

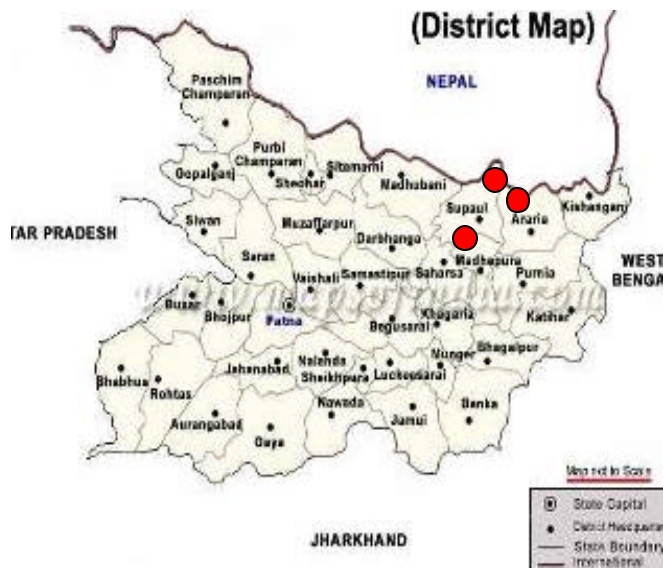


SITUATION REPORT No. 2 BIHAR FLOODS 2008

OVERALL SITUATION

- As of 28 August, the breach near 12.90 km of the eastern Kosi River afflux embankment (Place Name: Kushaha, Nepal) has become 02 km wide leading to a disastrous condition of flood in Supaul, Madhepura and Araria districts of Bihar.
- The IMD warned of fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls over Bihar during the next 48 hours.
- River Ganga, Ghaghra, Burhi Gandhak, Bagmati, Kamla Balan, Kosi and Mahananda continued to be flowing above their danger levels at various places in the State.
- On 28 August, the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister visited the affected areas in Bihar. The Prime Minister has announced an immediate release of Rs 1,000 crores (US\$ 244 million), 125,000 tonnes of foodgrains and relief of Rs 100,000 from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each of victims.
- According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of human lives lost is 47.

DISTRICT MAP OF FLOOD AFFECTED BIHAR





DAMAGE DETAILS

As of 28 Aug the damage details in the state of Bihar are (central government figures):

- Population affected – 26,68,000
- No. of human lives lost - 47
- No. of districts affected - 16
- No. of villages affected – 1,598
- Cropped area affected (in ha) – 1,06,000

As of 28 Aug, the damage details in most affected districts are (district government figures):

SN	ACTIVITIES	SUPAUL	MADHEPURA	ARARIA	SAHARSA
Affected Details					
1	No of Blocks Affected	5	11	4	5
2	No of Panchayats Affected	73	126	42	23
3	No of Villages Affected	243	378	72	32
4	Population Affected	893790	1007000	73351	12000
5	No of Families Affected	178758	201400	14670.2	2400
6	Cattle affected	1355	300000	10250	
7	Area Affected (in Ha)	114000	135000	34833	5711
8	No of Persons Evacuated	30000	50000	26604	945
Casualties					
9	No of Human Death	0	8	0	4
10	No of Cattle Death	0	0	0	0
Names of affected Blocks					
		Basantpur, Pratapganj, Raghapur, Chhatapur, Triveniganj	Shankarpur, Kumarkhand, Singheswar, Alamnagar, Murliganj, Bihariganj, Gwalpara, Udakishanganj, Purani & Madhepura, Chausa	Narparganj, Bhargawna, Forbeshganj, Raniganj(west)	Saurbazar, Patharghat, Sonebarsha, Simiri Baktiarpur, Banmi Itari



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

As of 28 Aug, the government response is as follows(central government figures):

