

# Alert

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## India

# Monsoon Rains: Flooding in east, central & northern India

Geneva, 4 August 2015

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

India has been experiencing heavy monsoon rains over the past weeks and flooding has threatened many areas. Two regions in the west – Gujarat and Rajasthan, as well as the eastern regions of Odisha and West Bengal have been the most severely hit. Following landfall by Cyclone Komen on the Bangladesh coast, heavy storms lashed [West Bengal](#) and [Odisha](#) this weekend exacerbating the situation in already flooded areas. Jharkhand, Nagaland, Mizoram, [Manipur](#), Tripura and parts of Assam also experienced heavy rains. Sea conditions remain rough and fishermen have been warned against venturing out into the open sea off and along the West Bengal and Odisha coasts.

Over the last few days 120 people have died in India due to the flooding and the toll is rising. In West Bengal more than 36 million people have been affected by the floods.

More than 210 blocks in several districts across the state are inundated due to water being released from dams. Flooding of farmland, towns and villages has been reported from several districts of South Bengal such as Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan, Bankura, South 24 Parganas North, South 24 Parganas South, Murshidabad, east Midnapore and East Midnapore. Livelihood has been disrupted, communications and infrastructure destroyed or damaged. A shortage of food and basic needs has been reported in various parts of the state. More rains are forecast over the next days.

As of 27 July heavy rains have lashed parts of Rajasthan, as areas bordering Gujarat battle flooding. Jalore and Sirohi districts in Rajasthan are severely affected. Continuous rainfall over 26 – 29 July in northern Gujarat has resulted in the River Banas bursting its banks for the first time in 25 years. The death toll in the state has reached 27 (3 August). Banaskantha, Patan and Mehsana districts are the worst-affected. Many parts of Banaskantha district are cut off from the mainland and power supplies are disrupted in many areas. The area is semi-arid and desert so has no flood preparedness in place.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

ACT members Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) and United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELICI) along with partners are present in the flooded areas and are well equipped to provide assistance to the most needy in the more remote villages should the situation demand.

### **3. National and international response**

Five search and rescue teams have been deployed by the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and one team from the National Disaster Response Force (Times of India). The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have also been sent to different areas in Ghatal, Moyna, Panskura, Udainarayanpur, Amta areas in Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah districts. A three-member committee has also been formed by the Government of West Bengal to monitor the flood situation in the state and take appropriate measures.

In Rajasthan, NDRF relief teams, the army (with helicopters) and Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC) have been deployed. Two gates of Selwara dam were opened on 28 July to control the overflowing rain water. Fire service units in the districts of Jajpur, Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts have been mobilised with boats for search and rescue operations. Around 90 power boats of the State Port Engineering Organisation have also been deployed in these districts

In Gujarat, the NDRF, the Army and Indian Air Force rescue teams with rubber boats have been deployed in flood areas such as Suigam, Deesa and Tharad of Banaskantha. Local youth and community groups are also helping in the rescue.

### **4. ACT Alliance response**

ACT India Forum members, CASA, LWSIT and UELCI are closely monitoring the situation. If the situation warrants the Forum will make a rapid assessment of the situation and request a preliminary ACT appeal.

### **5. Planned activities**

If the situation demands ACT members will start immediate relief activities with lifesaving food and non-food items for the worst affected people. CASA will release reserve emergency stocks to provide immediate relief support to the affected communities in the worst affected areas.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)).**

**For further information please contact:**

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