

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRIN002
DREF operation final report
GLIDE n° **FL-2007-000096-IND**
FL-2007-000083-IND
25 March 2008

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

Summary:

CHF 250,000 (USD 207,641 or EUR 151,515) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 August 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the flood-affected population in India.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), with support from the Federation, responded efficiently during the flood seasons in 2007 (May and October). Activities planned under the DREF were carried out within the planned timeframe of the operation, except deliveries of two items of non-food family kits which came in January 2008, thus raising the need to seek an extension on the operational timeframe for a month.

The Federation has been mobilizing DREF for past two years, enabling the national society to "fill the gap" of relief distributions due to availability of pre-positioned stock in its regional warehouses. This practice of pre-positioning disaster preparedness stock in the regional warehouses has time and again proved beneficial, subsequently encouraging them to procure these stocks out of their own funds as well as with the Federation support.

This benefits of disaster preparedness stock has been reaffirmed by the state branches as well. Combined with the IRCS developed tools such as national and state disaster response teams, water and sanitation units and public health in emergency teams, the IRCS capacity to respond in a timely manner to disasters such as the recurrent flood situation in the given years have greatly improved.

[<click here for the final financial report ,or here to view contact details>](#)



An IRCS medical team dispatched to assist the flood-affected people in Assam.

The situation

The floods in 2007 were mainly due to the south-west monsoon which was active within the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin in the states of Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The country-wide floods, in coastal and non-coastal areas, caused a massive loss of lives and property. According to the ministry of home affairs, an estimated 3,339 people were killed and approximately 57 million people were affected by the floods 2007.

The DREF amount was raised as the floods reached its peak and existing pre-positioned disaster preparedness stock was being exhausted rapidly. This helped in deciding the amount of stocks procured by the national society.

This DREF allocation was used to both replenish IRCS disaster preparedness stock (non-food family kits) that had been distributed during the emergency as well as provide drinking water support through the stationing of water purification plants in Orissa. A water unit initially despatched to Bihar could not be made operational as it was damaged in transit. Further assistance was provided through DREF to disinfect public water sources – funds were allocated to the Andhra Pradesh state branch for the purchase of bleaching powder in addition to the operational cost to support the delivery of relief supplies to beneficiaries in various states. As reported previously, the original DREF plan was changed according to the needs reflected by the national society based on the IRCS state level feedback from the branches.

In addition, DREF was also used to assist in a review visit to Orissa in the wake of a Cholera epidemic that hit the state as a result of these floods.



An IRCS volunteer developed visibility and IEC materials based on community responses.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS utilized the DREF amount primarily for disaster preparedness stock procurement to partially replenish the stocks used in response to the floods. In all, 5,500 family packs were procured with the funds. The IRCS, through its state and district branches, was able to provide an effective and efficient response during the floods, providing relief assistance in the form of non-food family kits in the flood-affected states.

The IRCS national headquarters structured a national response based on detailed plans of action from the affected state branches. The capacity of the national society was not only further enhanced but was also put to test through the activation of state disaster response teams in the flood-affected states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam and Orissa in response to the first wave of floods.

The table below details the initial itemized budget in utilizing the Federation-allocated DREF implemented by the national society.

No.	Items	Total cost (CHF)
1	Procurement of family packs (5,500)	200,889
2	Operation cost for relief distribution	24,252
3	Local purchase of bleaching powder in Andhra Pradesh	708
4	Loading and unloading of 2 water and sanitation units to Bihar	1,666
5	Inspection cost	3,182
	Visibility material (banners/flags)	300
6	Flood review visit to Orissa and future review visit	2,753
	Sub-total	233,750
	Programme service recovery (6.5% total)	16,250
	Total	250,000

The state branches were provided support by the IRCS national headquarters through pre-positioned disaster preparedness stock, which were mobilized to flood-prone states like Bihar, Assam and Madhya Pradesh prior to the monsoon season. During the DREF response in 2007 the national society also managed their water purification units by mobilizing them through their regional warehouses, installation and training the local volunteers to use them. This has been a big achievement and the IRCS has realised through such exposures that they need to develop their strength in water and sanitation. The national society has repaired the existing water purification units and is planning to hold national level water and sanitation training, which will further strengthen IRCS response capacity.

Progress towards objectives

Objective 1: To increase the disaster preparedness capacity of the Indian Red Cross Society through pre-positioning of non-food family kits.

An initial dry ration component was included as part of the immediate assistance to be provided to the affected communities. However, this was later revised based reports from the state branches who were assessing the needs regularly and indicated that the food requirements have been met locally. Focus then shifted to the procurement of 5,500 non-food family kits.

Procurement was carried out for the replenishment of the disaster preparedness stock through a detailed process, in accordance with Federation standards. A requisition was raised for the items to be procured as per agreement within the IRCS. This was followed by inviting tenders for the items with standard specifications. Comparative bid analysis was done and the recommendations made by the local committee, which were then forwarded to the logistics department in Geneva for approval. The logistics department granted technical approval before the order was placed to four vendors for eight different items. After the final inspection, the items were delivered to the regional warehouse.

DREF funds were also used to meet the operational costs of relief distributions, including transport and labour, to the states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Under the operational cost, an assessment of the flood-hit Orissa was also carried out in response to a Cholera outbreak in the state. The assessment was carried out by a joint IRCS- Federation team with support from the state level disaster response team. On the third day of the joint assessment, the IRCS Secretary General also visited the Orissa state branch and discussed findings with the team. The assessment indicated a need to address long term health care. IRCS focus includes designing a community-based health care programme which would have a large awareness component, and information, education and communication materials are being designed in response to some of the results of the assessment.



As part of IRCS initiatives to support flood-affected communities, relief items such as clothing and non-food family kits were distributed.

