

## INDIA: ORISSA CYCLONE

1 November 2000

*appeal no. 28/99*

*situation report no. 14*

*period covered: 1 - 31 October 2000*

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*This month marked a year since a devastating cyclone hit the coastal districts of Orissa. At the same time, a cyclonic depression which intensified into a tropical storm struck fear in the hearts of the inhabitants of coastal Orissa. Disaster preparedness measures proved effective, proving the benefit of lessons learned. Heavy rains provoked by the depression have hampered rehabilitation work as construction was delayed by deteriorating road conditions and population movements as people rushed to evacuate their families to safety.*

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### *The context*

A violent cyclone hit India's eastern coast on Friday, 29 October 1999. Winds of up to 260 kph (155 mph) raged for over 36 hours. The winds caused a 7 metre tidal wave that swept more than 20 km inland and brought massive destruction and death to a number of coastal districts in the state of Orissa.

It is estimated that more than 10 million people in 12 coastal belt districts were affected by the cyclone. More than 10,000 people lost their lives.

The Indian Red Cross responded immediately with an emergency relief operation. With the support of the Federation, the Orissa State branch extended the operation to three-month relief operation and later into a six-month rehabilitation programme. The magnitude of the rehabilitation programme in addition to the difficult environment, particularly the incessant monsoon rain and the acute shortage of masons, has resulted in further extension of the operation until 31 December 2000.

## ***Latest events***

During the third week of October as the cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm, the news created a panic reaction in the coastal areas of Orissa. With the memory of last year's cyclone still fresh, people from the interior abandon their homes looking for shelter in the neighbouring districts. A week later, once the government announced that there was no more the threat of a cyclone hitting, people started to return to their homes.

On 29th October, the Chief Minister addressed a workshop on "state disaster preparedness day" marking the passage of a year since the super cyclone hit Orissa in 1999. The workshop was organised by the government of Orissa, the state disaster mitigation authority, the United Nations and the information and public relations department. During the workshop, the Chief Minister emphasised that the state is considering the creation of a special department for disaster management and rehabilitation for the benefit of populations affected by disaster and with a view to setting up development projects. The Chief Minister also announced a commitment from the Chief Minister's relief fund for construction of 60 cyclone shelters in six coastal belt districts.

The situation in the drought affected districts in western Orissa seems to be deteriorating. According to the state media, no concrete assistance has been provided to the affected population. The drought committee has confirmed that there has been large scale migration from Nuapara and Balangir districts. Besides crop losses, many districts are facing a scarcity of drinking water. In Bargarh district, the state media has reported the first cases of malnutrition. The government of Orissa has released an amount of CHF 1.5 from its relief fund for assistance to the drought affected districts.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Rehabilitation •**

The implementation time frame for the rehabilitation phase of the Orissa cyclone operation has officially been extended to 31 December 2000.

The festival season which lasted for a fortnight and a cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal during the month of October which caused much rain and further deterioration of the access roads to the construction sites, have caused further delays in rehabilitation activities. In addition, a significant movement of population including workers and masons from the coastal belt during the week of the cyclonic depression has further affected progress.

As previously reported, the following rehabilitation activities have been successfully completed:

- Distribution of supplementary food to 9,468 beneficiaries;
- Distribution of 20,000 mosquito nets in the coast belt areas;
- Distribution of educational kits to 300 primary schools;
- Distribution of medical equipment and medicines to five Red Cross medical facilities;
- Distribution of 1,000 agricultural kits;
- Construction of 135 water tube wells;
- Strengthening of Orissa state branch through disaster preparedness workshops;
- Rehabilitation of the Red Cross maternity hospital in Berhampur;
- Rehabilitation of the Red Cross blood bank in Cuttack.

### ***Renovation/reconstruction of Red Cross Dispensaries •***

As reported last month, the construction work on the Tikarapanga dispensary in Kendrapara district was fully completed at the end of September. Work on the two dispensaries in Asan and Bahrak districts has progressed well. Roof casting has been completed at the Asan dispensary and all materials have been procured for the final stage of work.

