


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

DREF operation update India: extreme cold weather

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN010
GLIDE n° CW-2012-000207-IND
Operation update n°01
14 March 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:

10 January to 6 March 2013

Summary: CHF 57,100 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 January to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to replenish this DREF allocation are encouraged.

This operation is to be implemented over a period of three months and will therefore be completed by 10 April 2013; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 July 2013).

The Netherlands Red Cross/government SEF contributed CHF 52,939 and Canadian Red Cross/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contributed CHF 13,957 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to the DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.



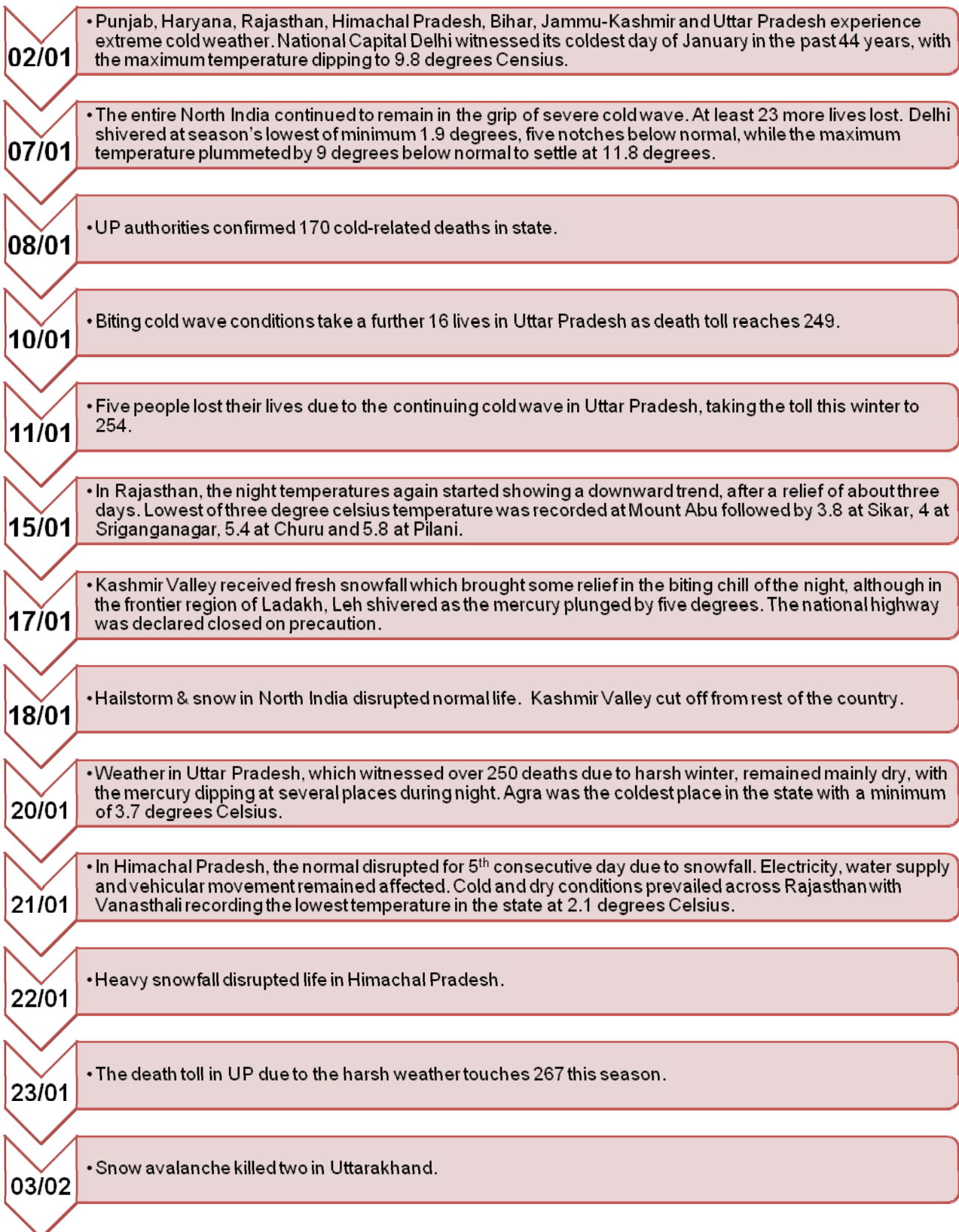
Distribution of blankets by Red Cross volunteers in Patna, Bihar.
Photo: Indian Red Cross Society, Bihar state branch.

