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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

India: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRIN015	
Date of issue: 13 August 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months Operation end date: 13 November 2015
DREF allocated: CHF 334,596	
Number of people affected: 13.7 million people	Number of people to be assisted: 16,000 families (80,000 people)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is a 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. 7590 IRCS staff and volunteers are trained in disaster response as First Medical Responders (FMR). These FMRs form the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT). IRCS has also trained disaster response teams specialized on water and sanitation (NDWRT) which has 30 members. These members are trained on the operation of water purification units, hygiene promotion and sanitation.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): 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) in assessments and early response. 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 India, National Disaster Response Force, Sphere India	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since the last week of July and into early August, heavy rainfall at several places has resulted in extensive flooding and displacement of people. The flooding has thus far claimed around 293 lives across the country, with one million people seeking shelter in relief camps. Over 13.7 million people are currently affected by the floods. The most affected states include Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The Southwest monsoon started in June 2015 in most part of India (North, East, Northeast, West and Central).

In **Assam**, the state disaster management body (ASDMA) reported that incessant rains since early August have caused several rivers to overflow, inundating villages and damaging standing crops. ASDMA estimates that 80,000 people were affected,



People evacuated from their homes in West Bengal.
Photo: IRCS

especially in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji (45,000) and Sonitpur (21,000) districts.¹

In **Gujarat**, a total of 6.8 million people in 14 districts were affected by recent flooding caused by continuous heavy rainfall since 26 July. The Banas river was overflowed for the first time in 25 years, devastating those living close to the river banks. As of 1 August, 3,000 people in Gujarat have been evacuated to temporary locations.²

Many districts in **West Bengal** experienced heavy rainfall that resulted in flooding. Some 85 deaths were confirmed due to associated risks (i.e. lightning strike, wall collapsed, open-wiring electrocution, snake bite, drowning). The West Bengal Chief Minister has declared 12 districts as 'flood-hit areas', with 5.2 million people in 10,000 villages affected. As of 4 August, it is estimated that 431,000 people have been relocated to 2,500 relief camps.³ (Government of India/NDMA; ACAPS Report August 6, 2015)

At least 54 people have been killed in **Madhya Pradesh** since the monsoon hit the state in June. Heavy rains and floods have severely damaged 829 building and 8,928 buildings have been damaged partially.

Table 1: Summary of floods situation in India as of 9 August 2015

Name of States /Union Territories	Population affected	Districts affected	Villages affected	Deaths reported	Cattle/ Live-stock lost	Crop area affected (in ha)	Houses damaged	
							Fully	Partially
Assam*	81,026	10	192	-	52,509	3,766.72	-	-
Bihar	51,000	02	42	01	-	-	-	-
Gujarat*	6,800,000	14	-	53	-	-	-	-
Kerala	1,012	-	21	11	-	23.70	35	410
Madhya Pradesh*	-	-	-	54	-	-	829	8928
Manipur	20	-	-	-	-	--	12	-
Odisha	4,80,399	07	644	05	-	-	69	1156
Rajasthan	630	6	-	28	-	-	-	-
West Bengal*	6,286,000	12	9,901	85	5,672	-	112,235	378,184
Total**	13,709,887	55	10,805	293	58,329	3790.42	113,217	389,010

* States where IRCS is seeking DREF support for its interventions

** Also includes data from the States of – Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

Source: NDMA & [National Institute of DM; information on Madhya Pradesh](#)

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has 35 State/Union Territories Branches with more than 700 districts and sub district branches. Disaster response and preparedness is one of the key activities of IRCS. There are over 700 staff and volunteers trained in disaster response, forming the First Medical Responders (FMR), National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT). They can be deployed rapidly on 24 hours' notice to the disaster-affected areas.

IRCS 30-member disaster response teams specialized in water and sanitation (NDWRT) are trained on the operations of water purification units, hygiene promotion and sanitation, and available for quick deployments around the country. In its six regional warehouses located in West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Assam, the National Society keeps stocks of relief supplies that are mobilized in times of disasters.

Since the onset of the monsoon floods, IRCS volunteers in affected State branches have been actively assisting the local authorities in the evacuation of affected households to temporary shelter sites and safer places. IRCS began rapid assessments and mobilized non-food items and emergency shelter materials from its existing preparedness stocks. The items were distributed to the affected people with of help of trained IRCS volunteers from 6 August onwards. IRCS State branches are coordinating their response interventions with the Disaster Management (DM) department of the national headquarters (NHQ) in New Delhi.

¹ [Indian Express](#) dated 11 August 2015

² Government of India; ACAPS report dated 6 August 2015

³ Government of India/NDMA; ACAPS report dated 6 August 2015

Table 2: Summary of relief supplies distributed by IRCS as of 11 August 2015

Items	Assam	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Manipur	West Bengal	Total
Bed sheet	-	0	500	0	200	700
Cotton blanket	-	1,000	500	0	200	1,700
Dhotis	-	0	500	0	200	700
Kitchen set	-	1,000	500	0	200	1,700
Mosquito net	-	1,500	500	0	200	2,200
Saree	-	500	500	0	200	1,200
Towel	-	0	500	0	200	700
Plastic bucket	-	1,500	1000	0	200	2,700
Tarpaulin	-	500	0	0	200	700
Water purification unit	-	0	0	1	0	1

**IRCS is assessing the damages and needs in Assam in the coming days, and the relief distribution information will be available later.*

During the initial phase of the floods, IRCS branches were managing the response interventions with their own resources. However, heavy rainfall during end July and early August has led to increasing needs resulting from more flooding in some areas. This overwhelmed the current capacity of the IRCS branches to respond and triggered request for support from the NHQ. Besides assessments, IRCS State branches in Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, and West Bengal have distributed non-food relief items and emergency shelter materials to the flood affected people. IRCS has deployed staff, First Medical Responders (FMR), National Disaster Water Team (NDWT), and volunteers to the affected areas for assessments and relief distributions.

