

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

India: Cyclone Gaja

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF: MDRIN021	Glide n° TC-2018-000413-IND
Date of issue: 23 November 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 22 February 2019
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: CHF 295, 653	
Total number of people affected: 249, 000	Number of people to be assisted: 3,500 households (approx. 17,500 people)
Host National Society presence: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is India's largest voluntary humanitarian organization; it has 35 State/Union Territory Branches with more than 700 districts and sub district branches throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 700 staff and volunteers are trained in disaster response, forming Social and Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV), National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), State Disaster Response Teams (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). IRCS has also trained disaster response teams, including 30 members who are specialized in water and sanitation.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively supporting the Indian Red Cross Society. IFRC is maintaining close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Tamil Nadu and other states affected by floods, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Army, Navy, volunteers and other non-government organizations (CARE, Oxfam, CASA, Save the Children, etc.).	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The cyclone Gaja has set the tone towards the end of North East monsoon in India. A low pressure intensified into a cyclone made its landfall during the early hours on 16 November 2018 had hit six districts in the southern state, Tamil Nadu, namely Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Dindigul and Ramnad. The wind speeds reached as high as 120 kmph during its landfall. A major disaster was averted due to the elaborate preparedness measures taken by the government supported by the civil society organizations. Approximately 150,000 vulnerable people were evacuated to relief camps along the coastal areas and fishermen were not allowed to go fishing.

Despite elaborate preparedness measures, the wind speed and heavy rains have caused deaths, damages to houses and public infrastructure. The statistics below have been shared by email by the disaster management department, government of Tamil Nadu on 18 November 2018 to the Indian Red Cross Red Cross Society:



Indian Red Cross Societies (IRCS) assessing damages from Cyclone Gaja.
(Photo: IRCS)

Number of deaths	45
Number of temporary shelters opened	493
Number of people accommodated in temporary shelters	249,083
Number of houses completely destroyed	56,942
Number of houses partially damaged	60, 732
Number of livestock dead	735
Number of trees uprooted	170,454
Number of electricity transformers damaged	347
Number of electricity poles destroyed	39,398
Length of electricity cables destroyed	3,559 km

Most of the areas were not accessible due to fallen trees and uprooted electricity poles along the roads. Government authorities are working round the clock to restore electricity in the affected districts. The roof tops of the houses blew away due to the wind speed and most of these houses could not withstand the wind speed and fully destroyed as many of them are modest thatched homes. Currently, all these people are living in the relief camps. The electricity was cut off and is starting to be restored as of November 21st. As reports coming in, people used oil-based generators to pump water.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Indian Red Cross Society

IRCS has trained National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), National Disaster Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Response Teams (NDWRT) as well as State Disaster Response Teams (SDRT) who can be deployed at short notice to support in response operations. Based on the operational needs, IRCS will deploy surge teams from other states and RDRT members from other countries in Asia Pacific region for operational and technical support.

Specifically, the Tamil Nadu branch is one of IRCS's most active branches. It has strong leadership, volunteer base, technically qualified and trained staffs, and possess the ability to manage small to medium scale disasters. Lastly, Tamil Nadu branch was supported in 2015 during Chennai floods and the branch has displayed its capacity to manage effectively and efficiently the support received through the Federation support mechanism.

Most importantly, it was the Tamil Nadu branch leadership that has stood by the Kerala branch during the Kerala floods recently (during August 2018). Additionally, Tamil Nadu branch supported Kerala branch with dispatch of relief supplies from IRCS's regional warehouses and supported with volunteers and technical support.

Summary of response provided by the Tamil Nadu branch after cyclone Gaja

- Supported government authorities in search and rescue.
- Provided first aid through its local trained FA volunteers.
- Cleared fallen trees and debris to clear the roads for vehicular traffic.
- Provided food and refreshments to the people in the temporary shelters.
- Supported local government in managing temporary shelters.
- Provided relief materials from the state branch stocks - candles, mosquito nets, biscuits, bed sheets, rice and lentils. State branch is also collecting donations from the people to redistribute among the affected people.
- Deployed volunteers and staffs in the affected districts.

Volunteers deployment Details

No.	Name of the District	No. of Volunteers	Purpose
1	Nagapattinam	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of debris • Distribution of food & nutrition • Providing First Aid
2	Tiruvarur	45	
3	Thanjavur	30	

Staff deployment Details

No.	Name of the District	No. of Staff	Purpose
1	Nagapattinam	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with govt. officials • Dispatching of immediate needs • Assessment & report
2	Tiruvarur	3	
3	Thanjavur	2	
4	IRCS Tamil Nadu branch	10	

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC is present in the country and is currently supporting Indian Red Cross Society to launch a DREF. ICRC is also present in the country. Currently, there is no other Partner National Society present in the country. IRCS, IFRC and ICRC are coordinating with each other for the response operation. IRCS's Tamil Nadu State branch has capacities and resources in various sectors such as shelter, WASH, emergency health and psychosocial support.

There is regular coordination among IFRC, ICRC and IRCS on the plans to support the response operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Under the Inter Agency Group (IAG) other non-RCRC stakeholders such as Sphere India, INGO's such as OXFAM, Save the Children (SC) CARE, NGO's such as Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) are also supporting in the response. The joint rapid needs assessment is being initiated by IAG, Tamil Nadu and will start the assessments as soon as the flood affected areas are accessible.

