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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°03**  
**20 December 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:**  
20 October to 16 December 2011.

**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.

IRCS Odisha state branch volunteers have been in the forefront in assisting vulnerable people since the onset of the disaster and have delivered relief to the affected population very quickly. The relief extended include food, health check up by Red Cross mobile teams, treated water, hygiene promotion, rehabilitation of the water sources and non-food items like dhoti, saree, mats, hygiene kits, towel, bed sheets, tarpaulins, etc. The operation is in its last phase and this DREF operation is extended to 29 February 2012 to document the learning from the operation through a lessons learnt workshop with IRCS headquarters and branch staff and volunteers, and a short documentary for sharing/training. This will help IRCS in the long run to analyse the best practices and the gaps to further improve Red Cross national disaster response mechanism. A final report will be available by 29 May 2012.

DG ECHO, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, and Canadian Red Cross and government have replenished the DREF for this allocation.

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



With its efforts to provide relief items, the Indian Red Cross Society was able to console the people affected by the flood. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

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.

IFRC, on behalf of IRCS, 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](http://www.ifrc.org/dref).

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## The situation

The second wave of floods in Odisha affected six districts, and 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
<b>Districts affected</b>	10	19
<b>People affected</b>	2,189,766	3,443,989
<b>Lives lost</b>	20	41
<b>Missing persons</b>	5	12
<b>Villages marooned</b>	1,176	198
<b>Houses damaged</b>	17,908	118,429
<b>Persons evacuated</b>	121,159	280,320
<b>Villages affected</b>	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 were 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 flood water has receded and the situation in Odisha flood-affected villages has almost come to normalcy. The IRCS relief operation has been concluded. The water purification units have been relocated from field to Odisha state branch. These units will soon be sent back to the Kolkata warehouse. The replenishment of stocks is likely to be completed in a week's time with the delivery of goods to IRCS warehouses.

The Governor of Odisha state, who is also the President of IRCS Odisha state branch, visited the field and acknowledged the efforts of Red Cross volunteers and encouraged them to continue their efforts for the noble cause.

## Coordination and partnerships

IRCS Odisha state branch being in the Chair of the Inter Agency Group has delivered best to ensure the coordinated response to the 2011 floods. Joint assessment, close coordination through the regular meetings, advocacy for the most vulnerable groups were the key achievements of the coordination mechanism. Inter

agency group through information sharing mechanism which was already in place before the floods, circulated the collated information on the impact of disaster, relief operation, inaccessible areas, needs of the affected communities in most effective way.

Close coordination with non-governmental organizations rendering assistance was 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.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Procurement for replenishment of non-food item (NFI) stocks.</li> <li>Dispatch and transportation by IRCS to the distribution sites.</li> <li>Distribution of relief items (tarpaulin, kitchen, cotton blanket, plastic bucket) by trained IRCS volunteers and staff.</li> <li>Re-stock relief items distributed.</li> <li>Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

- The following relief items were distributed to the affected people:

Relief Material Distributed by IRCS in Odisha	
Relief Items	Quantity
Gents dhoti	1,978
Saree	2,646
Cotton blanket	0
Kitchen sets	1,050
Plastic buckets	200
Tarpaulin	7,068
Towel	2,450
Bed sheet	250
Mosquito nets	900
Hygiene kits	250



Indian Red Cross Society Odisha state branch volunteers transporting relief supplies to flood affected villages by boat. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

Due to elections, distributions were suspended to avoid association with political activities from political parties during this critical period, in order for the Red Cross intervention to remain neutral and independent. At present, while access is no longer a constraint, most of the communities have resumed their normal lives, and relief needs are therefore reduced.

- The replenishment of the relief supplies is in progress. The relief supplies are being procured locally as well as using the global framework agreement through the Asia Pacific regional logistics unit, Kuala Lumpur. The following items are being procured:

**Table 2: List of relief items being procured.**

Relief Items	Quantities
Tarpaulin	5,000
Cotton blanket	10,000
Kitchen set	2,000
Plastic bucket	15,000
Saree	2,646
Dhoti	1,978
Towel	2,450
Bed sheet	250

The procurement for restocking of relief supplies has started since 27 September 2011. These disaster-preparedness resources will facilitate IRCS to be ready to deal with future disasters efficiently.

- The consignment of relief items sent from the Asia Pacific regional logistics unit warehouse in Kuala Lumpur has reached Kolkata Port. The customs exemption certificate and other consignment documents have already been submitted to the customs department. The consignment will soon be released from the customs.
- The inspection of the locally procured relief items has been completed at the supplier's warehouses and soon these items will be dispatched to IRCS warehouse. The relief items were suppose to be delivered by 15 December 2011 in the IRCS warehouse. However, as the dispatches from the suppliers' warehouses are delayed, all the relief items are expected to be delivered to IRCS warehouses by 25 December 2011.



Indian Red Cross Society youth volunteers distributing relief materials to the flood affected people in Kendrapada, Odisha. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

### 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:**

- 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 second NDRT/NDWRT team deployed to Odisha continued the treatment and distribution of safe drinking water. They coordinated closely with the RWS S department and the district authorities to ensure the coordinated response. The debriefing of the team was held with the IRCS secretary general where the team shared their field experiences with the management.
2. The disaster response team members installed water treatment units in Kanas, Puri district. The treated water was distributed to the people in ten villages by using boats and tankers provided by the RWSS department. The water treatment unit installed at Kanas, Puri district, has met the drinking water needs of the following villages by supplying approximately 20,000 litres of water daily:

**Table 3: Details of the beneficiaries of water treatment unit.**

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

3. A total of 45 IRCS youth volunteers were actively trained and operating the water treatment unit, distribution of treated water to the villages, disinfection of bore wells/open wells and hygiene promotion campaign.
4. A total of 21 volunteers chosen after the training on household water treatment, hygiene promotion, safe storage of drinking water and disinfection of hand pumps carried out a campaign and reached 20,144 people. Following are the achievements of the campaign:
  - i. Identified number of water sources affected due to flood.
  - ii. Sensitized people on use of safe water, halogen tablets, handling of water and storage.
  - iii. Sensitized people on use of toilets during the emergency and during normal times.
  - iv. Bleaching powder was provided to each community to disinfect the water sources as demonstrated by Red Cross volunteers.
  - v. Halogen tablets were distributed to the community.
  - vi. IEC materials were distributed to the community.



Indian Red Cross Society volunteers filling jerry cans with treated water. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Volunteers transporting jerry cans filled with treated water to the villages for distribution. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Demonstration of the usage of halogen tablets and safe storage of drinking water at Bijipur. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Hand washing being demonstrated at one of the schools in Puri district. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Cleaning of the surroundings of water source by Red Cross volunteers at Bijipur. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.



Mass hygiene awareness campaign in the flood affected Khandahata village in Odisha. **Photo:** Indian Red Cross Society.

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## 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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