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## DREF final report India: Assam Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRIN009**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2012-000110-IND**  
**29 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 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 298,424 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 13 July 2012 to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 200,000 beneficiaries.

In response to heavy flooding that hit Assam from 26 June 2012, IRCS activated its emergency response teams at district, state and national levels. Out of the IRCS' total assistance of non-food items to 9,500 families, this DREF operation supported replenishment of 2,000 family packs of non-food items distributed from the National Society's disaster preparedness stocks. The water purification unit was able to serve 1,500 people for a month during the most difficult time of the emergency. In parallel, the construction of four toilets, and a hygiene promotion campaign helped people improve their hygiene practices.



Transportation of relief goods by boat to Majuli island, Jorhat District in coordination with district authorities.  
**Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

The outbreak of violence in Assam during the emergency phase posed additional challenges in transporting goods and deployment of resources for this relief operation. The relief operation stalled until the situation improved, which affected implementation of overall operation. The decision to temporarily suspend the operations was taken by the National Society for the safety and security of its volunteers, staff and resources.

Out of the total allocation of CHF 298,424, expenditure of CHF 135,024 had been incurred. The balance of CHF 163,400 has been returned to DREF.

The major donors and partners of this DREF operation include the Canadian Red Cross/CIDA, and the tsunami legacy fund which contributed CHF 58,298 and CHF 240,125 respectively.

IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all partners for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to the DREF can be found on [www.ifrc.org/dref](http://www.ifrc.org/dref).

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

## The situation

Following heavy monsoon rainfall in June, flooding began from 26 June affecting communities across all 27 districts of Assam. A total of 22 districts were severely impacted. It was reported that approximately 2.2 million were affected with some 120 lives lost. Outbreaks of communal violence in the summer, which soon turned widespread in the state, led to road marches and demonstrations in many districts. The situation became quite volatile. The national disaster response team (NDRT) and national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) volunteers were withdrawn from the field due to the increasing insecurity in the field.

Concerned at the complexity of the situation IRCS national headquarters deployed a joint team made up of personnel from IRCS, IFRC and ICRC to assess the needs of the violence affected communities and review the flood relief operation. Discussions with the Assam state branch officials and the joint assessment team recommended the following actions:

- Wait until mid-October for the DREF-related activities to re-start for the flood operations.
- Encourage within IRCS to improve monitoring and communications.
- Formulation of a response plan for those caught up in the internal disturbance jointly with IRCS, IFRC and ICRC.

The situation in the affected areas was improved and life was limping back to normal as water levels were receded in these areas. The affected populations got some respite from the distribution of non-food items, as well as the water, sanitation and health promotion interventions made by IRCS.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

IRCS kicked off its relief operation immediately as the flood situation started unfolding affecting 2.2 million people. Assessment was carried out by a joint assessment team of IRCS and IFRC which laid the foundations for this DREF operation. Based on the recommendations of the assessment, IRCS mobilized resources including water purification units, non-food items and volunteers to the affected areas and the operation started taking shape. However, the breakout of the violence stalled the whole response and IRCS had evaluate its ability to effectively take action. After this pause – required by safety – and with great difficulty, the operation was restarted and could partially achieve its objectives.

## Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p><b>Outcome:</b> 2,000 families (10,000 people) benefit from necessary shelter and non-food items</p> <p><b>Output:</b> 2,000 families (10,000 persons) received basic shelter and non-food items.</p> <p><b>Proposed activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of national disaster response team (NDRT)/national disaster water, sanitation response team (NDWRT)/state disaster response team (SDRT) members/volunteers to conduct assessments, prepare lists of beneficiaries, and identify distribution points.</li> <li>• Mobilization of stocks from the regional warehouses.</li> <li>• Distribution of shelter and non-food items (tarpaulins, mosquito nets, bed sheets, kitchen sets, sarees, dhotis, buckets with lids and towels).</li> <li>• Replenishment of the distributed stocks. Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.</li> </ul>

### Progress and Challenges:

1. IRCS completed distribution of 2,000 family pack items to the flood affected families. The beneficiaries were selected in close coordination with government authorities in order to avoid duplication of work and to ensure IRCS reach the most vulnerable.
2. Following receipt of relief supplies from the national headquarters, the IRCS Assam state branch allocated 9,500 family packs for distribution to flood affected districts as follows:

