



## SITUATION REPORT No. 4 FLOODS 2008

### OVERALL SITUATION

The floods in Bihar are creating a grave humanitarian situation. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, as of 9<sup>th</sup> September, about **4,043,000 people** from **2,349 villages** in **16 districts** (Muzaffarpur, Supaul, Patna, Katihar, Nalanda, Araria, West Champaran, Shekhpura, Saharsa, Purnea, Saran, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Madhepura, Vaishali and Khagaria) have been affected due to flood in the State. The total human death toll of the State is currently **87**.

The government is engaged in relief and rescue operations and managing the relief camps. The UN, NGOs, the Red Cross and bilateral agencies are sharing with each other assessments of the ground situation.

In addition to the floods in Bihar, annual floods are affecting large parts of **Assam** and **Uttar Pradesh** as well. The casualties due to floods in UP since early June is extremely high.

### MAP OF FLOODS IN BIHAR





## DAMAGE DETAILS

### BIHAR

As of 9 Sept, the damage details in the state of Bihar are (central government figures):

- Population affected – 4,043,000
- No. of human lives lost - 87
- No. of districts affected - 16
- No. of villages affected – 2,349
- No. of livestock/ cattle lost - 8
- No. of houses destroyed (fully) – 315,662
- Cropped area affected (in ha) – 233,000

As of 9 Sept, the damage details in most affected districts are (district government figures):

SN.	Activities	Supaul	Madhepura	Araria	Saharsa	Purnea
1	No of Blocks Affected	5	11	4	6	8
2	No of Panchayats Affected	73	130	63	58	58
3	No of Villages Affected	243	378	96	145	118
4	Population Affected	893,790	1,155,000	386,328	431,089	91,000
5	No of Families Affected	178,758	231,000	77,266	86,218	18,200
6	Livestock affected	450,000	300,000	80,000	158,000	35,000
7	Area Affected (in Ha)	26,253	41,526	6,608	16,009	13,823
8	No. of houses damage (Pucca, Kuchha & Jhopadi)	223,446	50,326	6,594	24,522	6,099
9	No of Human Deaths	3	15	1	10	1
10	No of Livestock Deaths	7	0	0	1	0
	Name of the affected Blocks	Basantpur, Pratapganj, Raghapur, Chhatapur, Triveniganj	Shankarpur, Purani, Kumarkhand, Chausa, Singheswar, Alamnagar, Murliganj, Madhepura, Bihariganj, Gwalpara, Udakishanganj,	Narparganj, Bhargawna, Forbeshganj, Raniganj(west)	Saurbazar, Nauhata, Patharghat, Sonebarsha, Simiri Baktiarpur, Banmi Itari	Banmankhi Dhamdaha Vaisee, Barhara Kothi, Amaur, Baisa, Rupulli Krityanand Nagar



## **ASSAM**

**As of 9 Sept, the damage details in the state of Assam are (central government figures):**

- Population affected – 1,601,764
- No. of human lives lost - 24
- No. of districts affected - 14
- No. of villages affected – 1,518
- No. of cattle/ livestock lost – 4,149
- No. of houses destroyed (partially) – 51,272
- Cropped area affected (in ha) – 135,345

## **UTTAR PRADESH**

**As of 10 Sept, the damage details in the state of UP are (central government figures):**

- Population affected – 2,502,581
- No. of human lives lost – 941 (Cumulative figures since early June when floods began)
- No. of districts affected - 21
- No. of villages affected – 4,661
- No. of cattle/ livestock lost – 3,322
- No. of houses destroyed (fully)- 5,217
- No. of houses destroyed (partially)– 172,158
- Cropped area affected (in ha) – 237,000

