

Information bulletin India: Cyclone Hudhud

Information bulletin n°2; Glide n° [TC-2014-000141-IND](#)

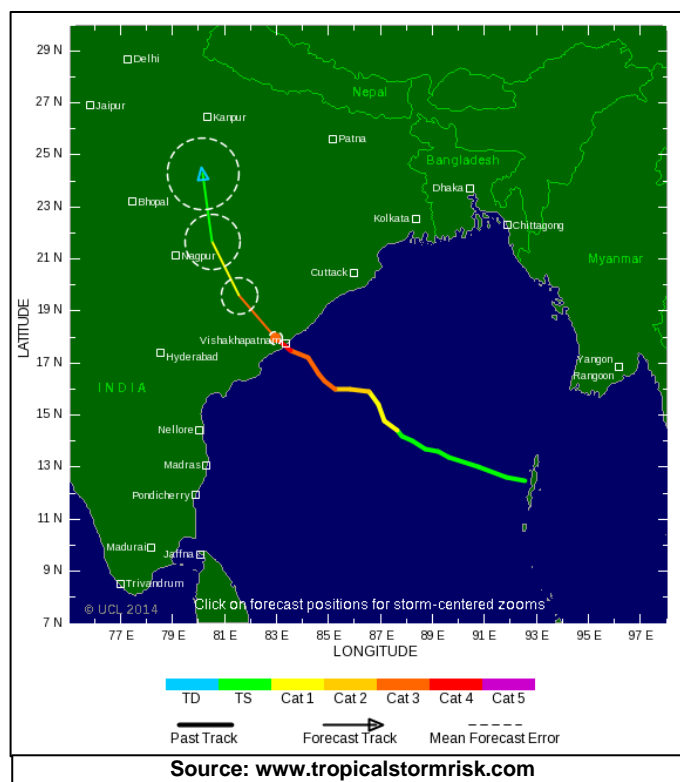
Date of issue: 14 October 2014

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 12 October 2014, the category 3 tropical cyclone Hudhud made landfall on the coast of Andhra Pradesh, near the city of Visakhapatnam (also known as Vizag). At the time of impact, the wind force was approximately 200 km/h, and height of the waves up to 3 meters. The city of Visakhapatnam was heavily damaged, including the airport, a number of buildings, electrical and telecommunications supplies and roads. Similarly, districts of Visakhapatnam, Srikulam and Vijayanagaram have encountered damages to infrastructure, communication, shelter and livelihoods. Light 'kutcha'¹ houses (mud and/or thach) have been particularly badly damaged. According to the latest media reports, the latest death toll amounted to 22, a day after the cyclone's deadly path.

According to initial government information, a total of 248,004 people in 320 villages have been affected by the cyclone and as many as 135,262 people have been evacuated and accommodated in 223 relief camps². Access to many affected villages is still difficult, and full extent of damage will be known in the next 24 to 48 hours.



The cyclone landed exactly one year after cyclone Phailin, which affected Odisha and caused heavy damages and subsequent flooding. This time, Odisha was largely spared as the cyclone's path took a slightly different direction.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed that the cyclone has lost most of its speed since last night, and has weakened into a deep depression. As a result, heavy rain is expected in Jharkhand, Bihar and parts of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal in next 24 to 48 hours, and state authorities are on flood alert. Heavy rain is however not expected in Odisha.

¹ Temporary makeshift arrangements

² The figure presented cover both state; however majority of the relief camps is in Andhra Pradesh state

Central and State Government action

The state authorities of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh have strong capacity in responding to floods and cyclones, in view of their extensive experience with these disasters, as well as being at the forefront of the government-lead National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRM). The respective state disaster management authorities (SDMA) took the lead in early warning, evacuations and deployment of state and national disaster response force teams.

In Andhra Pradesh, the state government has initiated detailed damage assessments. The Prime Minister of India is scheduled to visit Visakhapatnam on Tuesday to review the situation with the state authorities. According to the Odisha relief commissioner, no extensive damages have been reported.

