

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## INDIA: Flood

**DREF operation n° MDRIN004**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2009-000217-IND**  
**Update n° 01**  
**2 November 2009**

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 and 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.

**Period covered by this update:**  
8 October – 2 November 2009

**Summary:** CHF 52,941 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 8 October 2009 to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to around 400,000 beneficiaries.

With the DREF approved, IRCS deployed a 21 member national disaster response team, including representatives from the national disaster WATSAN response team (NDWRT) and state disaster response teams accompanied by representatives from the International Federation South Asia regional disaster management team. This is the first time that such a team has been deployed at the beginning of the disaster to support rapid needs assessment, deployment of water purification units and assist in the relief distribution. The teams have conducted several assessments and developed a plan of action that has been presented to the IRCS national headquarters. The IRCS activated its national flood contingency plan, which was developed with the support from the International Federation prior to the monsoon season. The proposed operation is expected to be implemented in two months, and completed by 6 December 2009.



The national disaster WATSAN response team in action.  
Photo: India Red Cross Society.

In line with the International Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) will be available 90 days after the end of the operation (by 6 March 2009).

## The situation

The heaviest rains in more than a century affected parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on 29 September 2009, displacing more than two million people and leaving 300 people dead. Several towns and villages, particularly in Kurnool, Mahabubnagar and Krishna districts in Andhra Pradesh, were inundated by the mighty Krishna River and its tributaries. All the reservoirs built across the Krishna River were receiving heavy inflows; their gates were opened to discharge water downstream.

The sudden onset of floods damaged the houses, agricultural crops, and the community social and physical infrastructure. The poor and the marginalized communities are among the worst affected, as their socioeconomic vulnerability was further affected by the floods, making them victims of circumstances. It is reported that the flood have resulted in losses of homes, farms and infrastructure worth over 220 billion rupees (approximately CHF 4.76 billion or USD 4.66 billion).

In **Andhra Pradesh** a depression in the Bay of Bengal caused heavy rains and resulted in flooding, particularly affecting the districts of Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Kharimnagar, Prakasm, Visakapatnam, Ananatapur, Krishna, Kadapa, Guntur, Khamam and Nalgonda. The floods have claimed 73 lives. The rains have destroyed 179,040 houses; more than 589,000 people have been evacuated, and 59,983 acres of agricultural land has been damaged. At least 1.89 million people in 571 villages of Andhra Pradesh have been affected. During the emergency phase, the Government of India deployed 694 water rescue trained personnel of the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) along with 173 inflatable motorized boats in the districts of Kurnool, Krishna and Mehboobnagar for rescue and relief operations in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, a team of 19 water rescue trained personnel and 20 inflatable boats from Palam airbase were airlifted to Vijaywada (Krishna district).

In **Karnataka** flood water has receded from most of the affected villages. A total of 227 people have died in the floods. Flood and heavy rains have damaged 526,000 houses and affected 1,134,000 hectares of agriculture. In the 15 affected districts – Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bagalkote, Bellary, Koppal, Haveri, Bidar, Gadag, Davanagere, Karwar, Dakshina and Kannada – thousands of people remain in shelters as their homes have been destroyed. The Government of India deployed 249 water rescue trained personnel of NDRF along with 73 inflatable motorized boats in the districts of Bagalkote, Raichur, Gadag and Bijapur for rescue and relief operations. In addition, 250 water rescue trained personnel and 60 inflatable boats of NDRF from Gandhinagar were airlifted.

Relief camps were set up in schools and temples located on higher ground in the flood-affected districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to house over 864,000 people. As the water has receded, many people have gone back to their homes. However, those who have lost their homes are being accommodated in temporary shelters. For around 15 days cooked food was provided to the displaced population through the relief camps. Thereafter dry ration is being provided to them. Immediate needs of the affected population include safe drinking water, personal hygiene and health care, temporary shelter, food, and essential daily commodities.

More than 1,400 people have died across 19 of India's 28 states during the monsoon rains this year. IRCS is currently providing relief assistance to victims and also completing assessments of the situation.

