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DREF operation update India: Odisha Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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.

Period covered by this update: 20–29 September 2011.

Summary: CHF 240,301 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 September 2011 to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering assistance to some 75,000 beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks following this operation.

IRCS has intensified its emergency relief intervention in Odisha (formerly known as Orissa) state with the deployment of emergency water treatment and distribution equipment. Each day, 1,150 families (5,750 people) from 10 villages are provided with safe drinking water. Distribution of food and non-food supplies continues in coordination with state authorities. The national disaster response team (NDRT) and national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) members continue to work round the clock to deliver services to the flood affected people.



Red Cross volunteers carrying relief supplies to remote marooned villages by boat. **Photo:** IRCS/Odisha state branch.

This operation is expected to be implemented in three months, and will be complete by 20 December 2011. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 20 March 2012).

The major donors to the DREF are the Canadian Red Cross/government and the Netherlands Red Cross/government. Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

During the reporting period, another wave of floods struck Odisha affecting six districts. Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Keonjhar and Jajpur are reported to be those worst affected by this second wave of flooding. Twenty people have lost their lives while a further five are still missing. The total number of people affected

has reached 2,189,766, and the cumulative number of people affected by flood in the districts under the scope of this DREF operation has exceeded 3,444,000. The impact of the floods is summarized as follows:

	Impact current flood wave	Cumulative figures
Districts affected	10	19
People affected	2,189,766	3,443,989
Human causality	20	41
Missing persons	5	12
Villages marooned	1,176	198
Houses damaged	17,908	118,429
Persons evacuated	121,159	280,320
Villages affected	3,415	4,897

The relief operation is progressing well. Two water treatment units have been deployed to Odisha. One unit is currently operational and supplying water to 10 of the most severely affected villages. The state branch is continuing with the distribution of food and non-food items in the affected areas. However, many areas have become inaccessible due to the second wave of floods and are restricting the movement of the relief teams.

The Odisha state branch has indicated that tarpaulins, woollen blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and bedsheets are the priority items needed by those most severely affected due to the floods. Based on the request of the state branch, the IRCS national headquarters is extending all possible assistance and releasing contingency stocks from its regional warehouses. However, due to a heavy monsoon season in which six states have suffered from severe flooding, combined with the recent earthquake in Sikkim, where large quantities of IRCS relief supplies have been released from regional warehouses, stock levels have been drastically reduced. The replenishment of stocks is now critical in ensuring that should a further disaster strike, the required items will be available without delay. Procurement of relief items for replenishment and to enable distributions continue is underway.

Coordination and partnerships

The IRCS Odisha state branch is leading the state level inter-agency group. Regular coordination meetings are taking place in the Red Cross office in Bhubaneswar. The inter-agency group is coordinating with all the agencies active in the affected region to avoid duplication of efforts. IRCS is sharing regular updates with its in-country partner national societies in order to keep them updated on the unfolding situation.

A total of 258 relief camps/free kitchen centres have been opened in areas that have been 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. Information from assessments to measure the impact of the floods in seven districts is continuously being sought.

Close coordination with non-governmental organizations rendering assistance is being maintained. Agencies including Concern Worldwide, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), World Vision, and Save the Children, etc, have provided hygiene kits, tarpaulins, family kits, bedding and cooking items, and food, etc, to about 25,000 households collectively.

Recently, ECHO has announced their decision to make available EUR 3 million (CHF 3.6 million) for emergency funds response to flooding in the states of Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In order to scale up the ongoing flood relief operation, IFRC will apply to ECHO for replenishment of stocks utilized by IRCS in their response so far.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed need assessment by IRCS and mobilization 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.

Progress:

1. A team of five NDRT and NDWRT members have been deployed to assist state branch to operationalise the water purification units, support with the relief distributions and to train volunteers in order to deliver required services to the flood-affected communities.
2. To date, Odisha state branch has distributed following relief supplies to the flood affected people:

	IRCS pre-positioned stocks	Prepositioned stocks supported by UNICEF
Tarpaulin	2,200	2,042
Saree	1,950	-
Dhoti	1,950	-
Towel	1,950	-
Kitchen sets	1,050	-
Hygiene kits	250	1,651
Mosquito net	400	1,481
Relief items packs consisting of dry food (Chuda and Jaggery), candle, match boxes, salt, biscuit, water pouch and halogen tablets)	4,326	-

3. Regarding the depleting stocks levels in the regional warehouses, a procurement committee has been formed in the IFRC India office which has initiated procurement of 10,000 family packs. These family packs contain tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, bedsheets, towels, plastic buckets, blankets, sari and dhoti. This procurement is for the cumulative action for floods in six states and part of the DREF will be utilized.

Challenges:

With the second wave of floods, the number of people affected has exceeded 3.4 million. There are huge relief needs and IRCS has capacities to distribute. However, the scarcity of resources for relief supplies is limiting the IRCS intervention.

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.

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. 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.

Progress:



An IRCS national disaster water and sanitation response team member distributes safe water in flood affected villages. **Photo:** IRCS/Odisha state branch.

1. One water treatment unit was deployed from the Kolkata regional warehouse and is now established in Vidya Vihar village, Puri district, Odisha. The treated water is being distributed in 10 villages with the help of rural water supply department. Every day, around 20,000 litres of water is being distributed to the worst affected villages.
2. The second unit has been sent from the Kolkata regional warehouse to Pattamundai block of Kendrapada district. However, when the quality from various water sources were checked, it was found that the pH is not suitable for consumption. An assessment team is identifying water sources where the second water treatment unit can be installed and so far, has not identified any suitable locations. The team is now exploring on moving to Jajpur and Bhadrak districts to locate a suitable site.
3. The training programme for the volunteers on safe storage of drinking water, household water treatment, hygiene promotion and rehabilitation of drinking water sources is being designed. It has been decided to train Youth Red Cross volunteers. These volunteers will thereafter visit villages to disseminate messages throughout affected communities.

Challenges:

Absence of appropriate water source has delayed the installation of the second water treatment unit.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was allocated on 20 September 2011 for CHF 240,301 for three months to assist 75,000 beneficiaries.



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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.