On the dispensary building in Bahrak district all structural features have been completed and finishing work such as plastering, flooring and installation of doors and windows is in progress.

***Renovation of the Orissa State Branch Headquarters •***

As reported last month, renovation of the Orissa State Branch headquarters has been fully completed.

***Building materials for cyclone resistant housing / low cost Housing •***

The local festival season and a cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal causing much rain between 14 - 21 October have slowed down the progress of rehabilitation work during the month of October. The news of the formation of a cyclonic storm created a panic reaction in the coastal areas where the majority of reconstruction is taking place and most workers and masons left the area. Once the situation became calm, it took some time for workers and masons to return and rehabilitation work to resume.

The Jagatsinghpur building centre had materials available and 23 houses have been completed with another 19 at various stages of completion. Materials for a further 20 houses have been produced and are awaiting transportation while the production of additional material continues.

Aware, a locally contracted NGO, has reported that 35 houses are at various stages of completion and are expected to be completed in the first week of November.

As for Vikash, another locally contracted NGO, little progress has been achieved during the month of October. Transportation of materials was hampered because of the rain generated by the cyclonic depression as it approached the coastal belt of Orissa. Transportation recommenced on 28 October.

***Reconstruction of schools •***

One school-cum-shelter has been constructed and four are in the final stages of completion. However, three schools have been unofficially inaugurated by the village population during the third week of October as the cyclonic depression intensified in the coastal Orissa. In a panic, thousands of people abandoned their homes and entered the school-cum-shelters during the red alert period in Orissa.

Construction work on the remaining six schools continues. Four schools have been completed up to ground floor roof level and most of the materials have been transported to the reconstruction sites.

Regular meetings with the construction agencies and the consultant continue to take place in order to monitor progress.

***Credit-Saving Schemes •***

As previously reported, all fifty six accounts for self-help groups have been opened. During the month of October funds for 44 self-help groups were released. Release of remaining funds is expected to take place during the month of November.

***Buffer Stocks •***

The Indian Red Cross Society national headquarters undertook the transportation of buffer stocks to the Orissa state branch Red Cross. The following items were provided:

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| - Plastic sheeting | 5,000 pieces  |
| - Blankets         | 15,000 pieces |
| - Kitchen sets     | 5,000 pieces  |

- Ladies' sarees                      20,000 pieces
- Gents dhotis                        20,000 pieces
- Water purification tablets        2 million tablets.

#### **Other Red Cross activities •**

Blood donation day was celebrated on 1 October in the Indian Red Cross campus and 200 volunteers took part the event and donated blood. The day was celebrated with a view to increase the awareness of the general public, promote blood donations and the use of safe blood. Government officials, life members and commercial organisations also took part.

As a continuous activity of the Orissa state branch, training in disaster preparedness was organised during the month of October. Altogether 211 participants took part in six training courses. These participants are from the cyclone prone villages where the Orissa state branch, through its office for disaster mitigation and prevention, is building local capacity in disaster preparedness and management.

The national day for disaster reduction was observed on 11 October, focusing discussions on three major issues related to disaster and its impact on human beings. The participants were from different NGOs, government and service organisations. The topics covered were: global warming, civil society response in disaster management and community action plans.

To create awareness and strengthen the responsibility of the community in disaster preparedness, the Orissa state branch organised an exhibition of its project activities on 29 October, the state disaster preparedness day.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The appeal is fully covered and there are no outstanding needs.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Weekly co-ordination meetings of international organisations and NGOs continue to take place at UN house in Bhubaneswar. All organisations participating continue to share information concerning the implementation of ongoing rehabilitation and training activities in the state of Orissa.

The Orissa state branch has taken a lead role in the network of local and international NGOs and UN agencies which are responsible for first aid and medical care. Two rounds of meetings with NGOs and UN representatives have been organised. This initiative has been taken in order to increase the readiness for mobilising volunteers in the event of a disaster in the state.