## Coordination and partnerships

IRCS branches in both states have been implementing relief distribution in close coordination with local government authorities. The International Federation country office is providing operational support and coordinating activities of the Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the country, including the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and ICRC. The Movement partners outside India are also being updated on changing needs and the unfolding situation in the field on a regular basis.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Furthering its relief operation based on the recommendations of the assessment team, IRCS launched a domestic appeal of INR 147,509,733 (CHF 3.2 million or USD 3.14 million) to scale up its scope of relief operation and to reach to 25,000 households.

The IRCS national headquarters, along with its state branches, is closely monitoring the ongoing relief operations. The Secretary General is holding regular video conference meetings with the affected state branches. This year, the IRCS national headquarters has extended assistance worth of INR 64,957,000 (CHF 1.4 million or USD 1.38 million) to the flood-affected state branches. In addition to the provision of operational support, the IRCS national headquarters has despatched 5,000 family packs, 20,000 mosquito nets, 4,500 stoves and 3,000 tents to Andhra Pradesh and 2,000 blankets and 2,000 kitchen sets to Karnataka state branch. Four water and sanitation units have been deployed in Andhra Pradesh.

In order to analyse the needs of the flood affected population in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, IRCS deployed national disaster response team (NDRT) members in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh from 8 to 12 October 2009. Teams made recommendations to the IRCS national headquarters for short-term and mid-

term interventions. These detailed assessments completed alongside the relief effort have been supported by the DREF allocation, and have led to development of an extensive plan of action and national appeal. Several steps have been taken by IRCS to streamline the transportation of relief supplies from its warehouses to the distribution points. Two teams comprising of three regional disaster response team (RDRT), four national disaster WATSAN response team (NDWRT), seven NDRT and one state disaster response team (SDRT) trained members have been deployed in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in order to ensure the quick and systematic distribution of relief supplies. The team deployed in Andhra Pradesh is coordinating with the district administration. The operation of deployed four water purification units with the capacity of 5,000 litres/day is also looked after by this team. The purified water distribution system is being utilised to ensure the access of safe drinking water to the maximum number of people. The special attention has been given on optimizing the use of deployed water purification units. The formation of the NDWRT was also done as part of the monsoon preparedness this year.

The deployment of these two teams was initially scheduled for a period of ten days. Their deployment can be extended to 15 days, if needed. Additional RDRT and NDRT members are kept on standby as replacement for the deployed team members.

The investment in terms of money, time and effort which has been made by IRCS with the support of its movement partners in order to enhance its disaster response capacity has reaped benefits enabling IRCS to take up relief operation in more efficient and effective manner.

The first disaster response team was trained in 2004. Thereafter several NDRT, NDWRT, SDRT and district disaster response team (DDRT) trainings have been conducted which has formed a pool of trained volunteers and staff. These trainings have enhanced the quality and efficiency of IRCS relief operations. In addition during this relief operation, several opportunities to further strengthen the national disaster response mechanism have been identified which will be further expanded in the near future.

#### **IRCS Karnataka state branch response**

- 300 family packs sent for distribution to the flood-affected population in Bellary district. Two staff members along with 15 volunteers carried out the relief distribution.
- 200 family packs, consisting of dhoti, saree, bed sheets, blankets and 40 quintal of rice, provisioned for distribution in six districts: Bijapur, Belgaum, Davanagere, Bellary, Dharwad and Bagalkot.
- The state branch collected INR400,000 (CHF 8,678 or USD 8,489) as donation during the 20/20 Cricket Champions League in Bangalore.

#### **IRCS Andhra Pradesh state branch response**

- Five water purification units from the Tata Company have been deployed in five districts: Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool, Krishna, Guntur and Nalgonda. Each unit has a capacity to provide 1,500 litres of water per hour.
- HAM radio set was established at the IRCS disaster management centre at Vijayawada in Krishna District. The HAM Radio operator set up a HAM Radio network which was used as a second line of communication with the mobile teams.
- Trained Red Cross volunteers under disaster management programme and disaster management centre project supported by the national headquarters are actively participating in ongoing relief operation in Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Guntur, Krishna and Nalgonda districts.
- The volunteers of the non-affected Nellore district branch collected INR 300,000 (CHF 6,500 or USD 6,360) and donated it to Kurnool district branch for relief work.
- The donations collected through individual donors, different organizations and multinationals in the form of cash and kind are being sent to five affected districts.

