

Information bulletin

India: Cyclone Phailin

Information Bulletin n° 1 12 October 2013

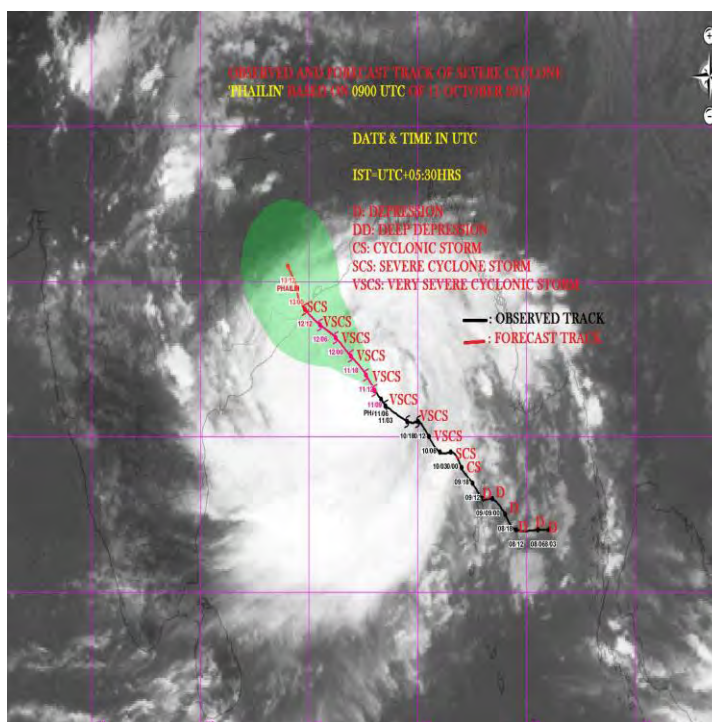
This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is closely monitoring the situation for further actions.

The situation

Cyclonic storm Phailin which formed over east central Bay of Bengal is forecast to move north-westwards across north Andhra Pradesh and the Odisha coast between Kalingapatnam and Paradip, close to Gopalpur of the Odisha state in the southern part of India. It is estimated to make landfall by the evening of 12 October 2013. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) categorized the cyclone as a very severe one with a maximum sustained wind speed of 210-220 km/h. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued a category 5 signal, being the highest category, suggesting the cyclone could make landfall with a maximum speed of 350 km/h.

Early warning messages were issued in the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Along with squally winds, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is also forecast in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and other coastal areas of West Bengal over the coming days. Authorities have warned that storm surges with a height of around 3.0 metres above astronomical tide could possibly inundate low-lying areas of Ganjam, Khurda, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha and Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh following Cyclone Phailin making landfall.

Indian government actions through the Navy, Air Force, and National Disaster Response Forces (NDRF), are ready for a relief and rescue operation as soon as the cyclone hits the coast. More than 1,600 personnel of the NDRF have been dispatched to Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. As of yesterday afternoon, 11 October 2013, local authorities are also assisting the evacuation of 64,000 people (approximately 12,800 families) from low-lying areas in north coastal Andhra districts. A total of 5,000 families are being evacuated in Puri, with another 30,000 families scheduled for evacuation.



Cyclone track forecast by India Meteorological Department, as of 0900, UTC, 11 October 2013.

Source: India Meteorological Department

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 11 October 2013, the headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), together with its Odisha and Andhra Pradesh State branches, worked together to ensure preparedness actions are in place, including the following actions:

National Level

- National Disaster Response Team members of IRCS are on stand-by.
- Regional Disaster Response Team members are ready for deployment when required.
- The IRCS regional warehouse at Kolkata warehouse has pre-positioned non-food items (NFIs) ready to support about 6,000 families.

Odisha State

- Two water treatment units have been pre-positioned in the capital of Odisha state, Bhubaneswar. These units will be managed by the 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), have planned to position personnel and services in areas with higher risks.
- The IRCS Odisha state branch control room is opened and will maintain 24 hours monitoring.
- Up to 75 Red Cross community cyclone shelters along coastal areas are prepared. These centres will serve as important bases for local villagers as government has called for evacuation along coastal areas to minimize casualties. Dry food rations have been pre-positioned in some cyclone shelters.
- An inter-agency group meeting was held at the Odisha State Red Cross branch office to prepare for further coordination.

Andhra Pradesh State

- The IRCS Andhra Pradesh state Red Cross branch's response teams, including SDRT, DDRT, and FMR, are all on alert. Up to 62 First Medical Responders have been deployed to the districts of Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam.
- Up to 200 tarpaulins and 200 bedsheets are pre-positioned in Srikakulam district which is close to the communities at higher risks, and are ready to be mobilized immediately.

The IFRC South Asia regional office in Delhi, which is covering operations in India, is in close coordination with the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur to scale up the support when required.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

Indian Red Cross Society:

- Dr S.P. Agarwal, Secretary-General, phone: +91 11 2371 6441;
email: spagarwalsq@indianredcross.org

IFRC South Asia regional office, New Delhi:

- Simon Missiri, Head of Regional Office, phone: +91 11 26154021 to 24, fax: +91 11 26154025;
email: simon.missiri@ifrc.org
- Enkas Chau, Regional Preparedness and Resilience Coordinator, mobile: +91 96 50200966;
email: enkas.chau@ifrc.org

- Maude Froberg, Regional Communication and Advocacy Manager, mobile: +91 813 091 8887; email: maude.froberg@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur:

- Al Panico, Head of Operations, phone: + 603 9207 5700; email: al.panico@ifrc.org
- Karen Poon, Operations Coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5798, mobile: +6013 360 0366; email: karen.poon@ifrc.org
- Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; mobile: +6012 230 86 34; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

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 \(NGOs\) 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.