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DREF Final Report

India: extreme cold weather

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN010
GLIDE n° CW-2012-000207-IND
17 July 2013

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:

10 January to 10 April 2013

Summary: CHF 57,100 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 January to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 10,000 beneficiaries.

Since the last week of December 2012, temperatures in northern India fell, causing many homeless people in the region, particularly in urban areas, to be affected.

Despite efforts made by the government, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), and a large number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), news reports showed a large number of deaths due to the exceptionally low temperatures. The media reported that most of the deaths were among the elderly and the homeless.



Distribution of blankets by Red Cross volunteers in Patna, Bihar.
Photo: Indian Red Cross Society, Bihar state branch.

To combat this, IRCS distributed blankets to the homeless and other people in need. The IRCS national headquarters released 10,000 blankets to state branches in the affected region. The DREF operation replenished the 10,000 blankets distributed by IRCS from its disaster preparedness stocks positioned in regional warehouses.

Of the total allocated DREF, CHF 53,413 was spent. The balance of CHF 3,687 has been returned to DREF.

The major donors and partners of this DREF operation include the Canadian Red Cross/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Netherlands Red Cross/government SEF which contributed CHF 13,957 and CHF 52,929 respectively.

IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all partners for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to the DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

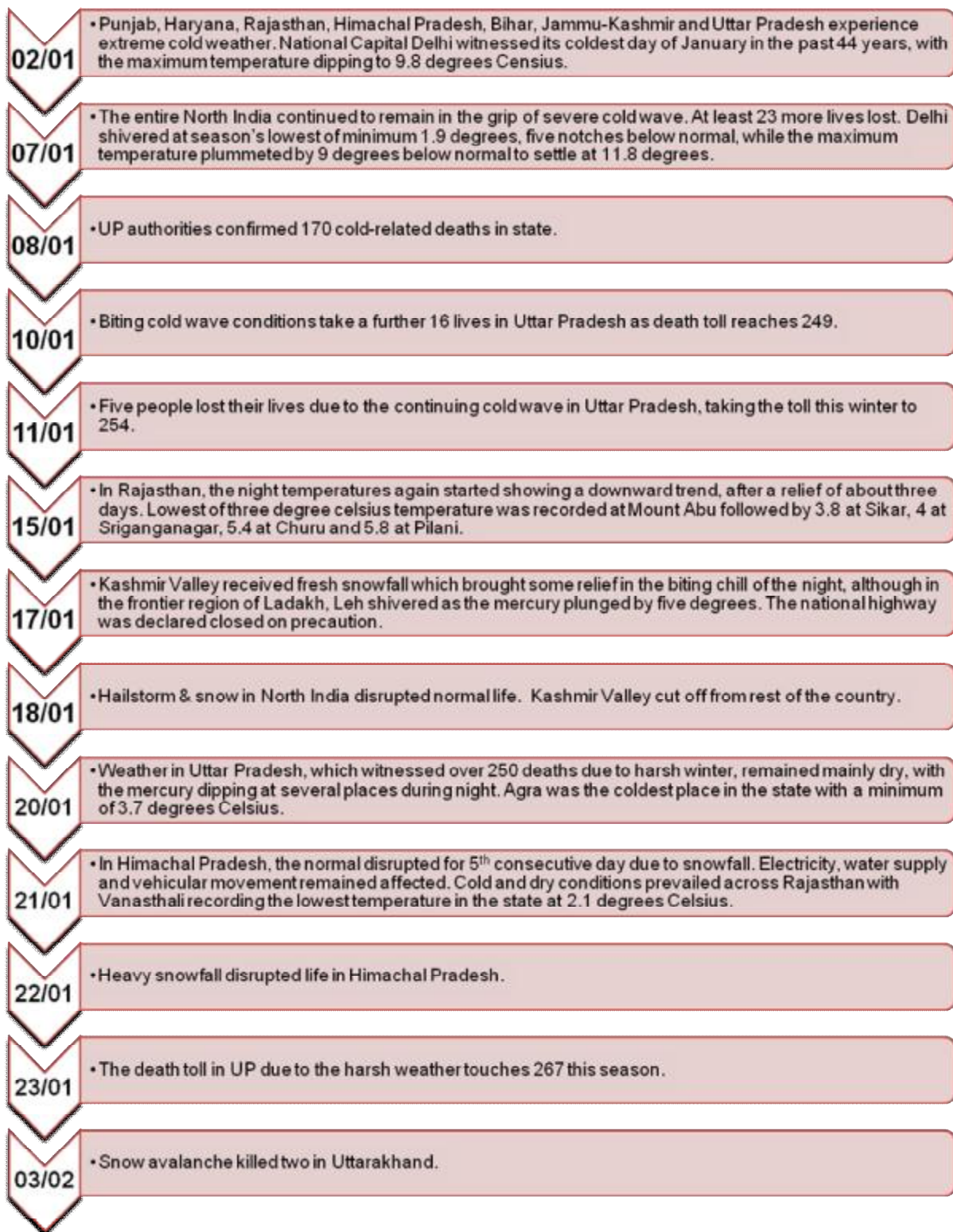
In the last week of December 2012, north India experienced its coldest winter in decades, with Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana being among the worst affected by the inclement weather. The homeless people in the region, particularly in urban areas, were affected badly by the cold weather.

