

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Cyclone LAILA

Information bulletin n° 01

24 May 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indian Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)



Beneficiaries receiving food items from the Indian Red Cross Society Andhra Pradesh state branch after Cyclone Laila hit the region. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

Cyclone Laila struck the coastal Andhra Pradesh near Bapatla of Guntur District affecting in total nine coastal districts on 20 May 2010. The Indian Red Cross Society staff and volunteers are in the field and are rendering humanitarian assistance to the affected population. The International Federation has been extending technical support for the operation and has made its all the resources available to the Indian Red Cross Society.

The Situation

On 20 May 2010, Cyclone Laila struck the nine coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, crossed the shore at Bapatla of Guntur district. This was followed by heavy to very heavy rains causing huge loss of property and the loss of 32 lives. It has disrupted the electricity and road and rail traffic in the state.



An Indian Red Cross Society volunteer distributing ration cards to beneficiaries of Cyclone Laila in Andhra Pradesh. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

Several villages in Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, Vijaya Nagaram and Srikakulam districts were inundated as rivulets and streams swelled following heavy rains.

The assessment of the damage caused by torrential rains to the crops and property is being done. Thousands have been rendered homeless even as the state government machinery is reaching out to the affected areas. Helicopters, Policemen, NDRF members from various wings are engaged in rescue and relief operations. As on today over 78000 persons were evacuated and accommodated in 378 relief camps.

More than 5,800 hectares of agriculture crop have been reported damaged by the Agriculture Department and more than 6,000 hectares of horticulture crop were effected by the cyclonic storm.

The current needs of the population are food, mosquito nets and family pack items (kitchen sets, dhoti, saree, cotton blankets, buckets, and towels).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As an immediate response, the India Red Cross Society (IRCS) Andhra Pradesh state branch has sent 54,400 litres of mineral water to the affected areas with the support of the Coca Cola Company. The district branches which have identified water as one of the needs of the cyclone-affected people are distributing packaged drinking water. The breakdown, district-wise, is as follows:

District	Litres of Water packaged mineral water
Krishna	36,000
Prakasam	10,000
Nellore	-
Guntur	8,400
Total	54,400

The Andhra Pradesh State Branch has been closely monitoring the situation since the first warning of Cyclone Laila was issued. Now after analysing the situation and the impact of cyclone, the branch has decided to concentrate its efforts in Krishna, Nellore, Guntur and Prakasam which are the most affected districts. In its auxiliary role with the government, a coordination with the government at the state level is

also ongoing to select areas of intervention. Search and rescue and first aid teams have been deployed in the cyclone affected districts.

IRCS Andhra Pradesh state branch has already prepositioned 5,000 family packs. Additional family packs will be requested based on need assessments and the plan of action that is being developed by IRCS.

Andhra Pradesh state branch has also requested for deployment of national disaster response team in the state for assessment and relief distribution. Meanwhile, the state branch has deployed four teams each in Krishna, Nellore, Guntur and Prakasam to carry out assessments.

The district branches are working closely with the government authorities in order to avoid duplication of work.

Andhra Pradesh state branch is in touch with the donors in this state and the branch is trying to raise funds (both in cash and in-kind).

IRCS national headquarters, which has a mandate to respond to the emergencies arising from national disasters or conflicts, has been guiding the Andhra Pradesh state branch for the ongoing humanitarian assistance to the Cyclone Laila-affected population and will continue extending possible support. The national disaster response tools may also be made available to the state branch.

The International Federation's India office has been closely monitoring the unfolding situation in coordination with the regional office for South Asia and the Asia and Pacific disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur. The International Federation has offered additional resources to IRCS. Regular monitoring meetings are being conducted with IRCS officials at national headquarters. Updates are also being sent to Movement partners within the country.

How we work

All International Federation 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.