Sr. No.	District	Family packs
1	Nalbari	1,000
2	Rangia	500
3	Majuli	1,250
4	Morigaon	500
5	Dhemaji	500
6	Lakhimpur	500
7	Sadiya	250
8	Sibasagar	500
9	Darrang	500
10	Goalpara	500
11	Bilasipara	500
12	Bongaigaon	500
13	Barpeta	750
14	Dhubri	750
15	Chirang	750
16	Dhakuakhana	500

### 3. Replenishment of 2,000 family packs:

- This DREF operation supported replenishment of 2,000 family packs. The procurement of 2,000 family pack items has been completed towards replenishment of the stocks distributed during the Assam flood relief operation.
- NFIs such as *dhoti*, *sarees*, bed sheets, buckets, and blankets were procured locally. Kitchen sets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets were procured through the IFRC global framework agreement.
- Kitchen sets were delivered at Vikhroli warehouse by the vendor which were then transported to Kolkata and Arakonam warehouses.
- The tarpaulins and mosquito nets received from the regional warehouse in Kuala Lumpur were received at Kolkata warehouse. Part of the consignment was further sent to Arakonam warehouse.
- Replenishment of relief items is over in all respects.

Non Food Items (NFIs)	Quantity
Mosquito net	4,000
Tarpaulin	2,000
Dhoti	2,000
Saree	2,000
Bed sheet	2,000
Bucket	2,000
Towel	2,000
Kitchen set	2,000
Blanket	2,000

#### Impact:

IRCS has provided a list of 2,000 beneficiaries supported by this DREF operation with non-food items. This assistance provided by the National Society not only helped flood affected people to meet their immediate needs but also helped them to bring their life to normal. The good work done by IRCS with the support of IFRC has been appreciated by the local authorities and as a good gesture a letter of appreciation was awarded to IRCS and IFRC.

#### Emergency health

**Outcome: The immediate health risks of the flood affected and displaced population are reduced.**

**Outputs:** Basic health services for at least 50,000 people are delivered for two months.

#### Planned Activities:

- Mobilize IRCS mobile health units to provide health check-up camps and health awareness activities.
- Coordinate with district health administration.

#### Impact:

There was no impact for the emergency health part of the operation as the planned activities were not rolled out.

**Challenges:**

Due to the complex security situation in the field, health check-up camp and health awareness activities could not be conducted.

**Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

**Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases has been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion.**

**Outputs:**

- Increased access to safe drinking water to the flood affected 50,000 people
- Improve hygiene knowledge and behaviour of 200,000 people affected by floods
- Increased access to appropriate sanitation for at least 200 flood affected families

**Proposed Activities:**

- Detailed assessment to identify villages for intervention.
- Mobilize and installation four water treatment units in assessed locations through NDWRT.
- Establishing water distribution system.
- Training volunteers on hygiene promotion.
- Hygiene promotion activities for affected community by the IRCS volunteers.
- Distribution of bucket/Jerry cans for household level storage of safe drinking water.
- Distribution of chlorine tablets.
- Construction of rapid latrines (approximately 200).
- Collaborate with the relief sector in providing safe water storage containers and hygiene kits to targeted families.
- Monitoring of use of latrines and household level water treatment and storage.

**Impact:**

One NOMAD water purification unit with the capacity to purify approx 5,000 litres per hour was installed at Salmara village on 3 August 2012, which provided safe drinking water to 1,500 flood affected people in this village and surrounding area for a month.

Training was provided to five local volunteers on the operations of this NOMAD water purification unit. The hygiene promotion campaign was conducted in Jorhat district.

The NDWRT members deployed in Assam were engaged in hygiene promotion activities at camps, various communities and schools. The main areas of focus were on personal hygiene, including hand washing, the importance of safe drinking water, water borne diseases and sanitation etc. One of the activities in this DREF operation was distribution of chlorine tablets to cater for safe drinking water needs in a broader number of communities, due to the impracticality of widespread deployment of water purification units. IRCS distributed 50,000 chlorine tablets to the people affected by floods in Kamrup (Rural), Dhemaji, Majuli, Dhubri, Nalbari and Goalpara districts. The distribution of tablets was done with demonstration of the proper use of the tablets to each household.



