

INDIA : ORISSA CYCLONE

Appeal no:28/99
(preliminary) 1 November
1999

***THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 4,300,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 50,000 FAMILIES FOR 3 MONTHS***

Summary

A violent cyclone, the second in 12 days, has created widespread devastation on India's eastern coast, affecting up to one million people. Indian Red Cross teams are taking part in immediate relief efforts and an Indian Red Cross/Federation rapid assessment team is investigating needs and identifying the most vulnerable. This appeal seeks support to respond to the immediate needs of the most vulnerable -- food, shelter materials, clothing, medicines and basic domestic items.

The Disaster

A violent cyclone hit India's eastern coast at noon local time on Friday 29 October, crossing the coast at approximately 600 km southeast of the port of Parade in Orissa State. Winds of 260 kph (155 mph) and 20 foot tidal waves flattened homes, trees and utility poles, causing massive destruction and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of families in the districts of Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri and Bhubaneswar. Indian Government sources predict that nearly one million people could be affected by the storm, described by meteorologists as a "super cyclone". Firm figures on the numbers killed are not available, but latest estimates are in the thousands, with some official estimates as high as 4,000. Communications with much of the area have broken down and travel is difficult due to flooding and infrastructural damage.

The Response so far

Government Action w

Rescue operations were initially hampered because of difficulties in reaching the affected area and the general breakdown of communications. The Indian Army is now participating in the relief operation. The State Government, which was still involved with rehabilitation of the victims of the previous cyclone in Ganjam when the second cyclone occurred, has set up a control room in Bhubaneswer to co-ordinate the response to the disaster and to keep the district authorities posted on the latest developments.. Officials say they have already evacuated 50,000 people from low-lying coastal areas in the districts of Ganjam and Jagatsinghpur to safer places. It is also planned to distribute food, vaccine and plastic sheeting to storm victims.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

Red Cross teams are already in the field, many still on assignment in response to the cyclone that occurred eleven days earlier. Red Cross volunteers are assisting with the evacuation effort and are helping to distribute emergency food, shelter material and clothing. The Indian Red Cross immediately sent emergency buffer stocks, including blankets, emergency rations, assorted clothing, cloth sheeting, plastic sheeting and water purification tablets, from its warehouse in Calcutta.

Many families were evacuated to Red Cross cyclone shelters, established as part of a long term preparedness programme sponsored by the German Red Cross.

The Federation is releasing CHF 200,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the operation.

Co-ordination w

The Government maintains overall responsibility for the operation. The IRCS is working alongside all other parties in the affected areas.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

An initial assessment has already been carried out by the local branch of the Indian Red Cross. A joint Indian Red Cross/Federation rapid assessment team is now in the field making a full assessment, despite severe logistical constraints. The State Branch of the Indian Red Cross is updating the Indian Red Cross National Headquarters and the Federation on a regular basis.

Immediate Needs •

Many supplies are already arriving in the area from Indian Red Cross stocks located in Calcutta and elsewhere. The following needs have been identified:

Shelter Materials: Tarpaulins and plastic sheeting are required

Food: Family food stocks have been washed away or spoiled and markets and shops have also lost their stocks, causing a severe shortage of food in the area. The immediate food needs which the Red Cross will cover are rice and cooking oil. These basic items will be supplemented with beans, lentils and other foodstuffs as necessary.

Medicines: Various medical items are needed to prevent water borne diseases and other health problems.

Domestic items: Families in need will be supplied with clothing, cooking utensils, water containers, lamps, blankets, bed linen, groundsheets and plastic sheets.

The drinking water system has been completely destroyed in many places, creating a real threat to health. The Government is addressing the problem, but the Red Cross will continue to monitor the situation.

Red Cross Objectives •

The overall objective of the relief operation is to provide the most vulnerable with immediate necessities in order to help sustain life and livelihood.

The operation's specific objectives are as follows:

- ◆ To help meet immediate food needs.
- ◆ To treat people suffering from cyclone related injuries and diseases, including the reduction of diarrhoeal diseases.
- ◆ To provide immediate temporary shelter and shelter materials for families whose homes have been destroyed.
- ◆ To help families back on the road to recovery by providing building materials, domestic items such as kitchen sets for family food preparation, and basic tools.
- ◆ To build on the capacity of the Indian Red Cross Society and the local community.

Procurement •

All procurement will be carried out in India by the Indian Red Cross in collaboration with the Federation. Standard Federation procedures will be applied to all procurement. Emergency stocks maintained by the Indian Red Cross have already been drawn on, in order to begin the relief operation. These will be replaced as part of the appeal.

Duration •

The operation will be completed within three months.

Distribution •

The Indian Red Cross will be responsible for organising the initial central distribution. State and district branches will carry out distributions in the field with guidance and support from national staff coordinators. Volunteers and youth members will be heavily involved in the process, with overall guidance and monitoring being provided by the IRCS/Federation.

Selection of beneficiaries •

An initial selection of the most vulnerable is presently being undertaken by the joint Indian Red Cross/Federation rapid assessment team.

Warehousing •

Wherever possible local suppliers will be found who can transport the supplies to the nearest distribution point, thereby reducing the need for stockpiling and redistribution between warehouses.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

This appeal will assist the most vulnerable families who have lost everything as a result of the cyclone. The most urgent need is for financial support to enable the Indian Red Cross to maintain its current relief effort.

Margareta Wahlström
Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber
Secretary General

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

INDIA - ORISSA CYCLONE

Preliminary budget

APPEAL No. 28/99

IN CHF

ANNEX I

RELIEF NEEDS**Food items**

Rice	590,000
Cooking oil	215,000

Non food items

Blankets	620,000
Kitchen sets	805,000
Tarpaulins	536,000
Clothing (ladies sarees/gents dhoties)	565,000

Medical items

Basic Drugs	300,000
-------------	---------

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	3,631,000
---------------------------	------------------

<u>Capital expenditures</u>	95,000
------------------------------------	---------------

<u>Transport, storage & vehicles costs</u>	188,000
---	----------------

Personnel

Expat staff	160,000
National staff	100,000

Administrative, office & general services

Travel & Communications	25,000
Assessment/Survey mission/Monitoring/Evaluation	10,000
Printing Costs/Information/Visibility	5,000
Other administrative services	25,000
Secretariat operational support	156,000

TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	669,000
--------------------------------	----------------

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	4,300,000
-------------------------------------	------------------

LESS PLEDGES ANNOUNCED	0
------------------------	----------

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	4,300,000
------------------------------------	------------------

All items are to be purchased locally