Contact information

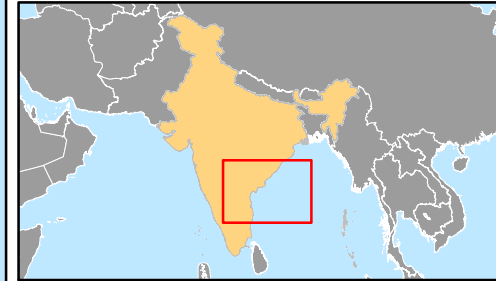
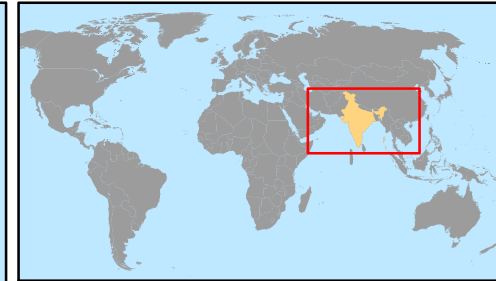
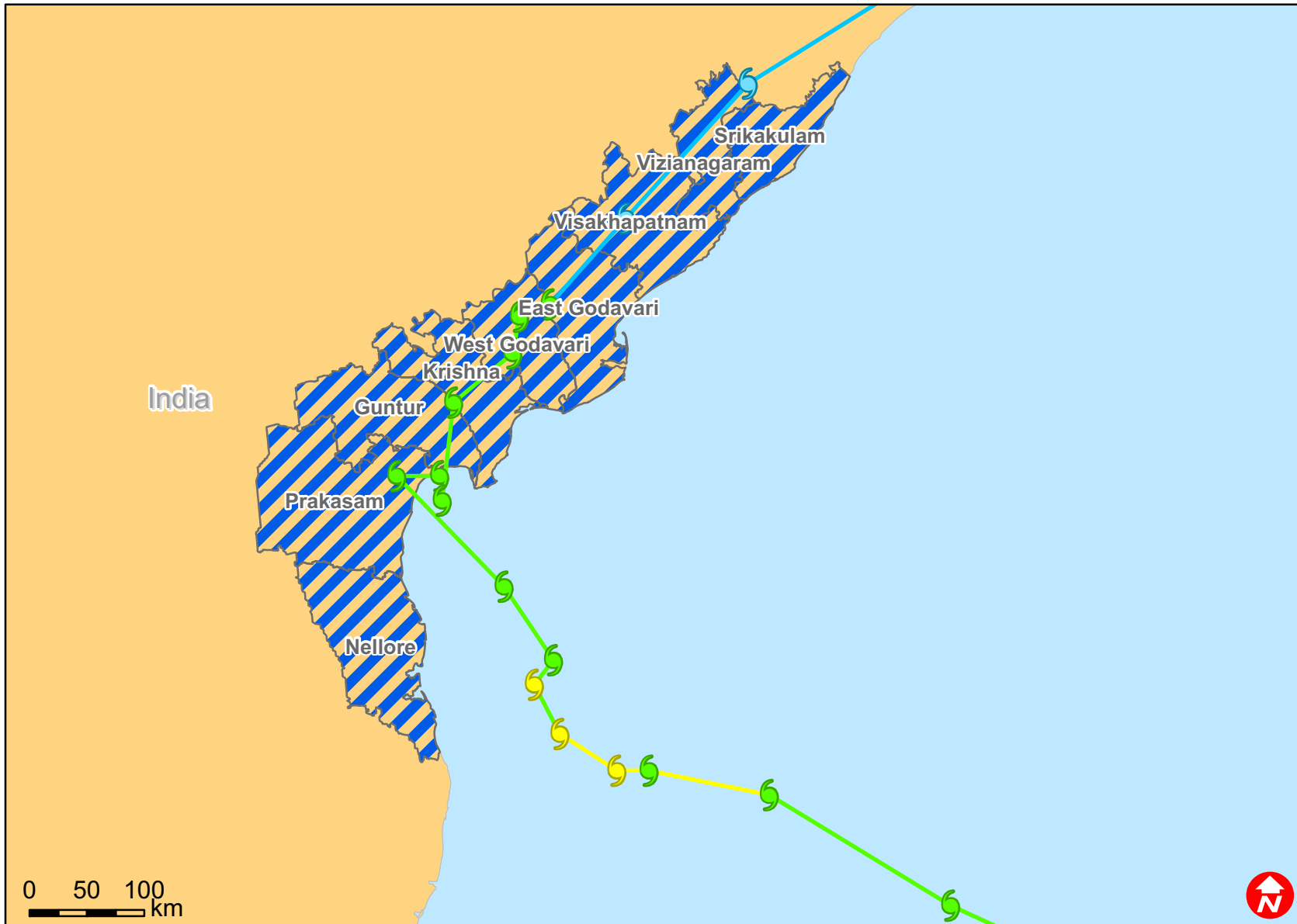
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:





- Indian Red Cross Society:
 - Dr. S P Agarwal, Secretary General; email: spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org; phone: +91.11.2371.6441; fax: +91.11.2371.7454
- International Federation country office in India:
 - Peter Ophoff, Head of country office; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2332.4235; fax: +91.11.2332.4235
- International Federation regional office in India:
 - Azmat Ulla (head of regional office); email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128;
 - Michael Higginson (regional programme coordinator); email: michael.higginson@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1122
- International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:
 - Alistair henley (head of zone); email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org; phone: +603.9207.5700
 - Disaster management unit: Daniel Bolanos (operations coordinator); email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org; phone: + 603.9207.5728; mobile: +6012283 7305

[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



India: Cyclone Laila



-  CYCLONE-1
-  TROPICAL STORM
-  TROPICAL DEPRESSION
-  Affected districts