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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) India: Cyclone Phailin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN013
GLIDE n° [TC-2013-000133-IND](#)
14 October 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.

CHF 500,000 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Cyclone Phailin, categorised as "very severe" by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and one of the most severe cyclone in recent years by weather forecasters, has made landfall at the eastern coast of India, passing



India's Cyclone Phailin leaves trail of destruction. **Photo:** BBC News India.

through Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states in the evening of 12 October 2013, with a windspeed of 210-220 kmph. It has triggered the India's biggest evacuation operation in 23 years, according to Special Relief Commissioner of government authority, more than 700,000 people have been evacuated so far as preparedness action. So far, it was reported that 8 million people are affected, and about 200,000 rural houses being partially or fully damaged. seven cyclone related deaths have been reported so far, while the level of damage would need to be further assessed.

The Government of India has been active in planning and preparation of the rescue and relief efforts on the eve of cyclone. The Indian army has been on standby in the two coastal states for emergency and relief operations. Helicopters are ready to assist distribution of food packages through air to the storm-affected areas. The Navy, Air-Force, National Disaster Response Forces (NDRF), have been pressed into service to assist in rescue and relief operation. According to National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) 2,000 personnel of the NDRF have been deployed to Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. While relief actions are on going, Government of India has not issued a request for international support at this time being.

Communication remains disrupted. Roads and electricity are heavily affected by the storm. All air and train communication have been cancelled along the cyclone route. As per latest media reports 183 trains

cancelled, 22 partially cancelled, 26 diverted due to cyclone. Posting a lot of challenges in allowing assess the real damage situation on the ground.

India Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been actively assisting in the evacuation process, and provided assistance in the government evacuation centres with trained volunteers. As the situation gradually clears, IRCS, with support by IFRC, will provide more immediate emergency support to the affected population while assessing the gaps and needs. This DREF operation mainly seeks to support IRCS in providing emergency relief, safe drinking water and hygiene promotion activities to the most affected area. It is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 14 April 2014; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 14 July 2014).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Cyclone Phailin made landfall into Gopalpur in Odisha state at over 200 kmph in the evening of 12 October 2013. Storm surge was recorded at 3 to 3.5 metres. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) categorized the cyclone as very severe, and forecasted that the intensity of rainfall will increase after the landfall. The cyclone hit an area that is relatively high in vulnerability, including rural areas where “thatched” houses, mainly made of straw and mud, are common shelters. The scale of damage to houses and belongings, as well as future livelihoods; damaged field crops, plantations, loss of stored food and agricultural inputs, could be huge. Yet its full impact is still to be assessed.

Nearly 700,000 people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh state have been evacuated by the government with active support from the local Red Cross branches. The government set up evacuation centers in cyclone shelters, schools and other public buildings.

Initial reports from Indian Red Cross Society show that roughly 8 million people are affected, with about 200,000 rural houses partially or fully damaged due to the cyclone and its accompanying rainfall and flooding. Therefore, a large number of the evacuees cannot return home in any foreseeable future and emergency needs will be required to support them.

In other areas like Srikakulam district, it is indicated that with the increase in tide level, sea water has entered the villages of Vadapalem, Kotturu, Baruva, Edduvaripalem, Kotta, Kalingapatnam, Gabshiguda and Mogadalapadu, affecting at least 2,300 people so far. These people have been shifted to evacuation centres managed by district officials with support to IRCS branches volunteers.

Power black outs continue from Ichchapuram to Palasa. Waters level in rivers Vamsadhara and Nagavalli are expected to rise above the danger level. Travelling to the affected area has been constrained by the halt of all air-flight and trains due to the cyclone, and many highways along coastline were affected and closed. Mobile communication has been seriously disrupted in the affected area due to the storms. This further complicated the emergency response.

