

# Information bulletin

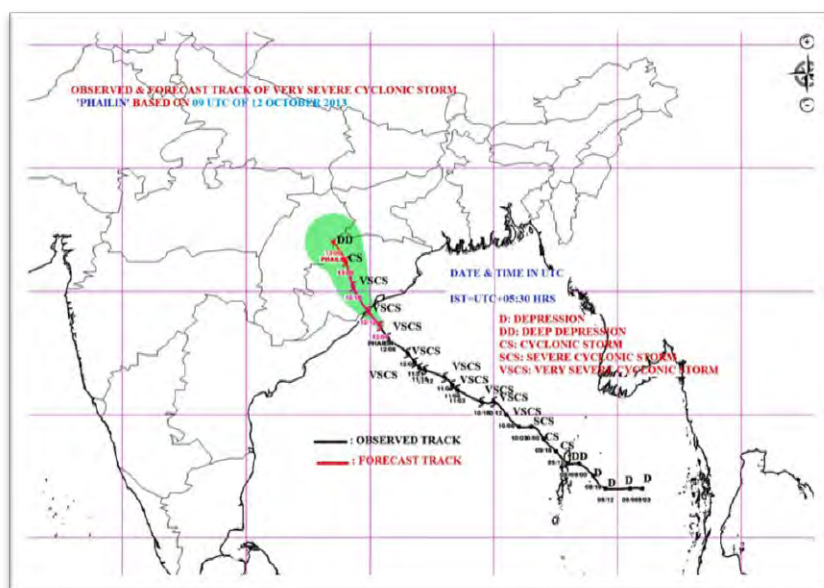
## India: Cyclone Phailin

### Information Bulletin n° 2 13 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 action.

## The situation

Cyclone Phailin, categorized as "very severe" and classified as the second most powerful cyclone to ever strike the country, made landfall on the eastern coast of India at around 9pm (local time) on 12 October 2013 with winds reaching 200km/h, marginally less severe than expected.



The cyclone track forecast as of 0900, UTC, 12 October 2013.  
Source: India Meteorological Department

Cyclone Phailin will remain a very severe cyclone up to six hours after landfall with wind gusts up to 235 km/h and heavy rain fall. Considering the magnitude of the cyclone in relation to the level of vulnerability in rural areas, the scale of damage is forecast to be huge; its full impact is yet to be assessed.

Nearly 600,000 people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh State in India have been evacuated by the government with active support from the local Indian Red Cross Society branches. Numerous relief camps have been set up in cyclone shelters, schools and public buildings, making this the largest evacuation in 23 years.

Over 500 cyclone shelters have been set up by the relevant authorities. To date, five cyclone-related deaths, due to fallen trees, have been reported in Odisha

The latest reports from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Srikakulam district branch indicates that sea water has entered the villages of Vadapalem, Kotturu, Baruva, Edduvaripalem, Kotta, Kalingapatnam, Gabshiguda and Mogadalapadu, affecting some 2,300 people so far. Those affected have been relocated to relief camps organized by district officials with support from IRCS branch volunteers.

The power supply has been cut from Ichchapuram to Palasa. Water levels in the Vamsadhara and Nagavalli rivers are expected to rise above danger levels. In terms of transport, all air and rail travel to the affected areas has been suspended due to the cyclone, with numerous highways along the coastline affected as well.

Mobile communication has been seriously disrupted in the affected areas due to the storms. This damage further complicates emergency response.

The Indian government has mobilized more manpower from the Navy, Air Force, and National Disaster Response Forces (NDRF) to the field to provide assistance with evacuation of people at risk. These forces were prepared to carry out relief and rescue operations as soon as the cyclone made landfall on the coast, with exact scale and numbers to be given.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 12 October 2013, the headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) together with its Odisha and Andhra Pradesh State branches conducted the following preparedness and response actions:

- IRCS has activated evacuation centres and pre-positioned dry food rations, while disaster preparedness stocks are also at the ready in regional warehouse in Kolkata.

- About 11,000 tarpaulins and one water treatment unit are being dispatched from the IRCS national warehouse to the affected areas to provide immediate relief for the people evacuated.

- In **Andhra Pradesh state**, as reported in [Information Bulletin no. 1](#), five teams comprising 39 trained Red Cross volunteers, including members of the State Disaster Response Team (SDRT), the District Disaster Response Team (DDRT), First Medical Responders (FMR), search and rescue, and 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. As of now, relief materials such as tarpaulin sheets and bed-sheets have been distributed among those evacuated, who are being hosted at the government relief camps.



One of the Indian Red Cross community cyclone shelters in Odisha.  
Photo: Indian Red Cross Society

- In Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh state, two teams comprising 20 trained Red Cross volunteers (SDRT/DDRT/search and rescue, and first aid teams) have been deployed to Makkam village, located very close to the sea front, to assist the district administration in two relief camps.
- At the request of the Srikakulam district authority, IRCS is working in four relief camps located in the villages of Itchapuram, Kalingapatnam, Gara and Mogadalapadu.
- In **Odisha state**, Red Cross volunteers continued to provide support along coastal areas, to village community members who have been evacuated.
- IRCS volunteers have been requested by their respective district branches to attend emergency meetings to help organize relief efforts.

Both these Red Cross branches have been coordinating with local authorities on the localities where Red Cross is providing assistance in order to avoid duplication.

IRCS and the IFRC South Asia regional delegation (SARD) in Delhi are planning a needs assessment as soon as initial access to the affected areas is allowed. Close coordination with the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur is underway for additional surge technical support and funding support, including discussions of mobilizing funds through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist the affected people in the aftermath of this severe cyclone. The SARD Communication Manager is supporting IRCS in coordinating the extensive international media coverage.

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## Contact information

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

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## 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.



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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