

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDIA: BAY OF BENGAL CYCLONE AND FLOODS

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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The Situation

Fierce storms in the Bay of Bengal since last weekend have caused flooding and damage in the eastern coastal states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The depression has also caused flooding in the inland state of Chhattisgarh. Additionally, there has been flooding across the country in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

According to the national centre for medium range weather forecasting, the cyclone system crossed north Andhra Pradesh near Kalingapatnam on Monday morning (September 19) and has since stayed over land centred close to Kalingapatnam. It is likely to move west-northwest and weaken gradually. Forecasts suggest that it may continue till the weekend and weaken as a low-pressure area. The heavy rainfall zone is expected to later shift over to the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

Widespread damage and loss of life: According to government authorities, at least 56 people have died in Andhra Pradesh and 50,000 have been evacuated, with several villages inundated due to torrential rains triggered by the cyclone. The worst affected areas in the state are the northern coastal districts. The commissioner of disaster management reports that 3,533 villages have been affected and crops spread over 122,000 hectares are under water. Fifteen thousand houses have been damaged.

Embankments have been breached and there has been severe disruption to coastal train and road services. Early assessments indicate 70,000 houses have been flooded with 7,000 destroyed. Livestock losses are estimated at 10,000.

In Orissa, 11,000 people have been evacuated and government officials estimate more than 25,000 hectares of rice crop have been destroyed by the storm. The Orissa government has also sought help from the coast guard to trace 19 fishermen who have been missing in the wake of the cyclone.

In Maharashtra, over 46,000 people from 196 villages have been affected due to floods in the three districts of Bhandara, Gondia and Nagpur. A similar situation exists in Chhattisgarh where more than 50 villages outside Bhillai have been cut off after a bridge collapsed.

Government action: In Maharashtra, 10 medical teams from Nagpur were sent to the flood-affected districts of Bhandara and Gondia. Sixteen officials were also sent to assist in rescue and relief operations. The chief minister of Maharashtra announced the release of approximately CHF 730,000 worth of relief to the three affected districts.

In Chhattisgarh, authorities have made food drops and approximately 12 tonnes of relief materials have been supplied.

In Andhra Pradesh, 456 relief camps have been set up in the coastal districts to cope with the 50,000 evacuees. Twenty thousand families have each received 20 kilograms of rice. Families of those killed in the disaster will receive compensation of 100,000 rupees (approximately CHF 2,700) from the government. The authorities are also formulating compensation packages for housing and crops damaged by the disaster. The Indian navy has been involved in rescue operations and providing medical personnel.

In Orissa, 13 relief camps have been established to cope with the 11,000 evacuees.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indian Red Cross Andhra Pradesh state branch has coordinated relief efforts along with the affected districts of Godavari and Khamam where local branches are providing dry ration packs and cooked food. The state branch has mobilized 1,000 family packs, 1,000 blankets, footwear and new and used clothing for the affected districts of Godavari and Khamam. The state branch has requested more plastic sheeting and tarpaulins from Indian Red Cross national headquarters.

The Orissa state branch has been actively supporting two district branches of Balasore and Bhadrak. Seven cyclone shelters are being used to house evacuated people, which are being provided with food and other necessary services such as medical care.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been monitoring the situation since the early warnings were issued by the Meteorological Department. The IRCS disaster management centre in Delhi is on full alert while the national headquarters disaster management team and Federation disaster management personnel are on standby to provide assistance as requested.

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