Coordination and partnerships

Both the government and India Red Cross Society (IRCS) have geared up search & rescue, evacuation and relief efforts in the impacted cyclone areas. IRCS has played an integral part in assisting the government’s evacuation operations in both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. An Inter-Agency Group meeting was held in the Odisha State Red Cross branch office to prepare for further coordination. Other coordination meetings will be held when required in the coming days.

The IRCS and the IFRC South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) in Delhi has planned to have joint field assessment on 14 October 2013 to the affected areas. Close coordination with the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur is underway to discuss provision of additional technical and funding support, for the affected people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National level:

- An Emergency Control Room is set up at the Indian Red Cross National Headquarters as the operations centre.
- Joint IRCS/IFRC assessment team will be dispatched to Odisha state, which is worst hit, by 14 October 2013.
- About 11,000 tarpaulins and one NOMAD water treatment unit are being dispatched from the IRCS national warehouse to the affected areas for immediately relief to the people evacuated. Some more tarpaulins will be mobilized from regional warehouses.

Odisha state

- Two SETA water treatment units have been prepositioned in the capital of Odisha state - Bhubaneswar. These units will be managed by IRCS National Disaster Water and Sanitation Response Team (NDWRT). The team has been trained with specialized skills to ensure these units are operational and ready for deployment.
- A preparedness meeting was held on 11 October 2013 at the Odisha State Red Cross branch level. Response teams' members - including State Disaster Response Team (SDRT), District Disaster Response Team (DDRT), and First Medical Responders (FMR) - are positioned in areas with higher risks.
- The IRCS Odisha state branch control room is opened and maintaining a 24-hour monitoring.
- 75 Red Cross community cyclone shelters along coastal areas are opened. These centres served as important bases for local villagers as the government has called for evacuation along coastal areas to minimize casualties.

Andhra Pradesh state

- The IRCS Andhra Pradesh state Red Cross branch's response teams, including SDRT, DDRT, and FMR, are all on alert. A total of 62 First Medical Responders have been deployed to the districts of Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam.
- As reported on 12 October 2013, five teams comprising 39 trained Red Cross volunteers (SDRT/DDRT/CFMR/search and rescue & first aid teams) have been deployed in Srikakulam district. The trained Red Cross volunteer teams have been assisting the district administration in evacuation and relief operations.
- 200 tarpaulins and 200 bed sheets prepositioned in Srikakulam district, which is close to the community in higher risks has been mobilized and distributed in government evacuation centre.
- As per orders issued by the Srikakulam district collector, 4 shelters have been allotted for the deployed Red Cross volunteers in Itchapuram, Kalingapatnam, Gara and Mogadalapadu villages
- In Vijayanagaram district, two teams comprising of 20 trained Red Cross volunteers (SDRT/DDRT/search and rescue & first aid teams) have been deployed to Makkam village located very close to sea to assist the district administration in two relief camps.

The needs

At this stage, the most urgent gaps identified are:

- Immediate emergency shelter and essential household items, including shelter materials, clothing, kitchen sets, water buckets, etc.
- Shortage of safe drinking water in some affected areas

Access plays a key role in this initial stage. Including resources to support transportation of relief items. Further deployment of State Disaster Response Team (SDRT)/ National Disaster Response Team (NDRT)/ National Disaster WatSan Response Team (NDWRT) members and volunteers are essential to make sure the relief materials will reach the affected population effectively.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is based on the initial assessments conducted by the local branches of IRCS in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and available information from the government. The DREF operation will provide immediate support on the IRCS operation. IRCS is considering a national appeal to fill the gaps of the needs based on a further assessment.

