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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

India: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN016	GLIDE n° TC-2015-000163-IND
Date of issue: 1 December 2015	Date of disaster: 8 to 23 November 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Daniel Bolanos, Programmes Coordinator	Point of contact (name and title): Dr. Veer Bhushan, Indian Red Cross Joint Secretary
Operation start date: 30 November 2015	Operation end date: 29 February 2016
DREF allocated: CHF 295,550	
Number of people affected: At least 1.8 million	Number of people to be assisted: 17,500 (3,500 families)
Host National Society present (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian organization, it has 35 State/Union Territories Branches with more than 700 districts and sub district branches throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 700 staff and volunteers are trained in disaster response, forming First Medical Responders (FMR), National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT). IRCS has also trained disaster response teams specialized in water and sanitation (NDWRT) which have 30 members. These members are trained on the operation of water purification units, hygiene promotion and sanitation.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Currently, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively supporting IRCS in this response. IRCS is also maintaining close coordination with other Movement partners with in-country presence, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Belgium Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government of Tamil Nadu, Government of Karnataka, National Disaster Response Force and other civil society organizations.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

'Heavy to very heavy' rains fuelled by an active area of low pressure and multiple weather systems brought flooding in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in India, resulting in significant humanitarian needs. More than 200 deaths have been reported and thousands of people displaced in low-lying areas across affected districts in the three states.

The situation started when a depression that formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal intensified to Cyclone Roan and, as it crossed the northern part of the Tamil Nadu coast on 8 November 2015, it brought relentless rains. Between 9 and 16 November, some areas of Tamil Nadu experienced rainfall that exceeded the average expected in the entire month of November, resulting in widespread flooding. As floodwater started to recede in the days that followed and conditions were improving in many affected areas, another spell of heavy rains lashed on 23 November resulting in a new wave of flooding in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and surrounding areas.



Red Cross volunteers clearing up the roads with the support of community and local authority. Photo: IRCS

The flooding further intensified due to the release of water from small and medium sized reservoirs, causing heavy influxes of flood water which inundated many areas in the affected districts. Thousands of people across the flood-affected areas were moved to temporary shelters including schools, community centres and other public utility places. Roads (including national highways) were inundated and cut off at many places, causing traffic congestion and affecting transportation of goods and services.

Based on reports received through IRCS branches as of 27 November, details on impact of the floods are as follows:

- In Andhra Pradesh, the worst affected districts are Chittoor, East Prakasam, Kudappa and Nellore. At least 30 deaths have been recorded across the state, 12 of them in the district of Nellore. At least 1.8 million people in some 1,200 villages have been affected, with 146 villages reported to have been marooned and approximately 740 livestock lost or affected across the state.
 - In the district of Nellore alone, 86 villages were flooded, 120 houses damaged, at least 341 irrigation systems damaged, 2,000 hectares of aqua culture ponds affected and 35,715 hectares of agricultural land inundated.
- In Tamil Nadu, the worst affected districts are Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Pondicherry. At least 200 deaths were reported across the state, with the floods displacing more than 400,000 people. There has been damage to livelihoods, with at least 20,000 hectares of agricultural land inundated.
 - Reports from Chennai indicate that there were 64 camps established by the government, accommodating 119,500 people from low lying slum areas; Tambaram and Velachary areas are the worst affected, with almost all houses inundated, leaving around 10,000 people displaced (either in camps or with host families). Water supply system in the city has been contaminated, as water pipelines are broken in many areas. Pregnant women are among the most vulnerable in the affected area due to poor hygiene and stress related to the situation.
 - Information about the impact in Cuddalore indicates that at least 100 houses were inundated in Beramarao Nagar, with around 20,000 hectares of cultivated land submerged; there has been substantial loss of cultivation.



