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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) India: Odisha Flood

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN007 20 September 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 240,301 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 75,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: This year, India has witnessed severe floods in six states, affecting more than 11 million people across India. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) launched a domestic appeal to seek support of the domestic donors for the flood affected states. However, response to the appeal has so far been limited. More recently 2.2 million people have also been affected by floods in the Odisha (formerly known as Orissa) state, which was originally not under the domestic appeal, but will now be included. As the IRCS capacities are already stressed to cope with the situation, DREF has been requested to allow Indian Red Cross to support 75,000 beneficiaries in Odisha through distribution of non food relief items and safe drinking water. Where required, volunteers will carry out dissemination of hygiene promotion and safe storage of water in emergencies. In the coming weeks, IRCS will revise their domestic appeal to include Odisha.



In September 2011, the Indian Red Cross Society distributed urgently needed dry food to the flood affected families in Odisha. **Photo:** IRCS.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 20 December 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 20 March 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The state of Odisha (formerly known as Orissa) has witnessed severe flooding due to heavy water flows in the Mahanadi River system in recent days. The situation has been accentuated by the release of water from Hirakund reservoir, which is currently above its maximum water level of 630 ft. Continuing rainfall add further pressure to the already strained river system as well as the flooding in the surrounding districts.

At present, flood waters are currently affecting 19 of Odisha's 30 districts, including Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapada, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Puri, Sambalpur, and Subarnapur. Of the 19 districts, the situation in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur, Kendrapada and Puri is extremely critical where, 4,006 villages have been affected by the current flood. The latest reports indicate 22 people (Bhadrak 1, Dhenkanal 2, Jajpur 7, Kendrapada 6, Khurda 1, Mayurbhanj 3, and Sambalpur 2) have lost their lives in the calamity while 12 are missing. More than 30,000 houses have been severely damaged in 11 districts.

At present, reports from 12 of the 19 affected districts (Angul, Balasore, Baragarh, Boudh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Sambalpur and Subarnapur), indicate 190,000 people have been evacuated from low lying areas to safer places and have been provided with emergency food assistance.

The Government of India has deployed 960 boats for the rescue and relief operation. Four helicopters from the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force have been pressed into service for airdropping of food packets in many affected areas of Kendrapada, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Boudh and Nayagarh districts.

This latest flood comes on top of the ongoing actions being undertaken by the IRCS throughout the monsoon season that have required substantial resources which at present have been exhausted. Available drinking water sources are contaminated with flood water and there is a need for safe drinking water. Access to more information on the water situation will be available once the IRCS national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) is deployed to the field to conduct assessments.

Coordination and partnerships

The Odisha state branch of IRCS is heading the state level Inter Agency Group. The regular coordination meetings are taking place at the Red Cross office in Bhubaneswar. The Inter Agency Group is coordinating with all the agencies on ground to avoid duplication of efforts. IRCS is sharing regular updates with the partner national societies in-country in order to keep them updated on the unfolding situation.

A total of 299 relief camps/free kitchen centres have been opened in the areas inundated and 144,392 persons have been provided with food assistance by the government. Dry food such as chuda, gur, biscuit and rice is being provided to the affected persons. Information on the impact from the remaining seven districts is currently being sought.

Close coordination with non-governmental organisations rendering assistance was maintained. Agencies like Concern Worldwide, Church's Auxillary for Social Action (CASA), World Vision, Save the Children etc, have been providing hygiene kits, tarpaulins, family kits, bedding and cooking items, food, etc to about 25,000 households as a whole.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A 24/7 control room is operational at Odisha state branch. IRCS has responded with 4,000 dry food packets in Nimapada, Gop, and Banki. The Odisha state branch has mobilized its state disaster response team and district disaster response team who are further supported by the Red Cross Youth volunteers. In addition, the branch has reached 1,950 families with non-food items and is mobilizing resources to reach more people as soon as possible. A request is also been sent to IRCS national headquarters for providing further assistance in providing non-food items.



Together with its partners, IRCS has constructed several cyclone shelters in recent years in the coastal districts of Odisha through its Orissa (now called Odisha) Disaster Mitigation Programme. The committees responsible for all of these multipurpose cyclone shelters as well as surrounding communities located in flood affected districts have been alerted as a part of early warning system and regular communication is being maintained.

