IRCS for the preparation of DREF request.

Movement Coordination

IFRC is coordinating with IRCS in the flood response, as well as with other Movement partners including ICRC and Belgian Red Cross- Flanders.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of India and affected State governments are leading the response to floods across the state. Other non-RCRC stakeholders such as Sphere India and other NGOs and INGO's such as *Save the Children*, *OXFAM*, *CARITAS*, *Children Aid* and *ACTED* are also working on assessments and response interventions.

Response by government of Assam

- Deployed National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and army;
- Search and rescue and evacuation operations still continue;
- Established relief camps where people being evacuated are sheltered;
- Providing relief supplies to the affected through a coordinated effort among response forces, army, volunteers and district administration;

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Floods have displaced thousands of people whose houses have been flooded. They have lost all their household items and are presently living in the relief camps established by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. People in these camps are receiving food supplied from the government authorities with support from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), army and volunteers. In addition to government, other civil society organisations, philanthropists are supporting the people living in camps. Family pack items have been identified as one of the needs in the initial assessments carried out by Inter Agency Group led by Sphere with other civil society organisations members. Based on the needs, IRCS will distribute tarpaulins from their existing stocks.

The seasonal monsoon flood is a common occurrence; however this year there has been excessive rainfall and the subsequent intensified flooding situation has resulted in a larger scale disaster. In responding to the situation, the IRCS, with the support of IFRC, requesting for DREF support to better meet the humanitarian needs. The communities have coping capacities for seasonal floods due to the previous community preparedness and resilience initiatives of IRCS, IFRC and other agencies; however many of them were not prepared for a situation of such scale.

IRCS State branch has been gathering information from the FMR volunteers in the affected districts about the flood situation that have highlighted widespread impact of the floods on the communities. Essential household items and drinking water have been identified as the immediate and basic needs of the affected population.

Beneficiary selection will be conducted in coordination with the local authorities, and priority will be given to the most vulnerable including those who have been displaced by floods and are living in temporary shelters,

Risk Assessment

There are constraints in the affected areas due to blocked roads. As of date, many areas are still cut off due to floodwaters having blocked the roads. However, it is expected that access will improve in the coming days when floodwater recede.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to ensure that the immediate needs of the 5,000 flood-affected families are met through provision of emergency relief items and safe drinking water over a three-month period.

Proposed strategy

IRCS will utilise the widespread presence of its staff and volunteers including First Medical Responders (FMR) across the affected areas. They have been actively engaged in disaster response activities, since the heavy rain started. The operation is relief focused, providing the affected population, and especially those who are displaced, with essential household items and drinking water supply.

The DREF operation will focus on the following areas:

1. Distribution of family packs³ to 5,000 affected families;
2. Replenishment of 5,000 family packs⁴
3. Safe drinking water supply to the affected families through the deployment of 5 water purification units;
4. Deployment of RDRT to support the installation and functioning of the water purification units
5. Hygiene promotion activities
6. Post disaster needs assessment using ODK;

A total of 5,000 families in the worst affected districts of Assam (identified through initial IRCS field assessments) will be supported through the DREF operation.

The national headquarters of IRCS has released an initial consignment of relief packs from its prepositioned stocks (in different numbers – exact statistics awaited) from their warehouses located in north and north-east states. The DREF operation will allow the IRCS to scale up the number of people to be supported, and will also allow IRCS to replenish the relief items distributed by the respective state branches so far. It has been decided by IRCS that approximately 5,000 most vulnerable and affected families spread across the affected districts in Assam will be supported in the response operation.

To provide drinking water to the affected people, IRCS will send five water purification units from their regional warehouse located at Bahadurgarh. DREF will cover the transportation, installation and water supply cost for these units and its operationalization by NDWRT or RDRT members supported by local volunteers of IRCS.

Operational support services

Human resources

No new paid staff will be engaged for this operation, implementation will be supported by volunteers and staff members existing in both IRCS and IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST). Mobilization of FMR, NDRT, NDWRT and RDRT as well as staff expenses are covered in the operational budget.

³ The family pack items to be replenished consist of the following items – 1 bed sheet, 1 cotton blanket, 1 sari (female clothing), 1 dhoti (male clothing), 1 towel, 1 plastic bucket, 1 kitchen set)

⁴ IRCS has some tarpaulins in stock it might distribute for needed families. Those will not required to be replenished with this DREF.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. Non-food relief items that are being dispatched from pre-positioned stocks will be replenished following IFRC procurement procedures. The transportation and distribution cost within the country, if any, will be covered by this DREF.

IFRC CCST is providing logistical support to IRCS in local procurement of relief supplies and technical advice for the same. IFRC, CCST will also keep close communication with IRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the process of replenishment of relief stocks. The Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) will also provide additional logistics support to CCST, Delhi and IRCS.

Communications

CCST, Delhi will publish news story on the IFRC website with technical support from the Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur on the India floods; two DMIS updates were already published.

Communications support to the National Society will also be provided by IFRC with support from Asia Pacific Regional office, upon the request of IRCS. This may include media relations and public communications assistance that contributes towards the positioning of the National Society response.

Security

IRCS and IFRC security focal point will continue to monitor the situation. Any security concerns will be handled with local authorities as per the existing security framework.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

IRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood affected area through its countrywide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its office in Delhi will provide technical support in programme management to ensure the operation objectives are met.