People evacuated from their home in Tamil Nadu.
Photo: IRCS

Meantime, IRCS is still collating data on the impact of the floods in Karnataka. It is worth to note that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) [weather warning](#) covering the period 28 November to 2 December shows that the current reprieve from heavy rain will not last long. There is a potential of further flooding as downpours are set to continue, including in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, into early December.

Summary of the current response

Response by Indian Red Cross Society

Red Cross branches in Nellore and Chittoor districts have so far provided search and rescue services and have distributed the following items to the affected population:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • 3,000 food packets | • 650 kitchen sets |
| • 750 blankets | • 550 kerosene stoves |
| • 330 towels | • 850 plastic buckets |
| • 1,500 dhotis (cotton wrap around) | • 145 tarpaulin sheets |
| • 80 sarees | • 350 mosquito nets |

IRCS branches have been supporting their respective local government in supplying food packets and safe drinking water, and organizing medical camps and evacuation of affected people from the low-lying areas. Relief items dispatched from the warehouses have been distributed by the Red Cross volunteers while medical camps have been organized by first medical responders.

In Tamil Nadu, Red Cross volunteers in particular supported the local rescue services to clear roads of fallen trees and opening the way for vehicle movement. Volunteers were also mobilized for the rescue operations launched to assist people stranded by the floods and to take them to safer grounds.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In addition to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in-country Movement partners include ICRC and Belgium Red Cross-Flanders. The IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in New Delhi has been closely monitoring the flooding situation, providing technical support to the IRCS for the preparation of the EPOA and DREF request. Two IFRC staff (disaster preparedness manager and communications manager) will be deployed to support the IRCS branches with the initial response to the floods.

Movement Coordination

IFRC is coordinating the flood response with IRCS. ICRC has indicated that it will support IRCS' interventions as defined by the needs and according to the gaps in the overall IRCS response plan (e.g. provision of life jackets).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government of India and affected state governments are leading the response to the floods across the country. In Andhra Pradesh, the government is supplying 25kg of rice, 1kg of lentils, 2lts of kerosene and INR 4,000 (CHF 60) per family to meet immediate needs.

In Tamil Nadu, the government is supplying food and water to the affected people and about 72,000 people are sheltered in relief camps.

The local district government authorities (collector office of the respective districts) have requested Red Cross branches to extend all possible support to the affected people. Other non-RCRC stakeholders, such as Sphere India and other NGOs, are also working on assessments and response interventions.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Formation of cyclone and flooding is normal for this time of the year, but the unusual amount of rainfall and the subsequent intensified flood situation has resulted in a disaster situation which led to the request for assistance via the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF). In August, IRCS had participated in preparations for the cyclone season, together with the Government of India and local partners, but the current scenario has exceeded the preparedness plans. The affected communities have coping capacities for normal floods during this time of the year, but were not prepared for a situation of this magnitude. Additionally, as this is the harvest season for farmers, the flooding has added more economic burdens on many poor families.

IRCS state branches in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been conducting field assessments of the situation that have highlighted the widespread impact of the floods on the communities. Family packs consisting of kitchen sets, cotton blankets, dhotis, sarees, towels, buckets, bed sheets and tarpaulins have been identified as the immediate needs of affected populations. In Tamil Nadu, drinking water has also been identified as a need. The IRCS national headquarters (NHQ) has already dispatched some of these items from their warehouses located in Tamil Nadu (Arakkonam) in coordination with the affected state branches. The DREF will support IRCS to replenish the relief items distributed by the respective state branches. IRCS plans that 3,500 most vulnerable and affected families spread across the three affected states will be supported through this DREF response operation.

In Tamil Nadu state, the government has requested the supply of safe drinking water. IRCS will deploy one water purification unit from its warehouse. The DREF will cover the transportation and installation cost for this unit. The unit will be installed by the trained NDWRT volunteers of IRCS.

Beneficiary selection will be conducted by the state branches in coordination with the local authorities and IRCS NHQ, and priority will be given to the people living in slums, those displaced by floods and living in temporary shelters.