Beneficiaries collecting purified water at Majuli. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Hygiene promotion campaign conducted by Indian Red Cross Society volunteers. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Construction of toilet for the flood affected people. **Photo:** Indian red Cross Society.

During the reporting period, NDWRT members along with volunteers deployed in Majuli district carried out hygiene promotion campaigns. The hygiene promotion messages were disseminated through debates and group discussions at community and schools meetings. IEC materials were printed in local language (Assamese) to support the awareness drive.

Four toilets were constructed by NDWRT members with the support of local volunteers to prevent diseases from oral faecal transmission due to open field defecation.

All the above efforts contributed towards prevention of outbreak of diseases in the post math of floods.

### Communications – advocacy and public information

IRCS, supported by IFRC, maintained a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders, supporting advocacy efforts and maintaining the profile of the National Society by providing a platform to highlight the interests of floods affected communities.

A web story highlighting the situation, immediate needs and the Red Cross response was drafted in collaboration with IRCS and posted on the IFRC website: <http://bit.ly/LHWEhp>.

High quality visual materials were gathered and provided to the global IFRC online gallery to be shared with media, National Societies and partners to highlight the impact of the National Society's efforts.

The web story was also cross-promoted through the IFRC social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. Regular updates were provided from the field through social media during the joint assessment team's visit to Assam. These included live photo posts from the field via Twitter. IRCS was also supported in featuring similar content on the National Society's website: <http://indianredcross.org/pressrel23-july2012.htm>.

### Challenges:

In the case of this disaster, although the flow of information – in particular visual content – has improved, there remain a number of challenges in ensuring the high quality and timely delivery of content. Furthermore, due to the dynamic nature of the operation, it was not always possible to maintain the desired level of media interest.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## 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.

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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.

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## DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 13 July 2012 for CHF 298,424 for 5 months to assist 200,000 beneficiaries.
- 3 DREF operation updates issued.



Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-2012/12
Appeal	MDRIN009
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>	298,424					298,424	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	298,424					298,424	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>	298,424					298,424	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>	298,424					298,424	
<b>D. Total Funding = B +C</b>	298,424					298,424	
<b>Coverage = D/A</b>	100%					100%	

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0	
<b>C. Income</b>	298,424					298,424	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-135,024					-135,024	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	163,400					163,400	

MDRIN009 - India - Assam Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 13 jul 12

Appeal Timeframe: 13 jul 12 to 13 dec 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-2012/12
Appeal	MDRIN009
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>298,424</b>					<b>298,424</b>	
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	26,000	24,167				24,167	1,833	
Clothing & Textiles	33,755	32,626				32,626	1,129	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	34,153	1,444				1,444	32,709	
Medical & First Aid	10,576						10,576	
Utensils & Tools	47,171	43,127				43,127	4,044	
Other Supplies & Services		0				0	-0	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Su</b>	<b>151,655</b>	<b>101,365</b>				<b>101,365</b>	<b>50,290</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	2,203	4,087				4,087	-1,883	
Distribution & Monitoring	5,288	2,494				2,494	2,794	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,282	3,400				3,400	7,882	
Logistics Services		3,904				3,904	-3,904	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>18,773</b>	<b>13,885</b>				<b>13,885</b>	<b>4,889</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff		70				70	-70	
National Society Staff	21,152	1,101				1,101	20,051	
Volunteers	16,005	246				246	15,759	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>37,157</b>	<b>1,417</b>				<b>1,417</b>	<b>35,740</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	10,929						10,929	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>10,929</b>						<b>10,929</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	47,594	9,234				9,234	38,359	
Information & Public Relations	3,525	154				154	3,372	
Office Costs		26				26	-26	
Communications		106				106	-106	
Financial Charges		430				430	-430	
Other General Expenses	10,576	164				164	10,412	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>61,696</b>	<b>10,116</b>				<b>10,116</b>	<b>51,580</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recov	18,214	8,241				8,241	9,973	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>18,214</b>	<b>8,241</b>				<b>8,241</b>	<b>9,973</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>298,424</b>	<b>135,024</b>				<b>135,024</b>	<b>163,400</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>163,400</b>				<b>163,400</b>		