- No. of persons evacuated – 152,603
- No. of relief camps opened - 155
- No. of persons accommodated in relief camps – 31,348
- GR paid, if any, specify item and amount - Wheat & Rice-2509.50 Q, Chana-90.00 Q, Chura-935.08 Q, Sattu-300.50 Q, Gur-105.29 Q, Salt- 9.50 Q, Matchboxes-75450, Candles-92346, K.Oil-1024 ltr, Polythene Sheets distributed- 32588, cash distributed – 19.66 lakh, Food packets airdropped: 22440 (Chura 675.66 Q, Sattu221.94 Q, Gur-112.20 Q, Salt -112.20 Q, Halogen tablet-438680).
- No. of medical teams deployed – Nil

NDRF (National Defence Response Force)

- No. of NDRF teams deployed - 10 teams of about 371 personnel along with 56 boats (10 men inflatable with Motor-40, Fiber glass speed boat -05 and 20 men boat -11) deployed in Supaul, Madhepura and Araria districts for flood and relief duties.
- Another 03 teams of NDRF (11 personnel) and 09 boats airlifted from NDRF Bn Mundali (Bhuaneshwar) to Purnia Air Base with the help of five AN-32 Air Force Aircraft.
- Also 02 flood trained teams of NDRF (89 personnel) are moving by road from NDRF Bn Guwahati to Purnia.
- 01 more team of 46 personnel of NDRF with 04 boats (20 men) of NDRF Greater Noida being airlifted to Purnia Airbase by IL-76 of Indian Air Force.

Army/Air force

- One Army column continued to be deployed in Madhepura for rescue and relief operations.
- 02 additional Army columns have also been deployed in Araria and Supaul
- Two MI-8, two MI-17 and one Chetak helicopter positioned at Purnea and two AN-32 aircraft positioned at Kalaikunda for carrying out flood relief operations in the affected areas.
- Two MI-8 helicopters dropped 1.1 tones relief material and airlifted 05 passengers in two sorties. Two MI-17 helicopters dropped 3.3 tons relief material and airlifted 01 passenger in five sorties.
- In addition, one AN-32 aircraft airlifted 08 (3.2 tons) boats and 22 passengers ex ITBP to Purnea.

Coordination

- An emergency meeting of Government officials and NGOs was held under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate on 27 August in reference to the devastation caused by floods in four districts of Bihar – Araria, Supaul, Madhepura and Purnea. A request was made to the NGOs, social activists and self-help groups to provide relief and rehabilitation.
- The Disaster Management Dept, Bihar, Patna has requested the district administration, Madhubani to extend all possible humanitarian & relief services to the suffering districts. For this purpose, a district level workforce committee has been constituted to immediately respond in relief support activities. This committee is headed by the additional collector & includes Civil SDOs, District Relief Officer & the District Project Officer (GOI-UNDP DRM programme). The District Magistrate has ordered that no officer/employee would leave the district HQ without its permission. They can be sent to disaster prone districts at any point of time.



As of 28 Aug, the government response in the most affected districts is (district government figures):

SN.	ACTIVITIES	SUPAUL	MADHEPURA	ARARIA	SAHARSA
Relief Camps					
1	No of Relief Camps opened	22	40	33	7
2	Persons in Relief Camp	17800	20126	6412	2453
3	No. of Hand pump installed	36	80	76	
4	No of Health Centers functioning	15	34	7	
5	No of Veterinary Centers functioning	20	28	7	2
Air Dropping (3 Helicopters- 53Sorties)					
6	No of Food Packets Air Dropped	12590	8120	1730	0
7	Quantity of Relief Materials Air Dropped	Chura-67566 Kg. Sattu-22194Kg, Salt-11220 Kg, Gur-11220 Kg.			
8	No. of food packets distributed	14926	30000	4800	
Relief Distribution					
9	No of Polythene Distributed	13500	7584	5900	218
Resources used					
10	Own Boats in Use	80	45	9	100
11	Boats Mobilised from Other Districts	95	102	50	0
12	No of Motor boats in use	17	15	16	0
13	Total No of Boats in use	192	162	75	100
14	No of NDRF Jawans Deployed	128	72	35	0

UN RESPONSE

UNICEF

- UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of the flood situation in the three worst affected districts Supaul, Araria and Madhepura, on 23 to 24 August. Two assessment teams visited relief camps and flood areas that were accessible to find out the needs of those who have been displaced and the communities hosting them. Meetings have also been conducted with block and district officials to find out how UNICEF can help.
- In collaboration with local government and NGO partners, UNICEF has provided some essential supplies, including life jackets, 400,000 halogen tablets, 25,000-kilogrammes of bleaching powder and 30,000 ORS packets. UNICEF will continue to work with its partners on the ground to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and women affected by the crisis.
- An Inter-Agency Group (IAG) meeting was held in Patna on 28 August in which UNICEF participated.