Risk Assessment

There are constraints in the affected areas due to blocked roads. Some areas are still cut off due to floodwaters. The NDMA has warned that there is a potential of further flooding as downpours are set to continue into early December, including in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, it is expected that access will improve in the coming days when floodwaters recede.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to ensure that the immediate needs of the flood-affected population are met through provision of emergency relief items (family packs¹ including tarpaulins) plus the assistance of First Medical Responders (FMR)².

¹ Each family pack has 8 items: 1 kitchen set, 1 cotton blanket, 1 dhoti, 1 saree, 1 towel, 1 bucket, 1 bed sheet and 1 tarpaulin.

This DREF allocation will also support the cost related to rapid field assessments in the affected areas, mobilization of volunteers and the provision of safe drinking water in Tamil Nadu.

A total of 3,500 families (approximately 17,500 people) will be assisted by IRCS through this DREF allocation. This IRCS response will only cover gaps as requested by local authorities, who have committed to cover most needs. The DREF operation will be completed within three months (30 November 2015 to 29 February 2016).

Proposed strategy

IRCS, utilizing the presence of its staff and volunteers across the affected areas, has been actively engaged in disaster response over the past two weeks, since the heavy rain started. The operation focuses on meeting the immediate needs of affected populations, especially displaced people, with emergency shelter and essential household items as well as basic healthcare and provision of safe drinking water.

Specifically, the operation will focus on the following areas:

1. **Rapid field assessments** – mobilization and assessment related cost.
2. **Distribution (and/or replenishment) of relief items for 3,500 families** – family packs including tarpaulins. The family packs in stock contain one tarpaulin. In meeting the immediate needs and SPHERE standards, an additional tarpaulin will be distributed with the family pack and as such each family will receive two tarpaulins.
3. **Deployment of one water purification unit in Tamil Nadu** – transportation and installation cost.
4. **Mobilization of 550 trained volunteers** in the three target states.
5. **Support hygiene promotion through awareness raising activities** – information, communication and education (ICE) materials will be printed and disseminated during the relief distribution.

The 3,500 families will be identified based on vulnerability criteria across the three states (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) through initial IRCS rapid field assessments.

Table 1: Proposed DREF support for interventions in the three states

States	Family packs (including 1 tarpaulin)	Tarpaulins (in addition to the tarpaulin in the family pack)	Number of Volunteers Mobilized
Andhra Pradesh	1,000	1,000	150
Tamil Nadu	2,000	2,000	300
Karnataka	500	500	100
TOTAL	3,500	3,500	550

Operational support services

Human resources

No new paid staff will be engaged for this operation. Implementation will be supported by volunteers and staff members existing in both IRCS and the IFRC office in New Delhi. Mobilization of FMR, NDRT and NDWRT, as well as staff expenses, are covered in the operational budget.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure the relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. Non-food relief items that are being dispatched from pre-positioned stocks will be replenished following IFRC procurement procedures. The transportation and distribution cost within the country will be covered by this DREF.

The IFRC CCST is providing logistical support to IRCS in local procurement of relief supplies and technical advice for the same. The CCST will also keep close communication with IRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the process of replenishment of relief stocks. Additional logistics support to IRCS will be provided by the Asia Pacific regional logistics unit as needed.

² FMRs are community volunteers who are trained on several modules especially focus on disaster preparedness and relief and they are proposed to work during the times of disaster to support their local communities. The FMRs are trained by FMR instructors of the state branch who are supported by the master trainers of FMR.

Communications

IFRC CCST will support the preparation of news stories to be published on the IFRC website. Partner National Societies will get information on the response through the Newswire, coordinated by the CCST communications manager, with support from the regional communications unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Communications support to IRCS will also be provided by IFRC communications manager based at New Delhi and/or Asia Pacific regional offices upon the request of IRCS. This may include media relations and public communications assistance that contributes towards the positioning of the National Society response.