A coordination mechanism has been established with the relevant government departments and agencies, including regular meetings.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

Six teams made up of inter-agency group members (including World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Care, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Medicin Sans Frontiers, Concern Worldwide, Plan International, and UNICEF) visited the affected areas in Kendrapada, Cuttack, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh and Jajpur districts. The needs identified include access to safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities, food (especially rice and baby food) medical services to prevent the loss of life and transmission of disease. In addition, emergency shelter and basic household items are required to protect the affected families from the continuing monsoon season.

The proposed operation

An experienced team with members from the national disaster response team (NDRT) and NDWRT will be deployed to assist state and district branches to support in scaling up the operation. While the government is playing major role in response, the IRCS Odisha state branch has deployed three medical teams (one in Cuttack and two in Puri), with six doctors and five pharmacists along with local volunteers.

The main focus of the operation will be on supply of safe drinking water, and distribution of essential basic non food items. Following non food items will be distributed:

Non food items	Quantity
Tarpaulin	5,000 (1 set per family)
Kitchen set	2,000 (1 per family)
Cotton blanket	10,000 (2 per family)
18-litre plastic bucket (with lids)	15,000 (1 per family)

The IRCS headquarters and branches have already distributed some 3000 kitchen sets. Plastic buckets will be distributed along with the family pack (tarpaulin and blanket) and also to beneficiaries receiving clean water from Red Cross water treatment units.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of at least 5,000 flood-affected families (25,000 beneficiaries) have been met through relief distributions in the flood affected districts of Odisha.

Activities planned:

- Detailed need assessment by IRCS and mobilisation of national disaster response team (NDRT) and national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) members and volunteers.
- Procurement for replenishment of non-food item (NFI) stocks.
- Dispatch and transportation by IRCS to the distribution sites.
- Distribution of relief items (tarpaulin, kitchen, cotton blanket, plastic bucket) by trained IRCS volunteers and staff.
- Re-stock relief items distributed.
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risks to the flood-affected people from water and sanitation related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water for 2,000 families, and hygiene promotion for up to 10,000 families in the flood affected districts of Odisha.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Assess the existing water supply and sanitation situation.
- Selection of most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.
- Deployment of two IRCS water treatment units and provision of safe drinking water to up to 10,000 people (2,000 families).
- Distribution of water collection containers (as part of NFI distribution).
- Conduct training for Red Cross volunteers in hygiene promotion and safe storage and use of water. Following, trained volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion campaign and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials for up to 10,000 families. Each beneficiary family will be given one bucket.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Indian Red Cross Society:** Dr. SP Agarwal, Secretary General Tel: +91.11.2371.6441; email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org
- **IFRC India country office:** Mr. John Roche, Head of office, email: john.roche@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2332 4203
- **IFRC South Asia regional office, in India:**
 - Mr. Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office, email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
 - Ms Maija-Liisa Fors, Regional programme coordinator; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: majjaliisa.fors@ifrc.org.
- **IFRC Asia Pacific Zone office, in Malaysia:**
 - Mr Enkas Chau, Operations Coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5798; mobile: +6012 305 8332; email: enkas.chau@ifrc.org.
 - Mr Al Panico, Head of Operations, phone: + 603 9207 5700, email: al.panico@ifrc.org.
 - Mr Alan Bradbury, Head of Resource Mobilization and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org. phone: +603 9207 5775.
 - Mr Jeremy Francis, acting head of regional logistics unit; mobile: +6012 298 9752; email: jeremy.francis@ifrc.org.



Click here

1. DREF budget and map **below**
 2. Click **here** to return to the title page
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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