## **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

### **BIHAR**

**As of 9 Sept, the government response is as follows:**

- No. of persons evacuated – 1,021,608
- No. of relief camps opened – 350
- No. of persons accommodated in relief camps – 293,571
- No. of health centres opened - 341
- No. of medical teams deployed – 177
- No. of cattle in cattle camps – 21,105 in 151 cattle camps
- No. of boats in service – 3,521
- No. of NDRF teams deployed – 19
- Food packets distributed by the State - Wheat & Rice-20,519.00 Q, Chana-357.50 Q, Chura-4,296.10 Q, Sattu- 435.50 Q, Gur-740.33 Q, Salt -18.25 Q, Matchboxes-151,022, Candles-211,526 K.Oil-32,066 ltr, Polythene Sheets distributed-109,410. Ready Food distributed by DM –Araria/ Supaul/Madhepura/ Saharsa: 182,856 packets
- Food packets airdropped by the State: – 111,031 (Chura-3334.05 Q, Sattu-1107.87 Q, Gur-555.26, Salt-555.26 Q, Halozone Tablets-438,680)
- Cash distributed by the State: 103.13 lakh has been distributed so far.
- Measures taken to prevent outbreak of epidemics - Health department in the State has reportedly undertaken massive vaccination drive against the contagious viral disease in the districts of Supaul, Madhepura, Katihar, Araria, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Saharsa which have been badly affected. A few diarrhea cases have also been reported in the affected districts. However, anti-diarrhoeal tablets are being distributed in such area. Apart from this, bleaching powder and chlorine tablets are also being distributed.



**Government response in most affected districts: (district government figures):**

S. N	Activities	Supaul	Madhepura	Araria	Saharsa	Purnea
<b>Relief Camps</b>						
1	No of Persons Evacuated	370,000	334,258	97,807	115,945	65,000
2	No of Relief Camps opened	41	84	62	84	35
3	Persons in Relief Camp	58,472	54,222	74,850	44,807	52,304
4	No. of Hand pumps installed	306	173	137	211	205
5	No. of Temp. Toilets construction	263	150	247	253	313
6	No of Health Centers functioning	31	34	39	28	44
7	No of Veterinary Centers functioning	20	30	14	17	29
<b>Air Dropping (4 Helicopters- 289 Sorties)</b>						
8	No of Food Packets Air Dropped	47331	51900	3270	8530	
9	Quantity of Relief Materials Air Dropped	Chura-333,405 Kg. Sattu-110,787 Kg, Salt-55526.5 Kg, Gur—55,526.5 Kg. Water Bottle-163,219, Halozone Tablets-438,680				
<b>Relief Distribution</b>						
10	No of Polythene Distributed	27320	28160	14192	14700	5000
11	No. of food packets distributed	77553	68922	13815	21160	1406
<b>Resources used</b>						
12	Own Boats in Use	156	56	15	270	194
13	Boats mobilised from other Districts	341	362	74	24	
14	No of Motor boats in use (Army/ Navy/ NCG/ NDRF/ Others)	242	205	81	25	12
15	Total No of Boats in use	739	623	170	319	206
16	No of NDRF Jawans Deployed	180	180	90	45	360

**ASSAM**

**As of 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, the government response is as follows:**

- No. of persons evacuated – 33,700
- No. of relief camps opened – 184
- No. of persons accommodated in relief camps – 20,350

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**As of 10<sup>th</sup> Sept, the government response is as follows:**

- No. of persons evacuated – 46,209
- No. of relief camps opened – 444
- No. of persons accommodated in relief camps – 40,140
- No. of medical teams deployed – 183
- GR paid, if any - Rice-46,554.98 Q, Wheat/Aata-2,292.08 Q, salt -2,399.62 Q, K/Oil-586922 Ltr and GR paid Rs.503.02 lakh



## UN RESPONSE

### **BIHAR**

In New Delhi, the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) has held four emergency meetings chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, on the Bihar flood situation since 27 Aug. The Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and Sphere India have been attending these meetings. On 9 September, the UNDMT invited NGOs and bilateral agencies to the emergency meeting with a view to share assessments by different agencies and to discuss strengthening of coordination between these agencies particularly at the district level.

### **UNICEF:**

- UNICEF, which has a regular programme in Bihar and a functioning network of partners in all sectors, has been in a position to take immediate action from the onset of the crisis. UNICEF first used its pre-positioned supplies, supplemented by urgent orders of additional critical supplies. Advocacy efforts with the government have been launched in parallel to provision of supplies.
- UNICEF is working closely with the government and other partners, with first priority in the sectors of health, nutrition, water & sanitation and behaviour change communication. Child protection, education and HIV/AIDS interventions are in the planning stage and will be rolled out as in coming days.
- UNICEF conducted a multi-sectoral assessment of two of the worst affected districts on 1-4<sup>th</sup> Sept. Team members included sector specialists from UNICEF in health, water & sanitation, nutrition, child protection, programme communication, monitoring & evaluation and a representative from the UNRC's (UNDMT) office.
- UNICEF also facilitating an assessment team from ECHO with participation of one UNICEF Emergency Officer.