Security

IRCS and IFRC security focal persons continue to monitor the situation. Any security concerns will be handled with local authorities as per the existing security framework.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

IRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood affected area through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its CCST in New Delhi, will provide technical support in programme management to ensure that the operation's objectives are met. The IFRC disaster preparedness manager is also being deployed to the field to help IRCS NHQ and branches to start this operation.

PMER support will also be extended to the National Society in the response operation through the IFRC PMER officer based in New Delhi. Operations updates will be scheduled to provide necessary information in relation to the progress of the operation, any changes in the situation during the reporting period, and any particular problems, constraints or unmet needs. A final report on the operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Operational expenses – such as volunteer per diem, accommodation, transportation, communication, and coordination activities – are factored in. Procurement of tarpaulins and family pack items will be done following IFRC procedures. Finance and administration support to the operation will be provided by IRCS NHQ, with backing from the finance team of the IFRC CCST.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: Provide needs-based relief to the affected people in the target districts																
Output 1.1: Implement the emergency response plan of action for the target population																
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.1.1 Conduct rapid field assessments		X	X	X	X											
1.1.2 Identify needs and response strategies		X	X	X	X											
1.1.3 Mobilize volunteers in the respective district branches		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.1.4 Carry out relief distribution to the target beneficiaries		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.1.5 Monitor the response interventions.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs analysis: From the initial assessment by IRCS, many of the houses of flood affected families are either partially or fully damaged.

Populations to be assisted: 3,500 families whose houses are most affected by the floods in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This operation will cover distribution (and/or replenishment) of family packs for the 3,500 target families.

Outcome 1: Reduce suffering and risks in the target population with partially damaged houses																
Output 1.1: Procure and distribute tarpaulins to the identified target beneficiaries																
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.1.1 Identify beneficiaries for relief distribution (family pack including two tarpaulins)		X	X	X	X											
1.1.2 Procure family packs (<i>the DREF budget only covers some of the items</i>) and tarpaulins for distribution or replenishment		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
1.1.3 Distribute family packs and tarpaulins		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
1.1.4 Monitor and report on distribution			X	X	X	X	X	X	X							

Budget

DREF OPERATION

30/11/2015

MDRIN016 India: Floods

	DREF Grant Budget (CHF)
Budget Group	
Shelter - Relief	91,000
Clothing & Textiles	35,530
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	800
Utensils & Tools	94,394
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	221,724
Storage	14,000
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000
Logistics Services	12,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	36,000
Volunteers	4,988
Total PERSONNEL	4,988
Travel	4,000
Information & Public Relations	10,000
Office Costs	500
Communication	300
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,800
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	18,038
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,038
TOTAL BUDGET	295,550

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

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 2. Map [below](#)
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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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