Objective 2. To support the affected communities in Bihar (later revised to Orissa) by providing drinking water.

Two water purification units were initially sent to Bihar, but were damaged during transit and returned to the IRCS national headquarters. Local authorities addressed the demand for water purification in Bihar, so the units were not replaced.

The state of Orissa requested for water purification units and the IRCS responded with two units which are still functioning as the local community does not have safe access to drinking water. Approximately 5,000 people use the safe water produced by these units daily. As the emergency period has ended, the Orissa state branch has been requested to return these units to IRCS national headquarters as they' are not meant as a long term solution. However, the national society recognizes the need for safe water and is advocating the importance of this to the local authorities.

As a result of the two units being damaged while being transported to Bihar, the IRCS management immediately ordered the repair and stock of all the water purification units, ensuring that they are in a functional state. Presently, five of the 13 existing units have been repaired and the rest are in the process of being repaired. In Andhra Pradesh, the state branch had requested for funds to help disinfect public water sources in Kurnool district, which was also addressed through the DREF through the procurement of bleaching powder.

Objective 3. Increase the visibility of the national society.

Approximately 30 flags and banners with the IRCS logo were developed for trucks carrying goods to help raise public awareness of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. These proved extremely useful as the volunteers could distinguish Red Cross vehicles from a distance while functioning as a visibility tool among beneficiaries, the government and other humanitarian actors.

Coordination and partnerships

The flood operation carried out smoothly, with the IRCS taking the lead by forming a taskforce comprising of representatives from the national society, the Federation and in-country partner national societies who met and reviewed the operation regularly. The Federation released the DREF amount due to the intensity of the floods, and the rapid depletion of IRCS pre-positioned disaster preparedness stocks that were utilized in the initial response. Similar support was also provided by many partner national societies, as and when required by the national society.

An assessment was conducted jointly by the IRCS' state branch and the Federation's India office representatives whilst responding on the Cholera outbreak in Orissa, supported by the Federation. The assessment report was submitted to the health ministry to take up a long-term approach to health and hygiene in the tribal areas of the state affected by Cholera. The findings encouraged humanitarian actors to take a long term capacity building of the volunteers and to include health awareness projects in their programmes. In an effort to promote hygiene practices in the state, the IRCS national headquarters also shared a film on hand-washing, developed by the World Health Organization, with the Orissa state branch.



IRCS volunteers helped raise awareness on Red Cross Red Crescent activities by organizing walks and informal discussions.

Coordination under the operation proceeded smoothly, with the IRCS supporting local authorities in search and rescue operations, as well as managing relief camps. The Federation represented the national society at information sharing meetings with the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE) India and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and kept other humanitarian actors updated on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's actions. The Federation's India office also supported the British Red Cross with technical input for family pack items purchased by the partner national society.

Constraints

The only constraint faced was to complete the procurement process, including the delivery schedule, within the operation timeframe. Delays in the process resulted in the fact that the final report could not be generated in early February and an extension was sought to complete the operation. Other than this, the operation ran smoothly.

Communications: Advocacy and public information

The IRCS efforts have been well reported in the press nationally and at the local level. The branches are capable of handling media relations, and at the national level, regular updates were posted on the IRCS website informing the public about its operation during the disaster.

Humanitarian values were addressed through a practical approach, through volunteers who were deployed in the Cholera affected areas of Orissa and worked with people in villages.

Conclusion

Lessons learned:

The lessons learnt include the positive impact of DREF to help address the immediate needs of a disaster through the provision of funds to procure tangible items such as non-food family kits. The gap has been determined after quite a few assessments during the years and it were felt that a number of religious and non-religious organizations run community kitchens during disaster and the government comes up with camping sites. But the most important element for any family is to have a little support in bring back his/her household and that is where IRCS plays a lead role in supporting almost 10,000 families annually.

Another capacity building element of DREF includes the technical expertise in procurement and disaster preparedness stock handling that was shared with IRCS regional warehouse, national headquarters and Federation staff. The impact of this increase in capacity was acknowledged by other in-country partner national societies seeking procurement assistance in terms of specifications and vendor leads.

In addition, a culture of breeding multi-disciplinary assessment teams through national and state level disaster response teams has helped to strengthen the skills of the IRCS national headquarter and its local branches in terms of conducting assessment, analyzing data and preparing reports. It was encouraging to note that these trained teams were actively utilized for assessment and response activities.

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRIN002 - India - Floods 2007

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/3
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/3
Appeal	MDRIN002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		250,000				250,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		250,000				250,000
C5. Other Income		250,000				250,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		250,000				250,000
D. Total Funding = B + C		250,000				250,000
Appeal Coverage		100%				100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		250,000				250,000
E. Expenditure		-250,000				-250,000
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		250,000					250,000	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	1,000						1,000	
Other Supplies & Services	201,501		186,263			186,263	15,238	
Total Supplies	202,501		186,263			186,263	16,238	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	9,462		6,298			6,298	3,164	
Distribution & Monitoring	18,526		29,820			29,820	-11,294	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	300		1,410			1,410	-1,110	
Total Transport & Storage	28,288		37,528			37,528	-9,240	
Personnel								
National Staff			1,365			1,365	-1,365	
National Society Staff			4,981			4,981	-4,981	
Total Personnel			6,346			6,346	-6,346	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,711		2,550			2,550	161	
Information & Public Relation	250		312			312	-62	
Office Costs			131			131	-131	
Communications			390			390	-390	
Other General Expenses			230			230	-230	
Total General Expenditure	2,961		3,613			3,613	-652	
Programme Support								
Program Support	16,250		16,250			16,250	0	
Total Programme Support	16,250		16,250			16,250	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	250,000		250,000			250,000	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		