The DREF operation will cover below area:

1. Needs assessments

2. Emergency relief items distribution to 5,500 families (27,500 beneficiaries)
3. Emergency shelter materials distribution to 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries)
4. Access to safe water for 5,000 people

At this point, there is no requirement for the health component to be part of the proposed operation.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)
Outcome: The immediate basic non-food items and temporary shelter needs of the 15,000 cyclone affected families (75,000 beneficiaries) are met through distribution of family packs and tarpaulins.
Outputs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) received basic shelter items. • 5,500 families (27,500 beneficiaries) received basic non-food items.
Proposed Activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of NDRT/NDWRT/SDRT/volunteers to conduct needs assessments. • Verify/prepare lists of beneficiaries, and identify distribution points. • Mobilization of stocks from available warehouses – taking into consideration the destroyed infrastructure and difficult access. • Distribution of tarpaulins¹ as temporary shelters or repairing of damaged houses for 15,000 families. • Distribution of family pack² including basic relief items to 5,500 families. • Replenishment of the distributed stocks. • Regular monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC. • Conduct Lessons Learnt workshop after the completion of the operation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
Outcome: The risks of water and sanitation related diseases have been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion.
Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to safe drinking water to the 5,000 cyclone affected people. • Improve hygiene knowledge and behaviour of the 5,000 cyclone affected people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment to identify villages for intervention. • Mobilize and installation of water treatment units once location identified and condition allows. • Establishing water distribution system. • Training volunteers on Hygiene Promotion. • Hygiene promotion activities to affected community by the IRCS volunteers. • Monitoring of use of household level water treatment and storage.

Communication

SARD Communication Manager is supporting IRCS with international media coverage which was extensive so far. Articles were posted on the IFRC website to enhance public understanding of the disaster needs and operations. Field visits will be conducted to capture visual materials reflecting the actual needs and operation in the field in the coming days.

To keep timely information update, two information bulletins have been published prior to Cyclone Phailin made landfall, which could be find by clicking the following links: [Information bulletin 1](#) and [Information bulletin 2](#)

¹ The current plan only provides one tarpaulin (instead of normally two) per family to seek more coverage of families as the needs showed. Once more resources and access is available, the number of tarpaulins provided to each family will be reviewed and may be adjusted.

² One family pack includes mosquito nets, sarees, dhoti, bucket, kitchen set, cotton blanket, towel and bedsheets.

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



Click here

1. DREF budget **below**
2. Map **below**
3. Click **here** to return to the title page

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:

