



Pregnant woman being shifted to Maternity Waiting Home, Ganjam District

UNICEF Odisha Cyclone FANI Update #2



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

02 May 2019

9 million

of children estimated to be affected in 14 districts

23088

of pregnant women who will need Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) services

19528

infants discharged from the SNCUs (Special Newborn Care Units) who will need follow up

203 and 426

of children in NRCs (Nutritional Rehabilitation Center) and SNCUs needing continuity of services

Highlights

- Over 28 million people including an estimated 10 million children are in the path of the impact of Cyclone FANI in ODISHA in mainly 14 districts
- The Government of Odisha-NGO (GO-NGO) coordination mechanism reactivated with UNICEF support during last year's Cyclone *Titli* will be extended during the current cyclone
- Government is currently relocating approximately 1 million population from the vulnerable locations to safe shelters including 825 special cyclone shelters
- Code of Conduct for elections has been withdrawn from the districts likely to be affected
- Under the partnership with UNICEF, OXFAM and Inter agency group are leading the GO-NGO coordination with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)
- UNICEF team is working with the respective departments to monitor evacuations and service delivery to ensure the Core Commitment for Children in Humanitarian Action

Situation Overview

Odisha's coastal districts are vulnerable to both floods and storm surge of cyclones. Odisha is prone to tropical cyclones both in pre-monsoon months of April-May and post-monsoon months of September-November. The most recent cyclone to hit the coast of Odisha was the very severe cyclonic storm *Titli* in 2018. The extremely severe cyclonic storm *Phailin* which hit the state in 2013, affected 13.2 million people.

Seven coastal districts are immediately exposed to the onset of storms, and about 12 districts come under the equally damaging effects of the severe and frequent flooding during cyclones and monsoons, as these are highly populated areas. The risk is aggravated by the following factors: 33% of the state population live below poverty line. Overall infrastructure of the state is weak. The health system, including public health infrastructures, are assessed to be vulnerable to withstand repeated exposure to storms and floods. High prevalence of open defecation across the state, including in the coastal areas, expose children to heightened risk of health hazards during floods. Effects of repeated shocks on the livelihood of the poor is likely to contribute to high level of out of school children and children in migration. However, there are some mitigating elements. Since 1999 Super-Cyclone, Odisha has invested heavily in community-based DRR, significantly reducing the vulnerabilities of these coastal communities over the past years.

Odisha has a strong State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) set up in the wake of the Super-Cyclone (1999), and a very operational Special Relief Commissioner (SRC)'s function, and the NGO Inter-Agency Group (IAG), is one of the strongest groups in India. UNICEF has contributed significantly to the work of OSDMA and IAG over the years. IAG's outstanding capacity to undertake independent assessments in time of disasters and to partake fully in the state's efforts at DRR significantly complements UNICEF's response capacity. OSDMA remains open to improve its function with UNICEF's technical support (e.g. vulnerability assessment of its public health facilities in the coastal regions with UNICEF support). Odisha state has developed district wise disaster management plans as well as department wise disaster management plans. In addition, the State DRR roadmap is under preparation now.

Sustained strengthening of Disaster Risk Resilience through institutional mechanisms since the Super Cyclone has helped the state government aim for 'Zero casualty' such as during Cyclone Phailin. The recent cyclone 'Titli' demonstrated gaps in preparedness and response on cyclones in districts other than the traditional 14 coastal districts. In 'Titli' the state government reported 77 deaths due to landslides. Because of ongoing general elections in the country, both union and state governments are mounting effective response for preparedness and response planning. The Election Commission of India has lifted the Code of Conduct from the districts likely to be affected and the Centre has allocated advance funds of 340 crores (US\$ 48 mn) for the response.

The current extremely severe cyclonic storm 'FANI' is predicted to be more severe than 'Titli' and less severe than 'Phailin.'

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The office of the Chief Minister is directly overseeing the preparedness for response. The Chief Secretary of the state is leading the response through the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management which hosts the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and other line departments at the state level through office of the district collectors. Five senior IAS offers have been deployed to most vulnerable coastal districts; to the OSDMA; and Revenue and Disaster Department. All departments are conveying preparedness review meeting under chairmanship of respective secretaries. GO-NGO coordination is being led by OSDMA and being facilitated by UNICEF through IAG and OXFAM. IAG and OXFAM is also facilitating the GO-NGO coordination at the district level.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's support will focus on the provision of services that protect the progress and facilitate achievement of the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) in Humanitarian Action. UNICEF in partnership with IAG will continue to strengthen the voice of civil society through facilitating coordination of GO-NGO in the state and the affected districts. Examples of sector specific strategic interventions supporting respective departments: for the nutrition response, UNICEF will facilitate tracking of severe acute malnourished (SAM) children and ensuring continuity of care; support continued breast feeding and nutrition of pregnant women. For health, the strategy is to support the state in ensuring continuity of immunization services; relocation of pregnant women with expected date of delivery within 14 days to maternity waiting homes; and tracking of and continuity of facility and home-based services to the pre-term and low birth weight SMCU graduates.