During the first week of January 2013, the states of Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, faced severely cold conditions. New Delhi, the country's capital, witnessed its coldest January day in 44 years, with the maximum temperature dipping to 9.8 degrees Celsius, far below what people, particularly those already vulnerable, were prepared for. In the second week of January, the cold conditions continued, with 16 lives lost in Uttar Pradesh alone, bringing the death toll to approximately 249.

In the second and third weeks of January many places including Kashmir and parts of Himachal Pradesh received heavy snowfall, leading to a shutdown of the national highway, and further disrupting the lives of many in the districts worst affected.

In the beginning of February, temperatures began to rise, bringing relief to the millions affected by the cold snap, particularly those who had no choice but to do their best to survive through the conditions while exposed to the elements. Hundreds of lives were lost due to this cold wave; in Uttar Pradesh alone, the winter season claimed 267 lives this year.

Below is the timeline of the cold wave in India.



Coordination and partnerships

IRCS, together with its sister organization St. John Ambulance India, initiated distribution of blankets in Delhi. IRCS branches in various north India states coordinated with the local authorities while working towards minimizing impact of cold wave on the most vulnerable people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The cold weather affected life in New Delhi, with the minimum temperature dipping to 2.4 degrees Celsius on 7 January 2013.

IRCS, together with St. John Ambulance India, initiated the distribution of blankets to people accompanying their relations who received treatment in hospitals in Delhi. Many of the people who accompany their relations to hospitals in Delhi travelled long distances to get to their destination. Accompanying persons were often not able to access on-site shelters, as space was limited and there were large numbers of people seeking access. This left them with no other option but to stay on roadsides and open places in the cold, as they were unable to afford other accommodation. These people were assisted through the distribution of blankets to protect them from the cold weather conditions.

During the second week of January, IRCS initiated the distribution of 1,000 blankets to the cold afflicted patients and attendants in central government hospitals in Delhi.

Progress towards outcomes

IRCS's state and district branches in northern India distributed blankets to homeless people and the poorest of the poor to help protect them from the harsh conditions and to minimize the loss of life. The branches distributed blankets from their existing stocks and requested national headquarters for further assistance. In response to these needs, IRCS national headquarters released the following numbers of blankets from its disaster preparedness stock prepositioned in regional warehouses.

Sr. no.	State/NHQ	Blankets released by IRCS NHQ from warehouse	Blankets distributed to the beneficiaries
1	NHQ	1,000	1,000
2	Bihar	2,500	21,000
3	J&K	2,000	2,000
4	Tripura	200	200
5	Uttarakhand	2,000	2,000
6	Uttar Pradesh	2,000	2,000
7	West Bengal	1,500	1,500
	Total	11,200	29,700

In Delhi, IRCS volunteers and national headquarters staff distributed 1,000 blankets to the patients and their accompanying relatives/friends at government hospitals. Many of the relatives of these patients have little choice but to spend the night in open places or on the sides of road, as they often come for treatment from the other parts of the country with little or no money.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 10,000 people have received woollen blankets to protect themselves from cold.

Outputs (expected results): Individuals in six states received blankets and IRCS stocks are replenished.

Activities planned:

- Distribution of 10,000 blankets to protect homeless and other vulnerable people from the cold.
- Replenishment of the distributed stocks.
- On-going monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

Progress:

With the help of the National Society's dedicated volunteers, IRCS national headquarters and its branches distributed more than 10,000 blankets in a short time span. Following the approval of DREF, IFRC India office sent a logistics request to the Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 January 2013 for the procurement of 10,000 blankets in order to replenish the stocks distributed by IRCS.

On 22 February 2013, 10,000 blankets were delivered by the vendor at the IRCS Bahadurgarh warehouse. With this, the replenishment of 10,000 blankets distributed by IRCS has been completed. This replenishment has been supported by the DREF operation. The booking of the expenditure incurred for the procurement of blankets was made by the Regional Logistics Unit in March 2013.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

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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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 10 January 2013 for CHF 57,100 for 03 months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
 - A DREF operation update was issued on 14 March 2013.
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Disaster Response Financial Report
MDRIN010 - India - Extreme Cold Weather
 Timeframe: 11 Jan 13 to 11 Apr 13
 Appeal Launch Date: 11 Jan 13
 Final Report

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2013/1-5	Programme	MDRIN010
Budget Timeframe	2013/1-4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		57,100				57,100	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
Other Income							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		57,100				57,100	
C4. Other Income		57,100				57,100	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		57,100				57,100	
D. Total Funding = B +C		57,100				57,100	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		57,100				57,100	
E. Expenditure		-53,413				-53,413	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		3,688				3,688	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			57,100			57,100		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	49,115		46,117			46,117	2,998	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	49,115		46,117			46,117	2,998	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,500						1,500	
Logistics Services			2,103			2,103	-2,103	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	1,500		2,103			2,103	-603	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relations	2,000						2,000	
Communications	1,000						1,000	
Financial Charges			1,933			1,933	-1,933	
Total General Expenditure	3,000		1,933			1,933	1,067	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recovr	3,485		3,260			3,260	225	
Total Indirect Costs	3,485		3,260			3,260	225	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	57,100		53,413			53,413	3,687	
VARIANCE (C - D)			3,687			3,687		