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 OPERATION

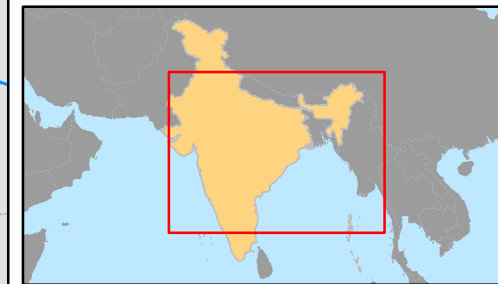
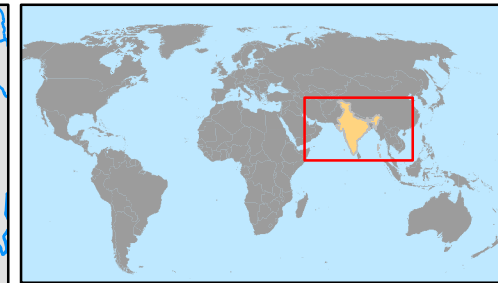
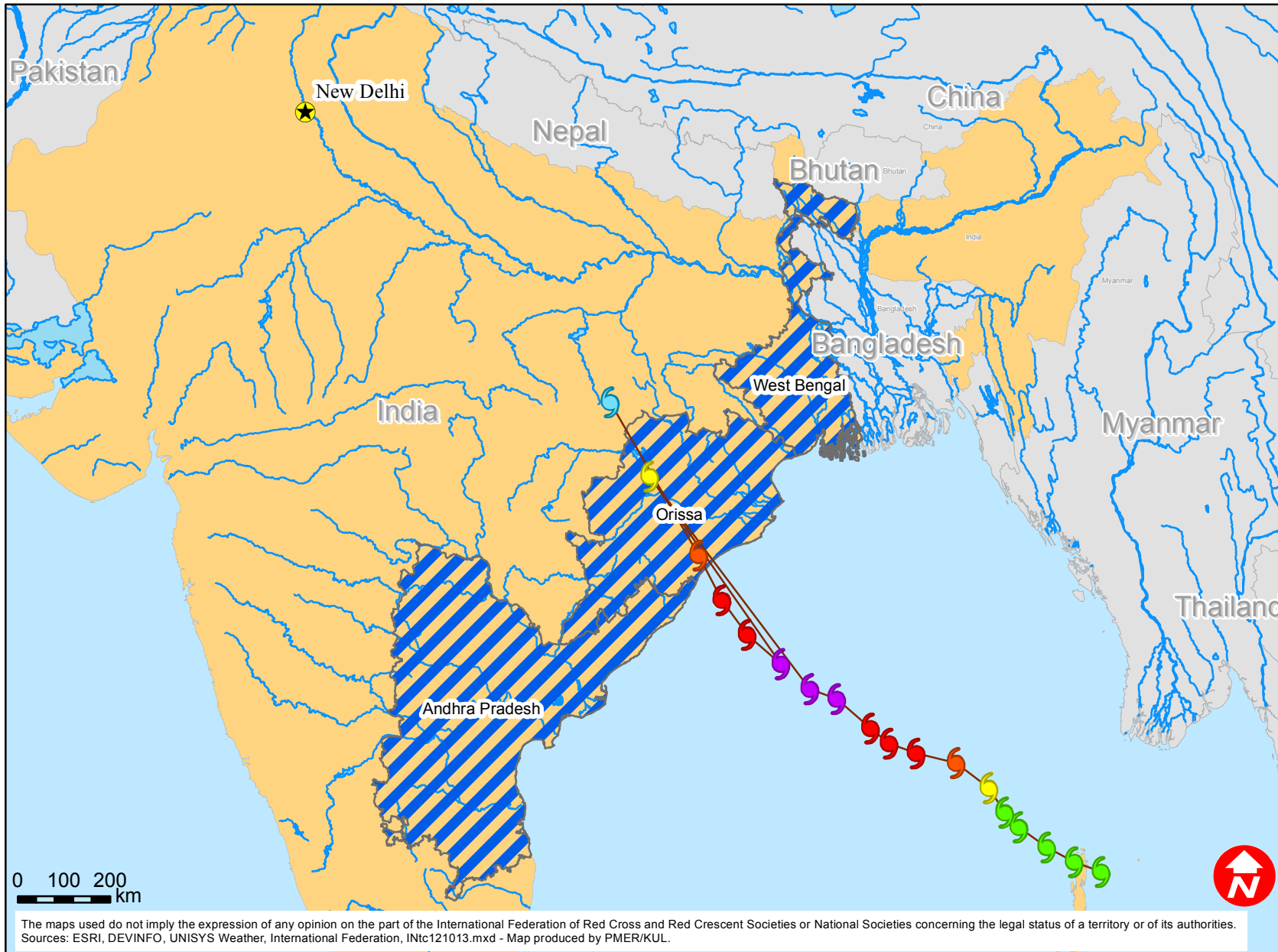
14/10/2013









MDRIN013 India Cyclone Phailin

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	405,975
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,344
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	408,319
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,500
Logistics Services	26,164
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	38,664
Volunteers	11,719
Total PERSONNEL	11,719
Workshops & Training	2,344
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,344
Travel	5,859
Information & Public Relations	781
Communications	1,172
Financial Charges	157
Other General Expenses	469
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,438
Programme and Services Support Recovery	30,516
Total INDIRECT COSTS	30,516
TOTAL BUDGET	500,000



India: Cyclone Phailin



-  TROPICAL DEPRESSION
-  TROPICAL STORM
-  CYCLONE-1
-  CYCLONE-3
-  CYCLONE-4
-  CYCLONE-5
-  Cyclone Phailin
-  Affected area