### **Health and Nutrition:**

- UNICEF Health resource persons have completed the Initial Rapid Assessment of six districts and already established comprehensive disease surveillance and containment for early detection and prevention of outbreaks.
- 44 doctors and 29 paramedical have been mobilised by Government of Bihar to work in the flood affected districts. UNICEF provides mobility and support allowances as of 3rd September.
- Mobile medical teams and fixed site teams - mobilised jointly by the Government of Bihar (GOB) and UNICEF - have treated a total of 20,199 cases since the initiation of relief efforts. Of these, there have been 8,873 cases of fever, 6 cases of fever with rash, 0 cases of jaundice, 989 cases of ARI (cough) and 190 cases of diarrhoea.
- A joint training of supplementary immunisation activities for measles/ Vit A / Oral Polio Vaccination was conducted on 31st August (Field extenders of Health, Polio and CDN cluster) for micro-planning and monitoring of measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation with district health teams.
- One maternity hut is functional at Supaul at the mega-camp site in Supaul town and the other is being put up at Pipra in Supaul. A total of 40 maternity huts are planned to be set up by end September.
- The Home Commissioner requested coordination and thematic grouping of "NGO" (includes UNICEF in this context) efforts in the Health sector and UNICEF was requested to take the lead in this coordination.
- Vitamin A supplies of 15,000 bottles (100 ml each), have been transported to the four districts: Araria, Supaul, Madhepura and Saharsa. Coordinators in the districts will facilitate distribution to camps. Micro-plans are expected to be in place this week. Vitamin A supplementation with measles vaccination will commence in the following week.
- Identification of select camps and their population profile has been completed in Araria and Supaul by UNICEF field extenders. Training of field staff on screening children for nutritional status using MUAC for selection of children for therapeutic feeding has been completed in three districts by the Dular Coordinators. The focus will be on children 6 months to 5 years of age.



#### Water and Sanitation:

- The identification of camps is completed for five districts where WES interventions will be carried out immediately.
- One technical person has been placed in Supaul district to support the emergency response and a technical resource person has been deployed to support water quality treatment
- 200 chloroscopes for testing residual chlorine have been dispatched for use in worst-affected districts. 20 PVC water storage tanks of 500 litres capacity were sent to four districts for use in major shelter camps. More such tanks will be required as families do not have any buckets for storage.
- Training module has been developed for hygiene promotion. NGO partners are identified and training of field functionaries initiated on 2nd September.

#### Polio

- The Social Mobilisation Network is working closely with field representatives of other clusters. Block mobilisation coordinators started providing support to block administration for micro-planning for polio immunization for 0-5 years displaced children.
- Transit strategy for immunising on-the-move children against polio virus will be implemented in six worst-affected districts.
- A state-wide polio immunisation round will be held from September 14 onwards.

#### Programme Communication:

- Information, education and communication (IEC) materials for social mobilisation for preventive health and hygiene promotion in camps has been finalised for the four districts.
- All consumable UNICEF supplies, such as ORS or Halozone tablets, will have communication material on their use.
- NGO partners will carry out social awareness and hygiene promotion and trainers, who will train the NGO animators, have been identified.
- A BCC campaign on 'social mobilisation for floods' will be rolled out simultaneously through the Self-Help Group network of the Women Development Corporation (WDC).

#### Communication:

- Situation analysis, photos, video and written documentation on the situation of women and children has been developed and distributed to the New Delhi office and UNICEF HQ.
- Proactive media tracking, media updates and responding to media queries continues.

#### **UNDP:**

The neighbouring district project officers (DPOs) have been supporting authorities in the worst affected districts in data collection and coordination.

#### ***Inter-agency meetings***

- Both UNDP and UNICEF have been active members of the Inter-agency Group (IAG) in Bihar.
- International agencies' Inter-agency Group meetings are held regularly in the Bihar Institute of Public Health and Rural Development's (BIPARD) premises.

#### **ASSAM**

##### ***UNICEF:***

- UNICEF continues close interaction with the State Disaster Risk Management Cell, Government of Assam, the Indian Red Cross (IRC) key partner NGO, Rural Volunteers' Centre (RVC). UNICEF also maintains regular contacts with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and the Directorate of Health.
- UNICEF supplies are being distributed in the flood affected areas, particularly Majuli: 1,000 tarpaulins, 4,5 mill. NaDCC tablets, 600 jerry cans, 600 hygiene kits, 50 toilets and 2 Tents to Lakhimpur for a Health service outreach centre through the Health Department.



