

DREF operation update India: Assam Floods

DREF operation n° MDRIN009
GLIDE n° FL-2012-000110-IND
Update n°02
26 October 2012

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: 17 August to 5 October 2012.

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, targeting the most vulnerable from 2.2 million persons who have been affected by this flooding with the distribution of non-food items, provision of shelter, water, and sanitation and health promotion interventions.

Although flooding is a seasonal event in India, these floods are the worst to hit Assam in decades. In addition, the flooding came extremely early in the monsoon season and was followed by several waves of back-to-back of floods over a sustained period.

The operation is expected to be implemented within five months, and completed by 12 December 2012. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) will be issued 90 days after the end of the operation (by 31 March 2013).

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Canadian Red Cross and government, and tsunami funds. 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.



Toilets constructed for the displaced population due to floods in Assam. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

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 have been 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 of torch-bearing mobs in many districts. The situation became quite volatile and fragile. 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 so far. 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 and ICRC for a quick response through provision of critical NFIs required in the hosted in makeshift camps.

During September, a third wave of floods hit 16 districts in Assam following heavy rainfall in the Brahmaputra catchment areas affecting a further 2 million people. The situation this time was reported to be more severe compared to the previous two waves of flooding. IRCS Assam state branch dispatched around 9,500 family packs (45,000 people) to the districts for the distribution which includes the 7,000 family packs sent by the national headquarters.

Coordination and partnerships

During the reporting period, the IRCS, IFRC and ICRC team jointly carried out an assessment of the situation due to increased displacements from communal violence and further waves of flooding. All the stakeholders provided inputs to assist IRCS to develop a plan of action. Partner National Societies (PNSs) and other government agencies are also kept up to date about the actions on the ground.

At district level, government officials are coordinating with the state and district Red Cross branches. Government resources including guesthouses and ferry boats have been made available to the Red Cross for delivering the relief supplies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period many challenges were faced in regard to the implementation of the relief activities. Considerable progress was made towards the construction of toilets and awareness campaigns promoting safer hygiene practices by the deployed team of NDWRT volunteers. Additionally, 750 family packs were distributed before the team suspended their activities due to the communal violence situation.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 2,000 families (10,000 people) benefit from necessary shelter and non-food items

Output: 2,000 families (10,000 people) received basic shelter and non-food items.

Planned Activities:

- 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.
- Mobilization of stocks from the regional warehouses.
- Distribution of shelter and non-food items (tarpaulins, mosquito nets, bed sheets, kitchen sets, sarees, dhotis, buckets with lids and towels).

- Replenishment of the distributed stocks.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

Progress:

1. NDRT volunteers distributed 750 family packs in Jorhat district. 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.

After the third wave of floods, Assam state branch sent following family packs to the following districts:

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

**Distribution report of the 9,500 family packs is awaited from the district branches.*

2. Replenishment of 2,000 family packs:
 - a. The tendering of the relief items to be procured locally has been completed. Orders have been placed with the vendors. The delivery of the relief supplies to Arakonam and Kolkata warehouses will be completed in October and November 2012.
 - b. Tarpaulin and mosquito nets imported from the zone logistics unit warehouse in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia have reached Kolkata port. The customs clearance of the same is in progress.
 - c. Kitchen sets are being procured through the global framework agreement from the vendor in Mumbai. In October 2012, kitchen sets will be delivered by the vendor at the railway station in Mumbai which will then be further forwarded to Kolkata and Arakonam warehouses using the free rail transportation facility made available to IRCS.

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.

Progress: No progress has been reported on this activity by the Assam state branch due to the complex situation in the field. Therefore, it is likely that the health check-up camp and health awareness activities might not be conducted.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation-borne 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.

Planned activities:

- Detailed assessment to identify villages for intervention.
- Mobilize and installation four water treatment units in assessed locations through NDWRT.
- Establishing a water distribution system.
- Training 30 volunteers on hygiene promotion.
- Hygiene promotion activities for affected community by IRCS volunteers.
- Distribution of bucket/jerry cans for household level storage of safe drinking water.
- Distribution and explanation of the use 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.