UNDP

- Under the GOI-UNDP DRM programme, DPOs continue to coordinate with district governments in the affected districts.

Other UN agencies are closely watching the developing situation and meeting to discuss possible support.



MEDIA REPORT

Terming the floods in Bihar as a "national calamity", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday 28 August 2008 announced an immediate release of Rs 1,000 crores (US\$ 244 million) and 125,000 tonnes of foodgrains to the state reeling under an unprecedented deluge caused by River Kosi. Mr. Singh, who undertook an aerial survey of the four worst affected districts along with UPA chairperson Ms. Sonia Gandhi, announced a relief of Rs 100,000 from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each of victims. At least 55 people have so far lost their lives while over 25 lakh people in 15 districts have been hit by the impact of one of the worst floods in recent memory with the worst hit being Araria, Supaul, Madhepura and Saharsa. Singh said the Centre would provide all necessary material and technical assistance to Bihar to prevent further deterioration in the embankments and protective structures. A high-level team would be set up to co-ordinate matters with Nepal government.

With an "unprecedented" scale of relief measure required over an extended period, the Centre will procure and supply Tarpaulin tents and GI sheets as per the state government's request. Special IAF sorties will be arranged for providing packaged drinking water. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will together provide 100 additional motorised boats for rescue operations while IAF choppers would be deployed for evacuation.

Mr. Singh was accompanied by Union Ministers Mr. Shivraj Patil, Mr. Lalu Prasad and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan as well as Chief Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar and Leader of the Opposition (in Bihar) Ms. Rabri Devi. Mr. Singh, however, could not survey the entire 100 km-stretch of the flood-hit districts because of bad weather, the chief minister said. Mr. Kumar expressed satisfaction over the relief package but said more aid will be needed in coming months. "The package announced by the prime minister is satisfactory at the moment to tackle the gigantic task of reaching relief to over 2 million people affected by the floods in the four district with the Kosi changing course inundating vast areas," the chief minister said. Stating that the package was in conformity with the demands he had placed before the prime minister during his visit to New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Kumar said the state would soon require around Rs 900 crores to Rs 950 crores (approximately US\$ 233 million) for reconstruction of the embankments breached by rivers in Bihar.

"Apart from the estimated due of Rs 2500 crores (US\$ 596 million) the state spent on providing relief to the flood-hit areas in Bihar during last year's rainy season, we will require more assistance (from the Centre) for reconstructing villages, run camps for relief for the next three to four months, construct sanitary toilets and solve housing problems," Mr. Kumar said. "We have to be ready for sheltering more than 1 million people in mega relief camps as polythenesheets can't serve the purpose," he said. (*The Hindu*)

RED CROSS ACTION

- A Relief Committee of the IRCS Bihar state Branch decided in its meeting held on 22 August to immediately despatch relief packs to the six most affected districts.
- The affected district branch staff and volunteers are playing vital role in providing First Aid, rescue and evacuation service, providing awareness on preparation of Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), organising free health check-up camps and distribution of medicines. They also facilitated in distribution of 400 tarpaulin sheets provided by the local administration office.
- The two deployed IRCS Bihar State Branch DP Supervisors visited the Beldaur Block in Khagaria district to assess the floods situation. In addition, they also raised awareness on water and sanitation and hygiene promotion and preparation of ORS to the affected community members through printed IEC materials.
- The International Federation India office is closely following up with the IRCS National Headquarters on the arising needs from the State branch on technical support request, in carrying out the emergency assessment in the flood affected areas.



SOURCES & CONTACT DETAILS

Sources:

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Central Water Commission (CWC)
- NDM Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Indian Red Cross Society
- District Project Officers

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