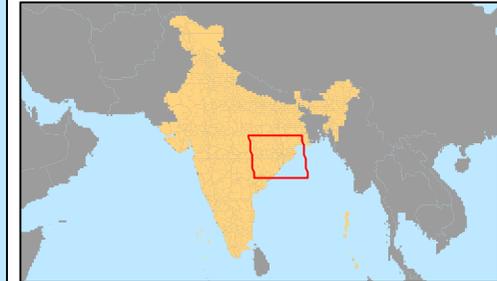
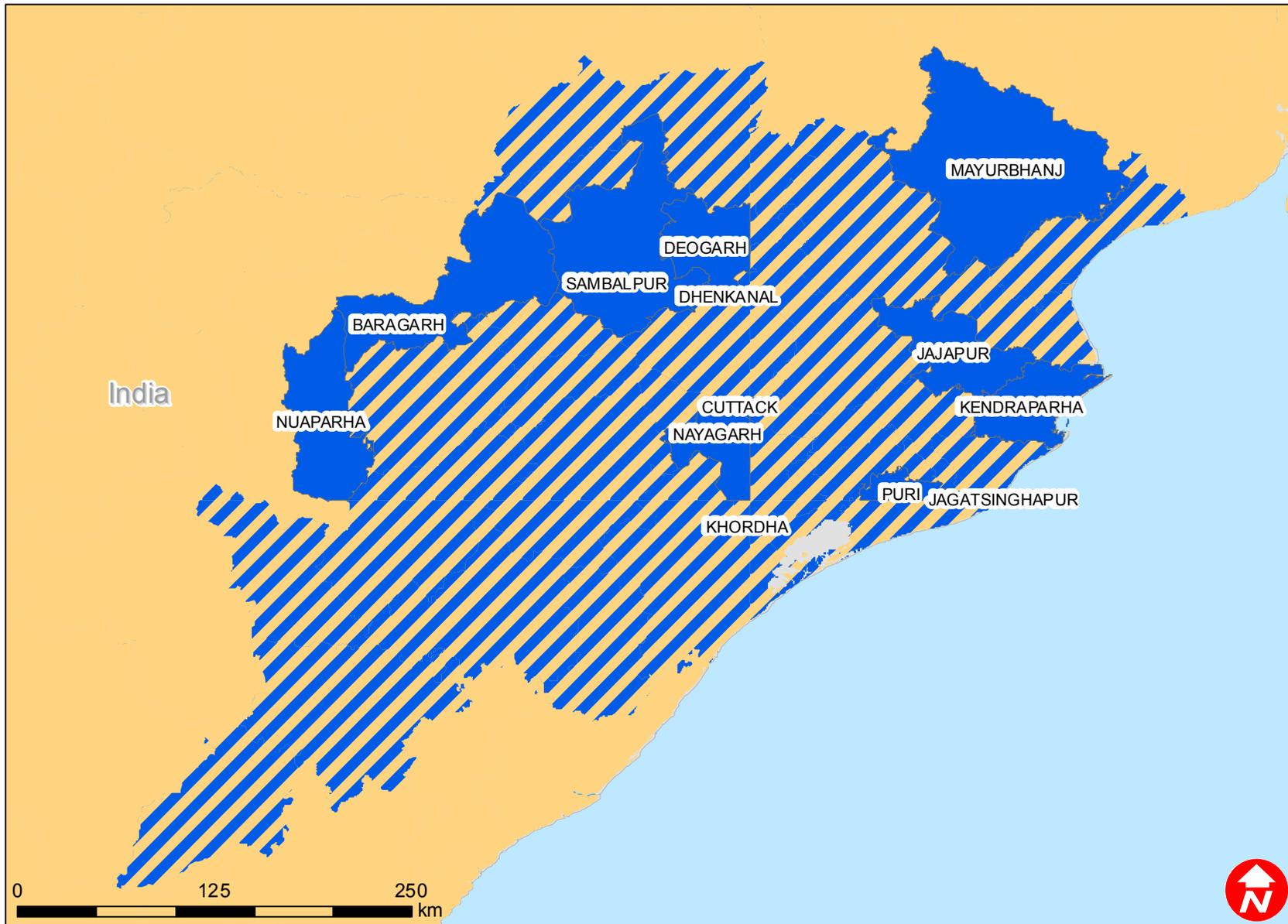
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MDRIN007 India : Odisha Flood

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	73,113
Clothing & Textiles	23,021
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,827
Ustensils & Tools	52,129
Other Supplies & Services	30,214
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	197,304
Storage, Warehousing	1,828
Distribution & Monitoring	5,483
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	7,311
Travel	16,450
Communications	914
Other General Expenses	3,656
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	21,020
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	14,666
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,666
TOTAL BUDGET	240,301



India: Odisha Floods



-  Affected districts
-  Affected state
-  Capitals