Progress:

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.

The NOMAD water treatment unit which has served 1,500 people with clean water daily was withdrawn in the second week of September as people returned to their villages just before the third wave of floods. The unit has been brought back to Guwahati from Majuli district.

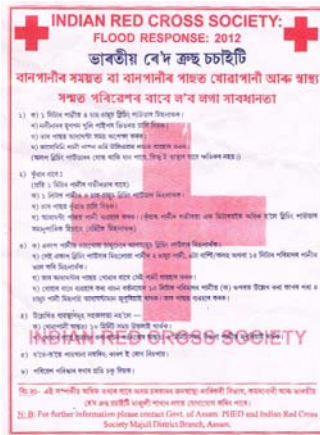
Four toilets were constructed by NDWRT members with the support of local volunteers to prevent diseases from oral faecal transmission due to open field defecation.

After receiving 50,000 chlorine tablets from IRCS national headquarters, Assam state branch sent these tablets to Kamrup (Rural), Dhemaji, Majuli, Dhubri, Nalbari and Goalpara districts for distribution with demonstration of the proper use of the tablets to each household.

Challenges: Due to the volatile environment, the situation in Assam remains complex which has severely hampered the implementation of the originally planned flood relief operation. However, all efforts are being made to complete the DREF operation as planned.



Promotion of good hygiene practices by IRCS volunteers in Majuli. **Photo:** NDWRT member, IRCS.



IEC material used for the dissemination of hygiene messages in flood communities in Assam.



Safe drinking water provided to flood affected people in Majuli. **Photo:** NDWRT member, IRCS.

Communications – advocacy and public information

In the initial weeks following the onset of the disaster, there was significant media interest, both from national and international media. 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, including news stories on both the IRCS and IFRC websites (<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 IRCS's efforts. Both the visual and text based content were further promoted through social media including Facebook and Twitter.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was allocated on 13 July 2012 for CHF 298,424 for five months to assist 200,000 beneficiaries.
- The first DREF operation update was issued on 24 August 2012.
- A second DREF operation update was issued on 26 October 2012.

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.

MDRIN009 - India - Assam Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 13 jul 12

Appeal Timeframe: 13 jul 12 to 13 dec 12

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2012/9
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
A. Budget	298,424					298,424	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	298,424					298,424	
C4. Other Income	298,424					298,424	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	298,424					298,424	
D. Total Funding = B +C	298,424					298,424	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	298,424					298,424	
E. Expenditure	-55,833					-55,833	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	242,591					242,591	

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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	
BUDGET (C)		298,424					298,424	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	26,000	24,167				24,167	1,833	
Clothing & Textiles	33,755	13,656				13,656	20,099	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	34,153	362				362	33,791	
Medical & First Aid	10,576						10,576	
Utensils & Tools	47,171						47,171	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	151,655	38,185				38,185	113,471	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	2,203	25				25	2,179	
Distribution & Monitoring	5,288	985				985	4,303	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,282	359				359	10,922	
Logistics Services		2,131				2,131	-2,131	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	18,773	3,500				3,500	15,273	
Personnel								
International Staff		70				70	-70	
National Society Staff	21,152	1,056				1,056	20,096	
Volunteers	16,005	246				246	15,759	
Total Personnel	37,157	1,372				1,372	35,785	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	10,929						10,929	
Total Workshops & Training	10,929						10,929	
General Expenditure								
Travel	47,594	8,937				8,937	38,657	
Information & Public Relations	3,525	11				11	3,515	
Office Costs		25				25	-25	
Communications		91				91	-91	
Financial Charges		23				23	-23	
Other General Expenses	10,576	23				23	10,553	
Total General Expenditure	61,696	9,110				9,110	52,586	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		258				258	-258	
Total Operational Provisions		258				258	-258	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	18,214	3,408				3,408	14,806	
Total Indirect Costs	18,214	3,408				3,408	14,806	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	298,424	55,833				55,833	242,591	
VARIANCE (C - D)		242,591				242,591		