State Response

- Approximately 1 million people evacuated to 825 identified shelters equipped with dry food, drinking water, free community kitchen, and medical supplies.
- In addition to 5 senior IAS officers, 70 Odisha Academic Services (OAS) officers deployed to the 9 districts and have reached the respective districts today.
- Twenty-eight fully functional National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams with CSSR (collapse, structure, searches, and rescue) equipment have been deployed for aiding evacuations and community awareness for 'dos and don'ts'. Eighteen units are local state units and 10 additional have been mobilized from other states in the country.
- Three hundred boats have been kept on standby for rescue and relief.
- Chief Minister reviewed the restoration and rehabilitation process with the departments of Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Health & Family Welfare, Rural Development, Works and Panchayat Raj, and Telecom.
- Chief Minister reviewed evacuation of population from low lying areas with the district collectors of Puri, Khurda, Jagatsingpur, Kendrapada, Ganjam, Gajapati, and Cuttack and focused on mobilization of women, children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.
- Total of 33,02,157 messages were relayed to population in 11 districts through the Early Warning Dissemination System from State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Sector specific response

Health

- The health department has 164 Mobile Health Teams (MHT), 6 Mobile Health Units (MHU), 137 of 108 basic and advanced life support vehicles and 168 of 102 vehicles for transport of pregnant women in the 8 districts likely to be affected the most (Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda). 52 additional MHTs have been deployed from other parts of the state. Additional 268 MHTs and MHUs are on standby for deployment in affected districts.
- Live saving and emergency medicine and supplies, including Anti Snake Venom have been prepositioned at health facilities in the 14 coastal districts
- All Medical College and District Headquarter Hospitals initiated dedicated teams and earmarked casualty wards for cyclone response
- State has ensured availability of adequate supply of sanitary napkins at the shelter homes

Nutrition

- Adequate stock of Take Home Ration (THR) for eligible beneficiaries distributed to the shelters; Anganwadi centres; state and NGO run child care institutions
- Advance stock of THR and eggs for 7 days to the eligible beneficiaries secured and distributed to the affected districts
- Instructions issued to Anganwadi Workers to visit the shelters and enlist high-risk pregnant women and children for proper management

WASH

- Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department (PRDW) has operationalized 24x7 control room for water supply and sanitation issues
- Provision of safe drinking water distributed to all shelters
- PRDW has ensured arrangement of generators with fuel for at least 7 days to ensure uninterrupted water supply
- Drinking water supply ensured for identified habitations which are exclusively dependent on Solar panels

Child Protection

- Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCRCR) has issued guidelines to the districts to ensure child friendly spaces in the relief shelters, to avoid any child abuse.

UNICEF Actions

- UNICEF is closely monitoring the situation with IAG and other UN agencies. The second EMT meeting took place today to review the situation and discuss possible plan of action.
- UNICEF convened a meeting of all UN partners to take stock of the situation and response coordination.
- NGO partners were briefed on CCC and on specific advisories / communication material from the line departments.
- UNICEF will activate an Emergency Information Center within the office to collect, compile and share information on cyclone FANI from 3rd May.
- UNICEF, through its civil society partners, has agreed to support the health department in ensuring continuity of the immunization system and tracking all Pregnant Women with EDD within 2 weeks and sick children for relocation to health facilities / management as appropriate¹.
- A booklet with Key Messages developed by UNICEF (WASH & C4D) on storm / flood response shared with partners, state departments, and CSO partners.
- UNICEF has shared key messages on key Child Protection in Emergencies with IAG and NGO partners in the district, dealing with directly with the cyclone emergency response.



Source of information:

- Government bulletins
- Circulars from respective line departments
- Information form IAG and partner NGOs
- Media

Who to contact for further information:

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¹ [State health department working is close convergence with UNICEF Immunization services continuity circular](#)
[MNCH service continuity circular](#)