Operation updates will be scheduled to provide necessary information in relation to the progress of the operation, any changes in the situation during the reporting period, and any particular problem, constraint or unmet needs. A final report on the operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Operational expenses such as volunteer per diem, accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Procurement of family pack items will be done following IFRC procedures. IRCS national headquarters will provide finance and administration support to the operation, with support from the finance team of the IFRC CCST Delhi.

Crosscutting matters

Gender, diversity and protection

Gender, diversity and protection issues will be mainstreamed in this operation. IRCS will be encouraged to deploy female FMR volunteers for assessment and distribution of relief supplies. Among others, areas of focus will include prevention of sex and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Mainstreaming of gender, diversity and protection issues will also ensure that accountability lines are in place for GBV response and prevention.

IRCS will strive to capture sex and age disaggregated data for the purpose of understanding the number and specific vulnerability of females to males based on their gender roles and age (i.e. to understand if a higher proportion of women, children or men are made vulnerable).

Community engagement and accountability

Community accountability and feedback/response mechanisms will be integrated into the operation to ensure that affected populations have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by SLRCS, and expected behavior of staff and volunteers.

Because only a fraction of affected populations will be targeted, the selection criteria will need to be communicated clearly to beneficiaries and wider communities, so that people will understand the rationale behind targeting. This will help to prevent any potential tensions/frustrations by those people who do not meet the beneficiary selection criteria.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Need analysis: Currently the specific sectoral needs analysis has been difficult to obtain as access to the sites is restricted by authorities due to floods being ongoing and risks. A joint rapid needs assessments lead by the Inter Agency Group of Assam is currently ongoing. The report of the results is expected by 1 August.⁵ However, according to the Inter Agency Group latest sitrep⁶ water purification, aqua tab, disinfectant (bleaching powder) chlorination, and hygiene promotion is one of the priority emerging needs for the affected community. Although detailed assessments are not yet available, due to the high amount of people affected it is therefore established that IRCS would be able to support in this sector.

Population to be assisted: Up to 5,000 families (25,000 people) will be targeted with provision of safe drinking water through deployment of 5 water purification units.

Outcome 1: The risks of water and sanitation related diseases are reduced																	
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere standards is provided to target population																	
<i>Indicators:</i>																	
a) No. of people provided with safe water that meets SPHERE standards																	
b) No. of litres safe water distributed																	
c) No. of people reached with hygiene promotion activities																	
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Add week / month columns as needed
1.1.1	Deploy 5 water purification units	x	x	x													
1.1.2	Printing and distribution of hygiene promotion materials	x	x														
1.1.3	Mobilize trained staffs (NDRT, NDWRT, RDRT) and FMR volunteers for safe water handling and support hygiene promotion	x	x	x													
1.1.4	Conduct hygiene promotion through awareness raising activities	x	x	x													

⁵ <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wYKGzt-Pelp8wAkvZLgmQmkNoXpIlGIlFi2N47yVAws/edit?ts=57932b49&pref=2&pli=1#gid=638591322>

⁶ <https://sphereindia.blog.wordpress.com/2016/07/27/situation-report-6-floods-situation-in-assam-27th-july-2016/>

Shelter (including Household non-food items)⁷

Need analysis: As explained in the section above the sectoral assessments results from the Joint rapid assessment will be available by 1 August. Based on the Inter Agency Group latest sitrep⁸ non-food items (NFIs) are a priority due to high amounts of affected people and the fact that at least 229,544 people are currently displaced in 517 relief camps or attending 186 of the relief centers. IRCS is able to cover part of the needs with its current stocks of family packs to meet the NFI needs.

Population to be assisted: Up to 5,000 families (25,000 people) will be targeted with provision of family packs⁹.

Outcome 2: Immediate shelter and essential household item needs of the affected population are addressed																	
Output 2.1: Emergency shelter materials and essential household items provided to the target families																	
Indicators:																	
a) No. of households provided with essential household items																	
b) No. of households provided with emergency shelter assistance																	
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Add week / month columns as needed
2.1.1 Procurement of non-food relief items adequate to meet the needs of 5,000 families		X	X	X													
2.1.2 Replenish non-food items in the warehouses				X													

Quality programming

Outcome 3: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation																	
Output 3.1: Participation in assessments and continuous collection of information from local units																	
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Add week / month columns as needed
3.1.1. Conduct rapid field assessments using ODK		X															
3.1.2. Identify needs and response strategies		X															
3.1.3. Mobilize volunteers in the respective district branches		X	X	X													
3.1.4. Carry out relief distribution to the target beneficiaries		X	X	X													
3.1.5. Monitor the response interventions		X	X	X													
3.1.6. After action review				X													

⁷ The targeted families will be selected among the most vulnerable within the most affected districts. This applies to all sector in this section.

⁸ <https://sphereindiablog.wordpress.com/2016/07/27/situation-report-6-floods-situation-in-assam-27th-july-2016/>

⁹ Family pack consists of 1 bed sheet, 1 cotton blanket, 1 sari (female clothing), 1 dhoti (male clothing), 1 towel, 1 plastic bucket, 1 kitchen set)

Budget

DREF OPERATION

MDRIN017 India : Floods

30/07/2016

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	50,758
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,500
Teaching Materials	2,500
Utensils & Tools	106,848
Other Supplies & Services	3,600
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	165,206
Storage, Warehousing	1,500
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000
Logistics Services	6,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	17,500
Volunteers	14,400
Total PERSONNEL	14,400
Travel	18,585
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	2,000
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	23,585
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	14,345
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,345
TOTAL BUDGET	235,036

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.