

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: CYCLONE

18 October 2001

Information Bulletin N° 01

This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. No emergency appeal is expected to be made and the Federation has not issued any assistance from its disaster relief emergency fund (DREF). However, National Societies are encouraged to help the Indian Red Cross with expenses incurred during its relief activities.

The Situation

A tropical depression in the Bay of Bengal has caused a cyclonic storm in the state of Andhra Pradesh, in south-eastern India. Heavy rains during the last two days have reportedly claimed 38 lives and 23 people are missing. Unofficial sources report 59 dead and 200 missing.

In the aftermath of the cyclone, crossing the Nellore coast, deaths have been reported in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Nellore. An estimated 50,000 households (200,000 individuals) have been affected. Some 46,000 people have been evacuated to relief camps by the State Government.

In certain areas, the water level has reached above three metres. According to reports, the Cuddapah district is among the worst affected after a release of water from the Buggavanka canal caused large scale devastation, inundating almost the entire town. The Kurnool-Cuddapah canal also breached a nearby village. Around 200 minor irrigation tanks were also breached across the state, of which 100 are in Gudur, Nellore district and 50 in Chittoor district.

Railways have been washed away and two bridges have been badly damaged. In addition, the national highway has been damaged and military engineering teams are helping in restoration works.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) branch and sub-branches in Nellore responded immediately by supplying a vehicle and 10,000 food parcels and 10,000 so-called water parcels containing 250ml of drinking water. Also a medical team has been sent to assist the affected population.

The IRCS State branch is cooperating with the local government to compile information and was due to send a preliminary report later today. The Secretary General of the IRCS was travelling to the region today in an attempt to raise initial financial support of 200,000 rupees (approx. CHF 7,000).

Following the disastrous cyclone which hit this region in 1977, the IRCS with the assistance of the Federation, has constructed 200 cyclone shelters in nine districts of the affected state, Andhra Pradesh.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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