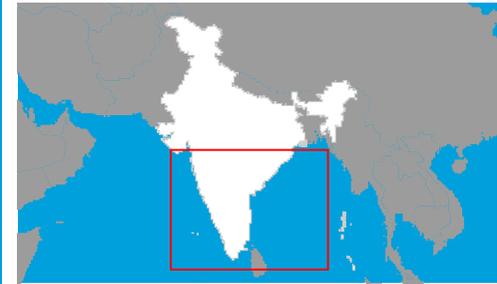
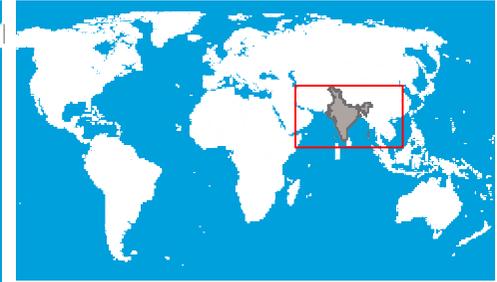
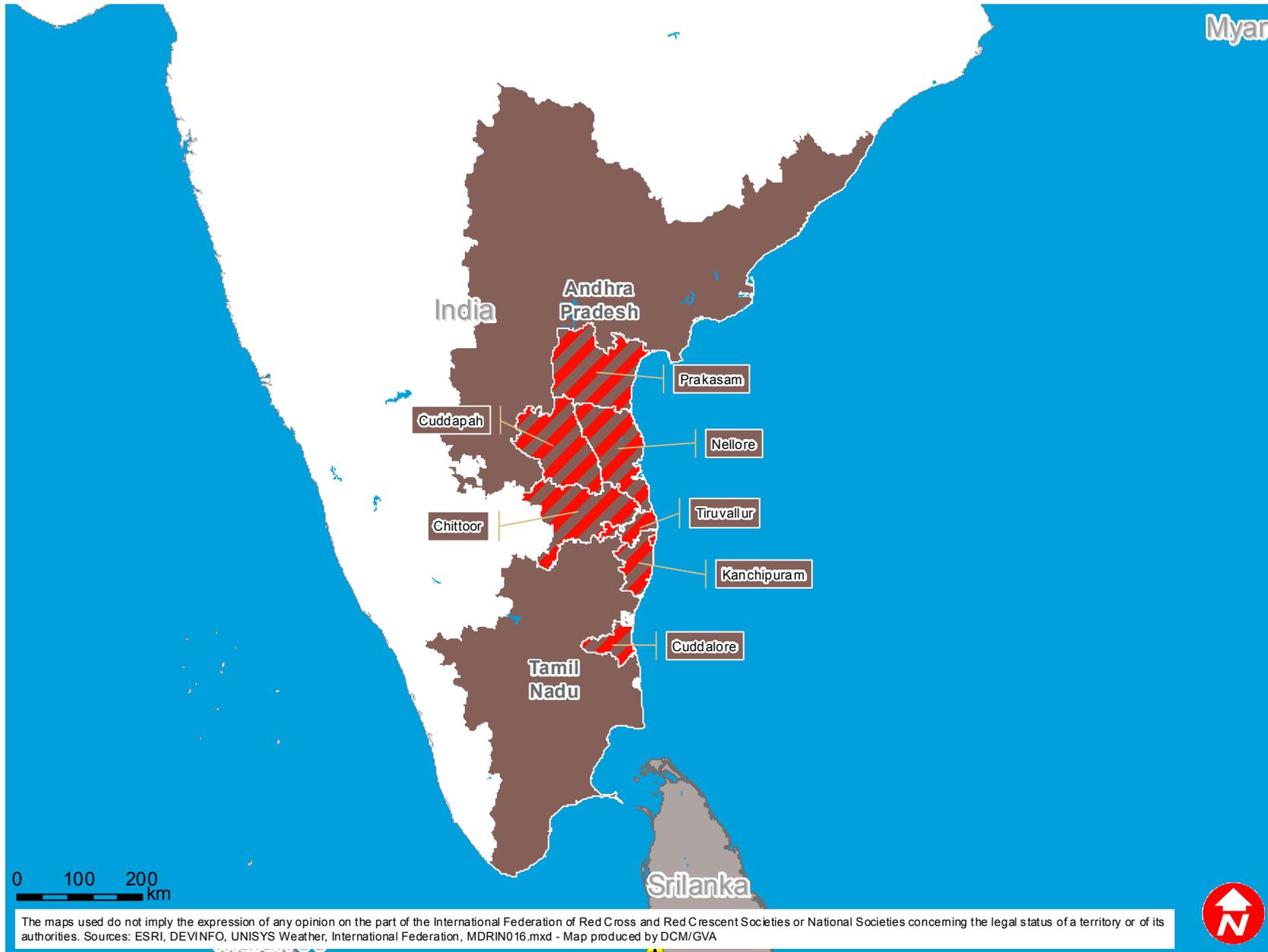
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



India: Floods



- Most affected Districts
- Affected States

0 100 200 km

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, UNISYS Weather, International Federation, MDRIN016.mxd - Map produced by DCM/GVA