It has been reported that 42 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), as well as 10 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) were engaged in rescue operations. The same teams will lead the initial response and rehabilitation of main services in affected areas, clearance of roads and facilitation of provision of basic necessities.

In recent years, increased efficiency and effectiveness of government preparedness, response and rehabilitation has become a trend, with civil society having a secondary, albeit crucial role. The IRCS strength has traditionally been seen in community mobilization, which is a result of years of investment in community-based disaster risk reduction activities. Community volunteers are seen as true owners of community safety and resilience, and agents of change in raising community awareness of risks and building of their protection measures.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Andhra Pradesh:

As of 13 October, 217 certified First Medical Responders (FMR), volunteers, and trained disaster response members have been actively involved in the initial damage assessments and immediate response in the four most affected districts of Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Vishakapatnam and East Godavari. One thousand families have been assisted with food and water in four villages. In addition, Red Cross staff and volunteers supported the local authorities in evacuations, rescue and organizing relief camps. Red Cross volunteers are also engaged in clearing fallen trees and facilitated road access to affected areas.

First aid centres and community kitchens have been established at relief camps. Medicines are kept ready at Vishakapatnam, along with a team of emergency doctors³.

Odisha:

The State Branch operates 75 cyclone shelters in Odisha, with active community volunteer engagement. In cyclone shelters of 10 vulnerable districts – Gajapati, Ganjam, Koraput, Malkangiri, Puri, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kendrapara, Kalahandi and Khorda – approximately



(Top) Red Cross volunteer clearing away the fallen tree to enable road access. (Below) Hot food is provided to the affected people in Odisha. Photo: IRCS.



³ These doctors are volunteers assigned from IRCS State Branch

2,000 people sheltered during the storm, and were provided with free food.

The IRCS National Headquarters remains on stand-by for any possible technical and relief support to state branches, as the situation becomes clearer and access to most affected villages in Andhra Pradesh improves.

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: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org

IFRC South Asia regional office, New Delhi:

- Simon Missiri, Head of Regional Office, phone: +91 11 2615 4021 to 24; fax: +91 11 2615 4025; email: simon.missiri@ifrc.org
- Olivera Burgess, Regional Programmes Coordinator, mobile: +91 96 5020 0966; email: olivera.burgess@ifrc.org
- Maude Froberg, Regional Communication and Advocacy Manager, mobile: +91 813 091 8887; email: maude.froberg@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Office:

- Andreas Weissenberg, Operations Coordinator; mobile: +60 12 230 7895; email: andreas.weissenberg@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

In Asia Pacific Zone Office:

- Peter Ophoff, Head of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting; office: +603 9207 5507; 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 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.