Christian Aid, a British based NGO, organised an international workshop on disaster mitigation and preparedness from 19-21 October in Bhubaneswar. Many international and national NGOs, government officials and disaster emergency committee member agencies participated.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

A cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal has brought back the memories of last year's cyclone and caused panic among the population in coastal Orissa. This time the level of disaster preparedness proved to be much higher with excellent co-operation between the government, the special police force, NGOs, community based disaster preparedness committees, the Red Cross and other international agencies. However, a panic reaction in the coastal parts resulted in population movements, including labours and masons engaged in the rehabilitation programmes who rushed to evacuate their families to safety.

A year after the super cyclone, it is important to keep up the impetus to avoid further delays in vital rehabilitation efforts.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head  
Operations Funding and  
Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Head  
Asia & Pacific Department

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INDIA - CYCLONE ORISSA						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 28/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			11/01/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				7,200,000	01/01/99	102.37%
AMERICAN - RC		350,000	USD	550,900	01/28/00	
AUSTRALIA		34,179	AUD	33,615	03/01/00	
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	62,250	11/03/99	20'000 FOR RICE
BRITISH - RC		28,692	GBP	71,443	11/19/99	RELIEF GOODS, OPER. COSTS
BRITISH - RC		7,000	GBP	18,130	04/04/00	COSTS OF REPOR. DELEGATE
BRITISH - GOVT		245,000	GBP	610,050	11/01/99	BLANKETS, TRANSP. STORAGE AND LOCAL STAFF SALARIES
BRITISH - RC/DEC		400,000	GBP	1,000,000	11/01/99	220'000 FOOD, 100'000 BLANKETS, 60'000 SHELTER, 20'000 OP. SUPP COSTS
BRITISH - PRIVATE		50	GBP	125	12/01/99	
BRITISH - PRIVATE				16,542	03/20/00	
CANADIAN - RC		296,770	CAD	311,312	11/16/99	
CANADIAN - RC		74,075	CAD	80,349	04/05/00	
CANADIAN - GOVT		150,000	CAD	157,350	11/04/99	NOT FOR TRANSPORT OF FOOD ITEMS
CHINA, HONG-KONG - RC				101,678	24.12.99	UNANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTION
DENMARK - RC				107,850	11/09/99	
DENMARK - RC				105,000	11/17/99	MT 627 RICE
DENMARK - RC				2,165	12/30/99	
ECHO (DEIN02)		880,000	EUR	1,418,120	03/03/00	
FINLAND - RC		50,456	EUR	80,931	11/05/99	
FINLAND - RC/GOVT		168,188	EUR	270,194	11/05/99	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		500,000	DEM	410,000	11/24/99	225mt rice, 18 mt cooking oil, 45 mtdat, 960 blankets, 4800 kitchen sete, 4800 tarpaulins, 1 mln water tablets and 700 kg bleaching powder
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,208	11/06/99	
INDIA - PRIVATE				240	11/30/99	
ITALY - RC		65,774,900	ITL	54,264	01/12/00	
JAPAN - RC				150,000	11/25/99	
KUWAIT - RC		50,000	USD	77,000	11/23/99	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				10,800	11/23/99	
LIECHTENSTEIN - PRIVATE		100,000	GBP	250,000	12/15/99	
MONACO - RC		25,000	FRF	6,088	01/04/00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		250,000	NLG	181,932	11/01/99	
NETHERLANDS - RC		500,000	NLG	364,381	12/06/99	
NETHERLANDS - RC		238,810	NLG	174,705	11/01/99	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		200,000	NZD	161,820	11/04/99	
SPANISH - RC		5,000,000	ESP	48,200	11/01/99	
SINGAPORE - RC				15,000	12/23/99	
SWEDEN - RC		1,000,000	SEK	186,300	11/23/99	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE				7,270	01/21/00	
SWITZERLAND - GOVT				140,000	12/02/99	
SWITZERLAND - RC				10,000	12/02/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE		512	USD	788	12/08/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE				7,180	03/13/00	
UNITED STATES - RC		50	USD	77	12/01/99	
UNITED STATES - RC		50,000	USD	76,250	11/03/99	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE		5,000	USD	7,700	11/12/99	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				7,342,207	CHF	101.98%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Denmark	Delegate(s)			8,706		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			19,877	06/15/00	Year 2000
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				28,583	CHF	0.40%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	