The situation

In the last week of December 2012, temperatures in northern India fell dramatically, affecting many homeless people in the region, particularly in urban areas. During the first week of January 2013, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, faced severely cold conditions. New Delhi, the country's capital, witnessed its coldest January day in 44 years, with the maximum temperature dipping to 9.8 degrees Celsius, far below what people, particularly those already vulnerable, were prepared for. During the following week, cold conditions continued, taking 16 lives in Uttar Pradesh alone, bringing the death toll to approximately 249.

In the second and third week of January many places including Kashmir and parts of Himachal Pradesh received heavy snowfall, leading to a shut down of the national highway, and further disrupting the lives of many in the districts worst affected.

In the beginning of February, temperatures began to rise, bringing relief to the millions affected by the cold snap, particularly those who had no choice but to do their best to survive through the conditions while exposed to the elements. Hundreds of lives were lost due to this cold wave; in Uttar Pradesh alone, the winter season claimed 267 lives this year.





Indian Red Cross Society volunteers and national disaster response team members partaking in the distribution of blankets.

Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

Coordination and partnerships

IRCS, together with its sister organization St. John Ambulance India, initiated distribution of blankets in Delhi. IRCS branches in various north India states coordinated with the local authorities while working towards minimizing impact of cold wave on the most vulnerable people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

IRCS's state and district branches in northern India distributed blankets to homeless people and poorest of the poor in an effort to help protect them from the harsh conditions and to minimize the loss of life. Branches distributed blankets from their existing stocks and requested national headquarters for further assistance. In response to these needs, IRCS national headquarters released the following numbers of blankets from its disaster preparedness stock repositioned in regional warehouses.

Sr. no.	State/NHQ	Blankets released by IRCS NHQ from warehouse	Blankets distributed to the beneficiaries
1	NHQ	1,000	1,000
2	Bihar	2,500	21,000
3	J&K	2,000	2,000
4	Tripura	200	200
5	Uttarakhand	2,000	2,000
6	Uttar Pradesh	2,000	2,000
7	West Bengal	1,500	1,500
	Total	11,200	29,700

In Delhi, volunteers, together with national headquarters staff, distributed 1,000 blankets to the patients and their accompanying relatives/friends at government hospitals. Many of the relatives of these patients have little choice but to spend the night in open places or on road sides, as they often come for treatment from the other parts of the country with little or no money.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 10,000 people have received woollen blankets to protect themselves from cold.

Outputs (expected results): Individuals in six states received blankets and IRCS stocks are replenished.

Activities planned:

- Distribution of 10,000 blankets to protect homeless and other vulnerable people from the cold.
- Replenishment of the distributed stocks.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

Progress:

IRCS national headquarters and its branches distributed more than 10,000 blankets in a short timespan with the help of the National Society's dedicated volunteers. Following the approval of DREF, IFRC India office sent a logistics request to the Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 January 2013 for the procurement of 10,000 blankets in order to replenish the stocks distributed by IRCS.

On 22 February 2013, 10,000 blankets were delivered by the vendor at the IRCS Bahadurgarh warehouse. With this, the replenishment of 10,000 blankets distributed by IRCS has been completed. This replenishment has been supported by the DREF operation. The booking of the expenditure incurred for the procurement of blankets will be made by the Regional Logistics Unit during March 2013.

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 India office:

- John Roche, Head of Office
Phone: +91 11 2332 4203; email: john.roche@ifrc.org

IFRC South Asia regional office:

- Azmat Ulla, Head of Regional Office
Phone: +91 11 2411 1122; fax: +91 11 2411 1128; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office:

- Al Panico, Head of operations, phone: + 603 9207 5704, email: al.panico@ifrc.org
- Mathew Schraeder, Operations coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5735, mobile: +6019 620 0758, email: mathew.schraeder@ifrc.org
- Alan Bradbury, Head of resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), phone: + 603 9207 5775, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 (NGO's) 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 10 January 2013 for CHF 57,100 for 03 months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
-