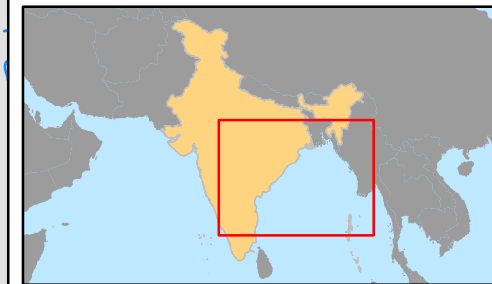
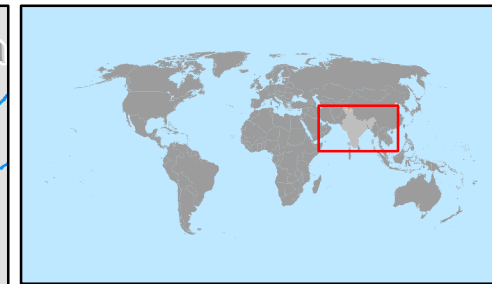
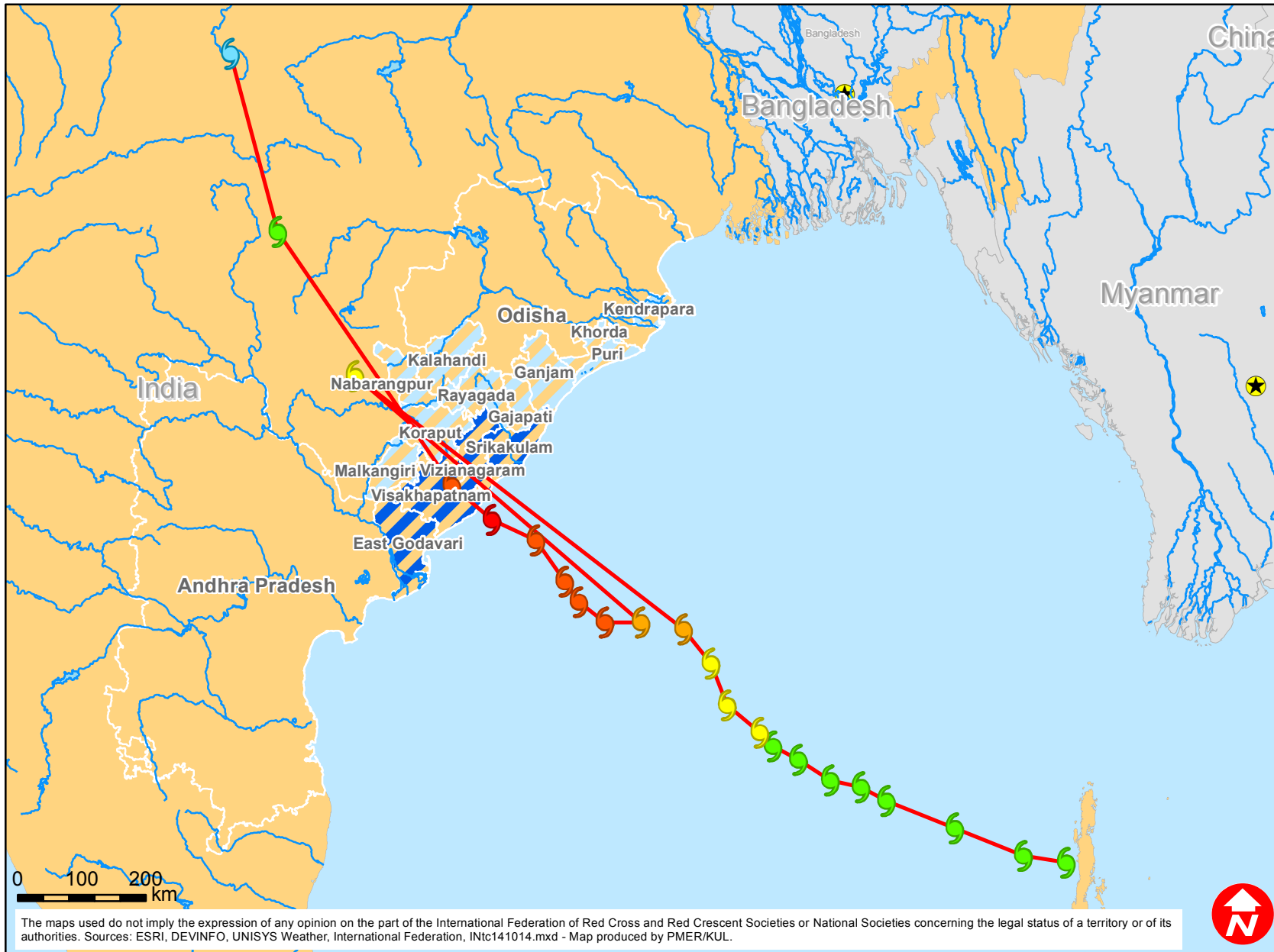
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



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



India: Cyclone Hudhud



- Most affected districts in Andhra Pradesh
- Most vulnerable districts in Odisha
- CYCLONE-1
- CYCLONE-2
- CYCLONE-3
- CYCLONE-4
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- TROPICAL STORM
- Cyclone HudHud
- Rivers

0 100 200 km

