

## INDIA: ORISSA CYCLONE

17 October 2000

*appeal no. 28/99*

*situation report no. 13*

*period covered: 1 - 30 September 2000*

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*A year after the occurrence of the disaster, life in the cyclone-affected areas is gradually returning to normal. Renovation work has progressed well over the reporting period, whereas construction of cyclone-resistant housing is delayed because of continued heavy rain which has resulted in deteriorated road conditions. Training courses were held in September focusing on search and rescue operations and disaster preparedness and management for community volunteers.*

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### *The context*

A violent cyclone hit India's eastern coast on Friday, 29 October 1999. Winds of up to 260 kph (155 mph) raged for over 36 hours. The winds caused a 7 meter tidal wave that swept more than 20 km inland and brought massive destruction and death to a number of coastal districts in the state of Orissa.

It is estimated that more than 10 million people in 12 coastal belt districts were affected by the cyclone. More than 10,000 people lost their lives.

The Indian Red Cross responded immediately with an emergency relief operation. With the support of the Federation, the Orissa State branch extended the emergency relief operation to a three-month relief operation and later a six-month rehabilitation programme. The scale of the rehabilitation programme, in addition to the difficult environment, particularly the incessant monsoon rain and the acute shortage of masons, has resulted in a further extension of the operation until 31 December 2000.

## ***Latest events***

Life in the cyclone-affected areas is gradually returning to normal. Almost a year later, the hearing of over 700 victims of the cyclone organised by the Centre for Legal Aid to the Poor has emphasised the fact that improved disaster management, training and construction of cyclone shelters could significantly reduce the impact of a cyclone.

The situation in the drought-hit areas of western Orissa seems to be worsening. Of fourteen drought hit districts, the Chief Minister of Orissa state has paid several visits to the most affected districts of Nuapara, Bargarh and Jharusuguda in order to obtain as much first hand information as possible. The Chief Minister is planing to visit New Delhi and meet with the Indian Prime Minister in order to seek financial assistance for the affected population.

The government's main concern is that if the situation does not to improve in October, a severe drought situation may develop in the western parts of the State towards the end of the year. It has been reported that 90 per cent of the crops, even those in the low lands, have been damaged because of erratic rainfall and water sources such as ponds have become dry. Increased migration of tribal villagers has also been also reported.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Rehabilitation •**

The implementation time frame for the rehabilitation phase of the Orissa Cyclone '99 operation has officially been extended until 31 December 2000.

Heavy rains have further deteriorated the access roads to the construction sites making it difficult to move even in tractors. This continues to slow down the production and transport of building materials. Progress as regards the rehabilitation programme is as follows:

As previously reported, the following activities have been successfully completed:

- Distribution of supplementary food to 9,468 beneficiaries
- Distribution of 20,000 mosquito nets in the coastal belt areas
- Distribution of educational kits to 300 primary schools
- Distribution of medical equipment and medicines to five Red Cross medical facilities
- Distribution of 1,000 agricultural kits
- Construction of 135 water tube wells
- Strengthening of Orissa State branch through disaster preparedness workshops

### ***Renovation and/or upgrading of the Red Cross Maternity Hospital in Berhampur •***

As reported, the renovation of the Red Cross maternity hospital in Berhampur has been successfully completed. An official inauguration was organised on 29 September 2000 during which the ECHO representative from Bangladesh officially opened the hospital in the presence of the Federation representative, Orissa State branch representatives, local authorities, medical staff and beneficiaries. The Orissa State television and newspaper agencies covered the event.

### ***Renovation and upgrading of the Red Cross Blood Bank in Cuttack •***

After the introduction of new the contractor, the pace of work increased and the electrical installations and painting of the building were completed in the third week of September.

***Renovation/reconstruction of Red Cross Dispensaries •***

Construction work on one of the dispensaries in Tikarapanga in Kendrapara district was completed at the end of this month; medical materials and medicines were also delivered. As regards the other two dispensaries in Asan and Bahrak districts, progress has been significant. A roof has been cast for one of the dispensaries and the preparation is in progress for the other dispensary. Completion of this work is anticipated for 31 October 2000.

***Renovation of the Orissa State branch headquarters •***

The final work on the headquarters building was completed in the second week of September.

***Building materials for cyclone resistant housing •***

The building centre in Jagatsinghpur has brought in more manpower and materials. As a result, 30 houses are at various stages of completion. "Aware", a locally contracted NGO, has also reported that 25 houses are at various stages of completion. Work is continuing on the production of materials. "Vikash" another locally contracted NGO for production of material and construction of houses, has concentrated on the production of building materials and has already begun to transport them to the field. It is important to mention that, although the monsoon rain was expected to wane during the month of September, there has recently been unexpected heavy rain in the operational area, worsening road conditions which make transport impossible even by tractor. Road conditions and transportation problems were discussed with the Special Relief Commissioner. He explained that the government would be undertaking improvement of roads in these areas which will consequently facilitate the rehabilitation progress.

***Reconstruction of schools •***

Of nine schools-cum-shelters entrusted to construction agencies, one has been completed and was inaugurated on 27 September. Work on three other schools has reached the first floor roof level and is scheduled for completion by 31 October. On four buildings, where piling work has been completed, construction has reached various stages at ground floor level. At one school site where a problem has occurred in the piling work carried out by the construction agency, action has been taken in order to make the necessary repairs. Regular meetings are held with the construction agencies and the consultant to monitor progress.

***Credit-Saving Schemes •***

By the last week of September, the total number of self help group (SHG) accounts reached the targeted objective of fifty-six accounts.

***Buffer Stocks •***

The Indian Red Cross Society headquarters continues to send buffer stocks to the Orissa State branch.