IRCS and IFRC held a joint meeting on 5 August to discuss the response strategy and resources. IRCS has requested for IFRC support in applying for a DREF allocation to respond to the immediate needs of the flood affected population.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In addition to IFRC, in-country Movement Partners include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Belgium Red Cross- Flanders. 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 EPOA and DREF request.

Movement Coordination

IFRC is coordinating with ICRC supporting IRCS in the flood response. ICRC has indicated that it will support IRCS interventions as defined by the needs and gaps in IRCS overall relief distribution plan.

ICRC has indicated its willingness to review any IRCS request for support and determine any possible support based on the needs/gaps and existing capacities.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of India and affected State governments are leading the response to floods across the country in all sectors including health, sanitation and shelter, in both emergency and recovery phases. Other non-RCRC stakeholders such as Sphere India and other NGOs are also working on assessments and response interventions.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

IRCS branches have conducted rapid assessments immediately after the flooding. Based on the assessment findings as well as information from NDMA, more than 500,000 families whose houses were damaged by the floods are taking shelter in temporary sites.

IRCS State branches have conducted rapid field assessments of the flood situation, in which highlighted the widespread impact of the floods on the people's lives and livelihoods. More than 500,000 families are staying in temporary sites as their houses are either partially or fully damaged by the floods. Crops and livestock are affected. Some of the water sources in the affected areas are contaminated, and there is a potential outbreak of waterborne diseases (diarrhea). The main identified needs across the affected areas are for essential household items (family kits, kitchen sets, hygiene kits), emergency shelter materials (tarpaulins), safe drinking water (water purification tablets or units) and access to sanitation facilities. Detailed assessment is still ongoing, and more information will be available by next week. The detailed assessment will also inform IRCS on other emerging needs and scaling up the response coverage.

Taking into consideration of the recent Nepal earthquakes operation (25 April 2015) in which IRCS has contributed to with its prepositioned stocks (tarpaulins and water purification units), the National Society is requesting DREF support to meet the immediate needs of the flood affected families. The DREF will include procurement and distribution cost for these items, as well as costs associated with volunteers mobilization for assessments and distributions in the target 4 States (Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal). IRCS will mobilize and distribute remaining relief items including blankets and family kits from their prepositioned stocks outside of this operation. The design of this plan of action takes into consideration current State and Central government activities in health, sanitation and shelter, and is complementary to their actions.

Beneficiary selection will be conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities, and priority will be given to affected families who are presently living in the temporary sites (schools, monasteries, churches), and with consideration given to the most vulnerable groups.

Risk Assessment

There are constraints in the affected areas due to blocked roads. 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 recedes.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The operation aims to ensure the immediate needs of 16,000 flood affected families in 4 States are met through provision of emergency shelter and safe drinking water.

Proposed strategy

IRCS, utilising its presence of staff and volunteers across the affected areas, has been actively engaged in disaster response over the past two weeks, since the heavy rain started. The operation is relief focused, providing the affected population, and especially the displaced and vulnerable population, with emergency shelter and safe drinking water.

The DREF operation focuses:

- **Provision of emergency shelter for 16,000 families** – Procurement and distribution of 16,000 tarpaulins (*one per family as advised by IRCS based on previous emergency operations*)
- **Provision of safe drinking water for at least 1,360 families/ 6,800 people per day (170 families/ 850 people per unit per day)** – Procurement and deployment of 8 water purification units. This will be accompanied by hygiene promotion activities including safe water handling and storage.
- **Mobilization of 300 trained volunteers for relief response**

A total of 16,000 families across the four affected States will be supported through this DREF operation.

Table 3: Summary of planned intervention to be supported by this DREF

States	Tarpaulins (pieces)	Water Purifier Units (WPU)*	Number of volunteers mobilized
Assam	2,000	2-WPUs (small)	50
Gujarat	5,000	2-WPUs (small)	100
Madhya Pradesh	1,000	2-WPUs (small)	50
West Bengal	8,000	2-WPUs (small)	100
Total	16,000	8	300

*As of now the sites for installation have not been identified.

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 regional delegation. Mobilization of FMR, NDRT and NDWRT as well as staff expenses are covered in the operational budget

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed (tarpaulins water purification units), and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation.

IFRC's Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU) in Kuala Lumpur will provide the technical support to South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD).

Tarpaulins will be procured through ZLU and delivered to the respective warehouses in Assam, Kolkata, Gujarat and Delhi prior to distribution in the affected areas. Meanwhile, the water purification units will be procured locally.

Communications

SARD has published one news story on the IFRC website on the India floods and a DMIS has been published as well. More web stories are being planned for the coming days by SARD. PNSs are getting information on India floods through the News Wire coordinated by SARD Communications & Advocacy Manager with support from Communications Unit in AP Zone office in KL.

Communications support to the National Society will also be provided by IFRC communications Manager at the South Asia Regional Delegation and Asia Pacific Zone 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 persons 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 country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its regional delegation in New Delhi will provide technical support in program management to ensure the operation objectives are met.

An update 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, insurance, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Finance and administration support to the operation will be provided by IRCS national headquarters, with backing from the finance team of the IFRC regional delegation.

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.

DREF OPERATION

13/08/2015

MDRIN015 India : Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	256,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	276,000
Distribution & Monitoring	6,200
Logistics Services	10,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	16,200
Volunteers	18,975
Total PERSONNEL	18,975
Travel	3,000
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,000
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	20,421
Total INDIRECT COSTS	20,421
TOTAL BUDGET	334,596



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