**UNDP:**

District Project Officers have been supporting the district administration in the monitoring of relief distribution works, control room management and information collection.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**UNICEF** continues to closely monitor and assess the situation along with the Government and NGO partners. Distribution of UNICEF's, pre-positioned supplies are in place and people are being provided temporary shelter, hygiene kits, ORS and jerry cans/ halozone tablets to ensure safe access to drinking water.

**RED CROSS ACTION**

**IRCS HQ, NEW DELHI**

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is playing an essential role in relief efforts throughout the affected areas, supporting rescues, evacuations and the distribution of relief supplies such as kitchen sets, mosquito nets, and basic food supplies. They have also deployed water and sanitation units that are capable of producing 5,000 litres each per hour of clean water for drinking and hygiene purposes. Trained IRCS volunteers have also been distributing basic medicines and leading health education discussions in temporary camps to help reduce the risk of disease among those displaced by the floods.

IRCS is meeting daily to review the situation and to discuss the next steps. This meeting includes the head of International Federation's India Office, while several other technical meetings are being held daily between the IRCS and the International Federation to best coordinate the relief efforts and the best response to the affected areas. The control room for the flood operation is functioning and is the place for many meetings and collection of various figures needed to have an effectual operation.

National and international donations are reaching the IRCS national head quarters. A big corporate house (Nestle) has donated processed foods worth INR 1 million (CHF 25,350) for flood affected people to the IRCS, through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This would be distributed by the Bihar state branch through its network. The World Health Organisation (WHO) office in Delhi donated INR 500,000 (CHF 12,670) to support the flood relief in Bihar. The donation will be used to cover contingencies for immediate health delivery needs.

The Australian Red Cross has offered a light water and sanitation unit with a capacity to produce 5,000litres of safe water per hour (adequate for 5,000 persons), together with two 5,000 litres storage water bladders, two six tap stands for supplying water stored in the bladders and 2,000 jerry cans for the Bihar flood operation. The water treatment equipment will be deployed with two trained and skilled personnel. Australia Red Cross will also provide 30 squatting plates and 1 latrine sanplast mould box. This donation is highly appreciated and will be of a great assistance to ensure safe drinking water for the affected people in Bihar.

**BIHAR STATE BRANCH ACTION**

According to the government, all financial assistance for the Bihar floods is to be routed through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and in-kind donation is to be routed through the IRCS' Bihar state branch. The Hindustan Times leading English daily provided contact details of IRCS' Bihar state branch on its front page for the public to send in-kind donations and to appeal for family packs, with clear specifications about the contents of such packs. The Bihar state branch has been receiving the in-kind goods and the storage and distribution of these items are ongoing.

A state flood control room is functioning in Bihar's capital city Patna, manned by 20 volunteers. Three storage houses have been created in the Bihar state branch, one for medical items and two for general in-kind donations. According to the state branch, immediate needs include tarpaulin sheets and jerry cans for storing clean drinking water.



#### *Immediate needs of IRCS' Bihar state branch*

1. 1 Safe drinking water water purification tablets
2. 2 Shelter Tarpaulins/tents
3. 3 Family packs / Kitchen sets Clothing, cooking utensils, buckets/jerry cans
4. 4 Health and Hygiene Water purification tablets/halogen tablets, bleaching powder, medical assistance, hygiene kits
5. 5 Mosquito nets
6. 6 Distribution costs
7. 7 Operational costs

Based on discussions between the International Federation and the IRCS, the International Federation will provide technical support to set up a joint assessment with partner national societies and Secretariat representatives to assess the needs of the affected people in Bihar during the coming days. The support will be provided through the International Federation's country and regional offices in Delhi. An evaluation of the current and mid-term needs will take place. The terms of reference and plan for the floods assessment were shared during a meeting between the IRCS Secretary General and the heads of the India Office and South Asia Regional Delegation. Exact dates have not been set yet for this assessment, but it was agreed that the team would comprise of IRCS trained national disaster response team members and disaster management trained personnel, together with trained staff from the International Federation and/or partner national societies.