The International Federation country office and South Asia regional office are actively involved and supporting IRCS in this relief operation.

## **Progress towards objectives**

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<b>Objective:</b> To assess situations in affected states to better understand the varying short- and medium-term needs.
<b>Activities planned:</b> Provide technical support in conducting assessments, resource mobilization, information dissemination, reporting, relief distribution and community empowerment.

Assist IRCS to build and/or replenish national society relief stock.

**Progress:** IRCS deployed two teams of four and five NDRT trained members to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively from 8 to 12 October 2009. The aim of this deployment was to carry out a rapid assessment in order to analyze short- and medium-term needs of the flood-affected population. Based on the reports of the assessment teams, the relief operation was further enhanced in order to reach the most affected population in the minimum time with quality services.

**Impact:** The assessment assisted IRCS in understanding the outstanding immediate needs of the affected population and defining the IRCS interventions in the two states based on the state branches' capacities. The reports revealed that the flood victims were in need of more relief items, such as new clothes, shelter materials, cooking stoves, and school materials for children. It was also indicated that, although there was no abnormal increase in the cases of water- and vector-borne diseases, special attention needs to be paid to hygiene promotion and provision of mosquito nets, jerry cans and hygiene kits. Considering the recommendations of the assessment team, IRCS defined its short-term assistance strategy and decided to support 25,000 households with family packs that consist of dhoti, sarees, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, bed sheets, towels, buckets with lid and blankets.



An Indian Red Cross volunteer distributing water bottles during the emergency phase. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

**Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

**Objective:** To provide necessary human capacity to support the Indian Red Cross Society and the International Federation to make appropriate short- and medium-term responses to the floods situation.

**Activities planned:** To mobilize the state and national disaster response teams to support the national society with coordination and response operation.

**Progress:** One of the major needs revealed by the assessment team was that the local water supplies, damaged by the floods, have not been fully restored. As part of the assessment, the capacity of the local IRCS branches to deliver quality services in the given span of time was also analyzed. Taking into consideration all these factors, it was recommended to deploy more water purification units with support of NDWRT and NDRT for operationalizing water purification units and establishing proper distribution system of water and relief supplies. Responding to the identified needs, the IRCS national headquarters deployed two teams comprising of 11 and three team members for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively on 22 October 2009 in order to assist IRCS state branches in the deployment of four water purification units and relief distribution. These members have been deployed initially for the period of ten days and can be extended to 15 days if needed. The situation will be revisited at the beginning of November and, depending on the existing needs, decisions on scaling up or scaling down the deployment of the personnel will be taken.

**Impact:** The deployment of trained personnel has increased the pace of relief operation ensuring quality services to the affected population in minimum span of time. This deployment has helped to identify the immediate needs and take some actions to support the most vulnerable people affected by the floods in India.

## 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:**

In India:

- Indian Red Cross Society: Dr. S P Agarwal, Secretary General; email: [spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org); phone: +91.11.2371.6441; fax: +91.11.2371.7454
- International Federation country office in India: Peter Ophoff, Head of country office; email: [peter.ophoff@ifrc.org](mailto:peter.ophoff@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11.233.4235

International Federation South Asia Office in Delhi:

- Mr. Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office, email: [azmat.ulla@ifrc.org](mailto:azmat.ulla@ifrc.org), phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Michael Higginson (Regional Programme Coordinator); phone: +91.11.2411.1125 ; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: [michael.higginson@ifrc.org](mailto:michael.higginson@ifrc.org)

International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:

- Michael Annear, disaster management coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5726, mobile: +6012 234 6591, email: [michael.annear@ifrc.org](mailto:michael.annear@ifrc.org)
- Jagan Chapagain, deputy head of zone office, phone: +603 9207 5700, mobile: +6012 215 3765, email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org)
- Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org); phone: +603 9207 5775, fax: +603 2161 0670  
Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)
- Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +6012 298 9752, fax: +603 2168 8573, email: [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org)
- Jason Smith, zone communications manager, mobile: +6012 387 0829, email: [jason.smith@ifrc.org](mailto:jason.smith@ifrc.org)

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)