***Other Red Cross activities •***

The first international training course on search and rescue operations was organised in the IRCSS Orissa state branch's disaster preparedness training centre. 22 participants underwent both theoretical and practical training. There were eleven participants from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's CBDP programme, two participants from the United Nations' Volunteers, together with programme officers and volunteers. The training was facilitated by the Civil Defence Organisation of the government of Orissa.

A disaster preparedness and management training course for community level volunteers and task force members in the project villages was also organised and 30 participants took part.

As a response to the recent devastating floods in West Bengal, IRCS Orissa State branch used its buffer stocks to send 10 MT of rice and non-food items to the flood victims.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The appeal is fully covered and there are no outstanding needs.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Weekly co-ordination meetings of international organisations and NGOs continue to be held in Bhubaneswar. The participants continue to share information on the ongoing activities in their respective districts. The main focus has been on disaster preparedness training and the implementation of rehabilitation programmes.

All agencies working on rehabilitation in the state of Orissa are facing a similar problem with transportation and production of building materials as a result of the monsoon rains which are continuing to aggravate the deteriorated condition of the roads.

The Head of Reuters Foundation, India, visited Orissa on 27 September 2000 and inaugurated the rehabilitated school in the village of Saraswati, which was funded by the Reuters Foundation in India.

The ECHO representative in Bangladesh also visited Orissa during the last week of September. A meeting was held with the regional relief co-ordinator and a joint field visit organised to the sites where rehabilitation is taking place.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

With the completion of distribution of agricultural kits and mosquito nets and the construction of water tube wells, the number of cases of malaria and water borne diseases cases diminished during the month of September. Beneficiaries of the agricultural project have recommenced their agricultural activities, reinforcing their self-sustainability. Through the renovation of medical facilities, the provision of medical equipment and medicines, the standard of medical services has significantly increased, thus attracting more people seeking medical assistance to the Red Cross facilities. The overall situation has begun to improve; however, the rehabilitation of schools and housing units is progressing slowly as a result of continued heavy rains.

Director  
Operations Funding and  
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Asia & Pacific Department

**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

INDIA - CYCLONE ORISSA						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 28/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			10/17/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				7,200,000	01/01/99	102.37%
AMERICAN - RC		350,000	USD	550,900	01/28/00	
AUSTRALIA		34,179	AUD	33,615	03/01/00	
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	62,250	11/03/99	20'000 FOR RICE
BRITISH - RC		28,692	GBP	71,443	11/19/99	RELIEF GOODS, OPER. COSTS
BRITISH - RC		7,000	GBP	18,130	04/04/00	COSTS OF REPOR. DELEGATE
BRITISH - GOVT		245,000	GBP	610,050	11/01/99	BLANKETS, TRANSP. STORAGE AND LOCAL STAFF SALARIES
BRITISH - RC/DEC		400,000	GBP	1,000,000	11/01/99	220'000 FOOD, 100'000 BLANKETS, 60'000 SHELTER, 20'000 OP. SUPP COSTS
BRITISH - PRIVATE		50	GBP	125	12/01/99	
BRITISH - PRIVATE				16,542	03/20/00	
CANADIAN - RC		296,770	CAD	311,312	11/16/99	
CANADIAN - RC		74,075	CAD	80,349	04/05/00	
CANADIAN - GOVT		150,000	CAD	157,350	11/04/99	NOT FOR TRANSPORT OF FOOD ITEMS
CHINA, HONG-KONG - RC				101,678	24.12.99	UNANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTION
DENMARK - RC				107,850	11/09/99	
DENMARK - RC				105,000	11/17/99	MT 627 RICE
DENMARK - RC				2,165	12/30/99	
ECHO (DEIN02)		880,000	EUR	1,418,120	03/03/00	
FINLAND - RC		50,456	EUR	80,931	11/05/99	
FINLAND - RC/GOVT		168,188	EUR	270,194	11/05/99	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		500,000	DEM	410,000	11/24/99	225mt rice, 18 mt cooking oil, 45 mtdat, 960 blankets, 4800 kitchen sete, 4800 tarpaulins, 1 mln water tablets and 700 kg bleaching powder
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,208	11/06/99	
INDIA - PRIVATE				240	11/30/99	
ITALY - RC		65,774,900	ITL	54,264	01/12/00	
JAPAN - RC				150,000	11/25/99	
KUWAIT - RC		50,000	USD	77,000	11/23/99	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				10,800	11/23/99	
LIECHTENSTEIN - PRIVATE		100,000	GBP	250,000	12/15/99	
MONACO - RC		25,000	FRF	6,088	01/04/00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		250,000	NLG	181,932	11/01/99	
NETHERLANDS - RC		500,000	NLG	364,381	12/06/99	
NETHERLANDS - RC		238,810	NLG	174,705	11/01/99	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		200,000	NZD	161,820	11/04/99	
SPANISH - RC		5,000,000	ESP	48,200	11/01/99	
SINGAPORE - RC				15,000	12/23/99	
SWEDEN - RC		1,000,000	SEK	186,300	11/23/99	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE				7,270	01/21/00	
SWITZERLAND - GOVT				140,000	12/02/99	
SWITZERLAND - RC				10,000	12/02/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE		512	USD	788	12/08/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE				7,180	03/13/00	
UNITED STATES - RC		50	USD	77	12/01/99	
UNITED STATES - RC		50,000	USD	76,250	11/03/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE		5,000	USD	7,700	11/12/99	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				7,342,207	CHF	101.98%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Denmark	Delegate(s)			8,706		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			19,877	06/15/00	Year 2000
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				28,583	CHF	0.40%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	