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DREF operation update India: Odisha Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN007
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000138-IND
Update n°02
27 October 2011

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: 30 September to 19 October 2011.



Indian Red Cross Society youth volunteers distributing treated water in a remote village of Puri district. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

Summary: CHF 240,301 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 September 2011 to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering assistance to some 75,000 beneficiaries, or to

replenish disaster preparedness stocks following this operation.

During the reporting period, IRCS youth volunteers were trained in the storage of safe drinking water, household water treatment, restoration/rehabilitation of hand pumps and basic solid waste management and sanitation. Since being trained, these volunteers have been visiting villages passing messages related to water, sanitation and hygiene to the affected communities, as well as restoring hand pumps that have been contaminated by the flood waters.

IRCS national headquarters sent non-food items to the Odisha State branch to enable them to support 2,000 families. The state branch has also continued distribution of non-food items during this reporting period.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The 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.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The second wave of floods in Odisha affected six districts. Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Keonjhar and Jajpur were those worst affected by this second wave. Twenty people lost their lives while a further five are still missing.

In the second wave alone, 2,189,766, people were affected while the cumulative number affected in the districts under the scope of this DREF operation has exceeded 3,444,000 during this monsoon season.

The impact of the floods is summarized as follows:

Table 1: Impact of floods

Particulars	Impact second flood wave	Cumulative figures
Districts affected	10	19
People affected	2,189,766	3,443,989
Lives lost	20	41
Missing persons	5	12
Villages marooned	1,176	198
Houses damaged	17,908	118,429
Persons evacuated	121,159	280,320
Villages affected	3,415	4,897

IRCS national headquarters supported the state branch of Odisha by reinforcing their capacities through the deployment of national disaster response team (NDRT)/ national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) and release of non-food items and water treatment units. Training has been given to youth volunteers as well as rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) focal persons to deliver water, sanitation and hygiene promotion messages to the flood affected communities. Volunteers have disinfected hand pumps and open wells so that the communities can obtain drinking water from their traditional sources.

All efforts have been made to reach the maximum number of villages and households with safe water. The collaboration of Red Cross with India's RWSS department could make available tankers for the distribution of the treated water.

The Odisha state branch has continued its efforts to reach the people in need with the non-food items in the flood affected districts. The additional dispatch of relief supplies from IRCS's Vikhroli warehouse to Odisha will enable the state branch to support even an even greater number of those affected.

Coordination and partnerships

The IRCS Odisha state branch is leading the state level inter-agency group. Regular coordination meetings are taking place in the Red Cross office in Bhubaneswar. The inter-agency group is coordinating with all the agencies active in the affected region to avoid duplication of efforts. IRCS is sharing regular updates with its in-country partner National Societies in order to keep them updated on the situation.

Close coordination with non-governmental organizations rendering assistance is being maintained. Agencies including Concern Worldwide, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), World Vision, and Save the Children, amongst others, have provided hygiene kits, tarpaulins, family kits, bedding and cooking items, and food, etc, to about 25,000 households collectively.

Recently, ECHO has announced their decision to make available EUR 3 million (CHF 3.6 million) in emergency funds for response to flooding in the states of Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In order to scale up the ongoing flood relief operation, IFRC has applied for ECHO funding support.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome:	The immediate needs of at least 5,000 flood-affected families (25,000 beneficiaries) have been met through relief distributions in the flood affected districts of Odisha
Activities planned:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed need assessment by IRCS and mobilization of national disaster response team (NDRT) and national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) members and volunteers.Procurement for replenishment of non-food item (NFI) stocks.Dispatch and transportation by IRCS to the distribution sites.Distribution of relief items (tarpaulin, kitchen, cotton blanket, plastic bucket) by trained IRCS volunteers and staff.Re-stock relief items distributed.Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.

Progress:

- During the reporting period, the first team of NDRT/NDWRT deployed to Odisha for flood relief operation has been replaced by a second team.
- NDRT volunteers have continued to assess the affected districts, and the relief mechanisms at district level are being strengthened to have coordinated response.
- IRCS national headquarters has sent the following relief supplies to Odisha state branch for the distribution to flood affected families:

Table 2: Relief supplies sent by IRCS national headquarters to Odisha state branch

Relief Item	Quantity
Tarpaulin	1,900
Mosquito nets	4,000
Bed Sheets	2,000
Kitchen Sets	2,000
Woollen blankets	2,000

Challenges: The situation in the field has been improving. The NDRT members continue to closely monitor the situation and make appropriate changes in their plans to cater the people in need in a possible best way.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome:	The risks to the flood-affected people from water and sanitation related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water for 2,000 families, and hygiene promotion for up to 10,000 families in the flood affected districts of Odisha.
Activities planned:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess the existing water supply and sanitation situation. Selection of most vulnerable

- people as beneficiaries.
- Deployment of two IRCS water treatment units and provision of safe drinking water to up to 10,000 people (2,000 families).
- Distribution of water collection containers (as part of NFI distribution).
- Conduct training for Red Cross volunteers in hygiene promotion and safe storage and use of water.
- Trained volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion campaign and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials for up to 10,000 families. Each beneficiary family will be given one bucket.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Progress:

1. The water treatment unit installed at Kanas, Puri district has been meeting the drinking water needs of the following villages:

Table 3: Details of the beneficiaries of water purification unit.

Sr. No	Name of the Village	Total Population	Total Households.
Kandahota Grama Panchayat			
1	Harasapada	800	160
2	Khandahota	700	140
3	Bindhana	700	140
4	Nabada	600	120
5	Suhagapur	400	80
6	Tigiria	600	120
Andalasingh Grama Panchayat			
7	Bijipur	400	80
8	Jharada	400	80
9	Radhakrishnapur	400	80
Jamiliguda Grama Panchayat			
10	Jamiliguda	750	150
	Total	5750	1150

The assessment team visited affected districts to identify an appropriate water source to install a second water treatment unit to provide additional quantity of drinking water to meet needs. The second water treatment unit could not be installed as at many places the pH of the source water was found to be above 8.2, and hence unable to be reduced to a suitable level using the IRCS treatment technology.

2. A training session was conducted for youth volunteers on household water treatment, hygiene promotion, safe storage of drinking water and disinfection of hand pumps. 29 volunteers participated in the training. Out of 29 participants 21 have been chosen to carry messages to the flood affected communities.
3. IRCS has installed a water treatment unit in Kanas. Volunteers are distributing safe drinking water to the villages by boat and tankers. Unicef provided jerry cans to IRCS, which are being filled with drinking water and transported to villages by boat.



Volunteers distributing drinking water from the IRCS water treatment plant by boat to villages affected by floods. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Volunteer distributing water to the flood affected village by boat. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

4. These trained volunteers are travelling visiting village after village in order to disseminate message on use of household water treatment tablets, disinfection of water sources-hand pumps and open wells, good personal hygiene practices (hand washing with soap) and cleaning the surrounds areas of water sources.



Picture 4: Demonstration: Preparation of the bleaching powder mix for tube well disinfection. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Cleaning of surrounds of water source after disinfecting the same by bleaching powder. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

Challenges: Due to high pH of the water sources, a second water treatment unit which has been sent from Kolkata warehouse could not be made operational as yet as it is unable to reduce the level of pH to a suitable drinking level.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

This DREF was allocated on 20 September 2011 for CHF 240,301 for three months to assist 75,000 beneficiaries.



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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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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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