#### *Ranking of the most affected districts in Bihar (Source: IRCS' Bihar state branch):*

1. Madhepura
2. Supaul
3. Shaharsa
4. Araria
5. Purnia
6. Katihar

#### **ASSAM STATE BRANCH ACTION**

IRCS' Assam state branch is distributing relief materials to the affected people who have lost everything in the flood. IRCS members and volunteers, community health workers and personnel to provide first aid are working in coordination with the district authorities. Due to paralyzed communication, the entire assessment process has been disturbed. Trained IRCS volunteers are taking precautionary measurements to avoid the spreading of any kind of epidemic that usually strikes after a heavy flood. Health check-up camps have been organized in the surrounding areas to cope up with the health related problems. Free medicine distribution camps are also organized in cooperation with concerned health departments. Volunteers are working day and night with a team of experts. Water purification measures have been carried out so as to avoid any water borne epidemics. Awareness camps have been conducted on chlorination and filtration techniques. Relief camps have been organized in various districts where volunteers are working round the clock.

IRCS' Assam state branch and the civil administration has started an immediate flood relief operation among the affected people of Rangia district. IRCS relief materials, including water purifying tablets, have already been released. Relief material is being distributed in Majuli, Morigaon, Lakhimpur, Dhakuwakhana, Kamrup, Mangaldoi (Darrang), Rangia and Karbi Anglong districts. The state branch has entered remote areas to distribute relief materials to the most affected people.

#### *Relief material distributed by IRCS' Assam state branch*

##### *Relief Items Quantity*

1. Mosquito net 1,000
2. Blanket 1,000
3. Tarpaulin 1,000
4. Dhoti/Sari 500/500
5. Toilet Pan 25/25
6. Jerrycan 100



## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ACTION

The International Federation's India Office will release funds through its Funding Support Plan (2008-09) to support the IRCS to procure urgently required relief items as listed below.

### *Item Quantity*

1. Candle packets 50,000
2. Match Boxes 100,000
3. Water purification tablets 2,000,000
4. ORS (sachets) 50,000

The India Office has established twice daily meetings to discuss the most updated developments and to better coordinate the response given to the IRCS. The meetings, every morning at 9 am and every afternoon at 4 pm, are open to all Movement partners. The move has been appreciated by the partner national societies present in India.

South Asia Regional Delegation has activated the South Asia Floods Task Force to monitor, coordinate and report at the regional level on the floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh during this 2008 monsoon season. The task force will have close communication with each country national society and International Federation country offices on their specific situations. The task will focus on the floods as a regional phenomenon and address common issues in a more united manner. The task force will meet on a daily basis as long as required and send consolidated updates to interested stakeholders.

The International Federation is in the process of arranging for CHF one million to be released from its Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) to assist the IRCS with the most urgent relief items required in the flood affected areas. The funds will be used to procure and transport relief items, such as tents, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and hygiene parcel. The procurement will be done through existing framework agreements and shipments from existing partner national societies and the International Federation stocks in Dubai or Kuala Lumpur. An evaluation is ongoing to seek the most economical way to ship the relief items to India and onwards to the most affected areas. The high transport cost could limit the procurement of essential relief items.

## SPHERE INDIA

Representing key NGOs in disaster response, Sphere India has been playing an active role in Bihar. Key activities include:

- Emergency NGO coordination meetings in New Delhi on Bihar floods On 8 September, Sphere India's meeting was hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The meeting was attended by two senior NDMA members, key NGOs working in Bihar and representatives from the UNDMT. The NDMA extended logistical support for relief distribution, supported the community radio system and suggested that a space be created on the Sphere India website for queries to be posted by NGOs and others for the NDMA.
- Inter-Agency Group: Sphere India members have been participating in the IAG meetings at the state level in Bihar including in an IAG assessment in first week September.
- Mapping of NGOs: Sphere India is compiling a mapping of NGOs working in districts in Bihar with a view to strengthening coordination and partnerships.
- Sit Reps & Maps: Sphere India has been sending Sit Reps on the situation in Bihar and Assam and also posting satellite maps (developed by ACTED) on the latest flood images in Bihar on the website <http://www.sphereindia.org.in/>
- Assessments: Sphere India members have been conducting assessments which are being shared with the Sphere members.



## SOURCES & CONTACT DETAILS

### Sources:

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Flood Management Information System (FMIS)
- NDM Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Bihar Govt Disaster Management website
- UNDP Orissa Office & DPOs
- UNICEF Briefing Note No. 10
- Red Cross Society
- Sphere India website, Sit Reps & meetings

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