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Information bulletin India: Cyclone Hudhud



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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 monitoring the developing situation and at this stage is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors.

The situation

On 7 October a deep depression was formed over the North Andaman Sea, and has since turned into severe cyclonic storm named 'Hudhud', heading across the Bay of Bengal towards the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), it is likely to further intensify prior to making landfall on Sunday morning (12 October 2014) on the north Andhra Pradesh coast around Visakhapatnam. Any significant change of direction of the storm is not expected. When making landfall, the authorities predict maximum sustained surface wind speed will be around 170 km/h gusting to 180 km/h.

IMD have issued warnings for north Andhra Pradesh coast and south Odisha, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall in the districts of west and east Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam districts of north Andhra Pradesh and Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Phulbani districts of south Odisha commencing from 11 October onwards. Sea condition will gradually deteriorate from very rough to phenomenal on 12 October in the morning. Storm surge of about 1-2 meters above astronomical tide would inundate low lying areas of Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam districts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh at the time of landfall. Some predictions put the potential storm surge much higher.

Damages are expected to kutch¹ houses, alongside uprooting of large trees, partial disruption of power and communication lines and minor disruptions of the rail and road traffic. There is possibility of flooding of escape routes and damage to agricultural crops in low-lying coastal areas. IMD advised against fishing operations in area of cyclone influence, as well as evacuation from coastal areas.

Central and State Government action

The Home Ministry and State authorities of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are closely coordinating preparedness measures at this stage. Both states have extensive experience with this type of disasters and have strong disaster management capacity. The Air Force has been asked to be ready to help with rescue and relief operations, if needed.

On October 11, Around 400,000 people in 397 villages in 5 districts along the coast were ordered to evacuate. The evacuees will be shifted to 370 relief camps.

The Government of Odisha will announce by this evening whether evacuation of people from coastal areas is required. During the cyclone Phailin in 2013, almost 1 million people were evacuated in 48 hours. Early warning mechanisms have already been activated, and the population is being informed about the impending disaster.

¹ Temporary makeshift arrangements

Reportedly, thousands of members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the fire services, are being sent to coastal areas to prepare for search and rescue operations and assist with evacuations. NDRF teams are also organizing drinking water supplies, food distribution and provision of other basic amenities.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared to open 25 shelters to accommodate people affected by the cyclone. All the district administrations have been advised to be on standby for evacuation, rescue and relief efforts. Schools and other community facilities will be used as cyclone shelters where cyclone shelters are not available / accessible.

On a national level, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM) has convened to review the preparedness for relief and rescue operations ahead of the storm and the Prime Minister has also convened a meeting to take stock of the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In Odisha:

The Odisha state branch issued alert for volunteers, the State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT) members, Junior and Youth Red Cross counsellors, to be on standby for emergency response. A 24/7 control room has been set up in DM unit of IRCS-Odisha State Branch (OSB) for information dissemination. A detailed stock position of relief material available with IRCS-OSB has been established. Cyclone and flood shelters have been alerted for their preparedness to accommodate evacuees. The water supply, lighting and sanitation arrangements in the shelters shall be checked and curative measures will be taken.

Other resources available from IRCS-OSB:

- 75 cyclone shelters have been constructed in coastal districts of Odisha, and the communities in the vicinity of the shelters have been trained in first aid, search and rescue, disaster preparedness and management of cyclone shelters. A task force of 30 – 40 community members are assigned to manage each shelter. In October 2013, during cyclone Phailin, shelters provided by IRCS were successfully used for evacuation of people. Trained community volunteers played an active role in evacuation, response and recovery efforts of communities.
- Human resources – SDRTs and First Medical Responders.
- Preposition stocks – NFIs available at the warehouse in Bhubaneswar.

In Andhra Pradesh:

The IRCS district branches of Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and West Godavari have been on alert about the impending disaster. Certified First Medical Responders (CFMR), volunteers, and members of SDRT and DDRT are on standby in all the districts coordinating with the government officials. They are also prepositioned at vulnerable locations to carry out mitigation measures to save the lives of the people and reduce the impact of the impending disaster. All these members are closely coordinating with district and local authorities and also the NDRF members who are deployed in designated areas. Volunteers have been coordinating with other stakeholders and preparing for safe evacuation based on the needs.

Andhra Pradesh state branch has following trained human resource in the coastal districts. Aside from human resource, the state branch has also prepositioned stocks in the state headquarters.

S.No.	Type of trained human resource	Coverage of district	No. of persons
1	SDRT	All coastal districts	40 members (2 teams)
2	Training of Trainers in Emergency Assessment Team	8 coastal districts (except Nellore District)	20 members
3	Search and Rescue, First Aid, Emergency Assessment Teams	Srikakulam, East and West Godavari, Krishna, and Guntur	70 members each district
4	CFMR volunteers	Srikakulam and Krishna	217 members
5	NDRT and National Disaster	Guntur, Srikakulam, and Krishna	3 Members

	Water and Sanitation Response Team (NDWRT)		
6	DDRT	East Godavari, Krishna	25 members each district
7	Mock Drill	All coastal districts	50 members
8	First Aid Teams	All coastal districts	30 members in each district

Preparedness of IRCS NHQ:

- IRCS NHQ has prepositioned stock of NFIs in its six strategically located warehouses to support approximately 16,000 families.
- It has NDWRT along with prepositioned equipment to meet emergency water, sanitation and hygiene needs.
- IRCS NHQ also has NDRT which can assist state branches in assessment, coordination and relief distribution and other relief/response activities.
- If need arises, first medical responders trained by IRCS in 12 other DM programme states can be mobilised to assist Andhra Pradesh and Odisha state branches.
- The Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members with generalized and specialized skills can be mobilized based on the needs.

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 Humanitarian 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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