Response by government

The Government of India and affected state governments are leading the response. The government of India deployed army, navy and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for search & rescue and evacuation. The local authorities have provided food items and managing relief camps. The district administration along with Red Cross volunteers are providing first aid and organizing health check-up camps.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The disaster has been categorized as yellow with limited geographical coverage across 6 districts and causing severe impact in three districts namely Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur. The support is mainly needed for those vulnerable people who lived in thatched houses and whose houses were fully destroyed due to high velocity winds and heavy rainfall during the landfall of the cyclone. Currently, these people are living in temporary shelters. The state, was already seeing several cases of dengue prior to the cyclone, the affected population are now more susceptible to a sudden influx of dengue following the cyclone. The identified initial needs have also been corroborated with the needs identified by the Inter Agency group (IAG) coordinated by Sphere India Chapter.

Through the DREF support, Red Cross branches in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur will support approximately 3500 households with most needed relief items such as tarpaulins and kitchen sets. Although branch also requested for sarees, blankets, towels and buckets; these items will be dispatched from the existing stocks of Indian Red Cross Society regional warehouses. Some other relief items are sourced through local contributions such as dry rations, some clothing items, small contributions in cash.

Finally, IRCS has not reported any major WASH or health concerns. However, as the affected areas are mosquito prevalent there is a need to reduce the exposure of the affected people to mosquito bites.

Targeting

The targeted people to be assisted will be selected through a participatory process involving the affected population themselves, local authorities and Red Cross volunteers. The selection criteria will focus mainly on the households who have lost their houses, livelihoods, women headed households, disabled persons and living in relief camps / temporary shelters. Since the selection will be done through a participatory process and Red Cross branches closely work in alignment with authorities, the selection would consider most vulnerable population as its target people to be assisted. In addition, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) support is also built-in to the DREF support that helps branches build in accountability mechanisms and engage with communities.

Operation risk assessment

The north east monsoon (NEM) is receding now. With a few more weeks to go for the NEM, a few more low pressure or cyclones are expected in the Indian Ocean / Arabian sea, which might also impact the same geographical location. As of 20 November 2018, there is a low-pressure situation already in the Arabian sea causing rainfall across Tamil Nadu. Except for the transportation risks due to the continued rainfall, there are no other security risks to the IFRC that may affect the operation. The rainfall is expected to subside in few days when the current low pressure subsides.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Gender, diversity and protection issues will be mainstreamed in this operation. Gender balance will get attention during all operational stages of the DREF operation. IRCS Tamil Nadu branch will be encouraged to deploy female social and emergency response volunteers (SERV) volunteers for assessment and distribution of relief supplies. Among others, areas of focus will include prevention of sex and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Mainstreaming of gender, diversity and protection issues will also ensure that accountability lines are in place for GBV response and prevention.

Community engagement and accountability

Community accountability and feedback/response mechanisms will be integrated into the operation to ensure that people to be assisted have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by IRCS, and the expected behavior of staff and volunteers. IRCS local volunteers and community members have been used to support the assessments and will be involved during the entire operation cycle.

The deployment of a CEA RDRT member was a positive initiative during the Kerala response operation and IRCS Kerala branch has successfully implemented the CEA initiatives. One CEA RDRT will be deployed to ensure that community engagement and accountability procedures are established, and that Tamil Nadu state branch volunteers have received training and have developed capacities.

B. Operational strategy

Overall operational objective

The overall objective is to ensure that the immediate needs of the 3,500 cyclone-affected households are met through provision of emergency relief items over a three-month period. This DREF operation will focus on Tamil Nadu State.

Proposed strategy

The operation shall be relief-focused, providing the affected population especially those who are displaced with essential relief items. IRCS has been responding to the flood situation across many states during the monsoon season, IRCS almost depleted its existing stocks due to their on-going support to small scale disasters across many states.

The DREF operation will focus on the following activities:

1. Distribution of relief items (kitchen sets and tarpaulins) to 3,500 affected households – available items released from IRCS warehouses.
2. Distribution of long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets to promote health and prevent vector-borne diseases among 3,500 vulnerable households.
3. Procurement and replenishment of relief items (kitchen sets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets) to 3,500 households.
4. Conduct detailed assessment.
5. Deployment of one RDRT member for community engagement accountability (CEA) support.
6. Deployment of 2 NDRT/NDWRT members in different phases as per technical requirement.
7. Deployment of 200 SERV volunteers.
8. Relief distributions using Open Data Kit (ODK).
9. Organize training for volunteers on response protocol to be able to optimize the implementation of the activities.
10. Organize one lessons learnt workshop at the end of the operation.

Human resources

The DREF operation will be implemented by volunteers and staff members existing in both IRCS and IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST). Mobilization of SERV volunteers, NDRT, NDWRT and RDRT as well as staff expenses shall be covered in the operational budget as per DREF guidelines. Existing capacities of the Tamil Nadu branch will be taken into consideration for any additional HR support based on a detailed assessment by both IRCS and IFRC representatives. The operations will seek, during the implementation of the DREF, communications (IRCS internal), relief and CEA. In addition, IFRC CCST will continue to provide support for procurement of relief materials, administration support wherever required and ensure financial compliances.

Logistics and supply chain

IRCS logistics activities is being supported by IFRC CCST logistics officer. The overall aim is to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation.

To meet immediate relief needs, the IRCS released non-food relief items (NFIs) required in this operation from its existing in-country stocks and transported them to distribution points using the existing fleet of the National Society. All transportation and distribution costs within the country will be covered by this DREF. The NFIs that are being dispatched from pre-positioned stocks will be replenished following IFRC procurement procedures.

IFRC CCST is providing logistical support to IRCS in local procurement of relief supplies and technical advice for the same. IFRC CCST will also keep close communication with IRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the process of replenishment of relief stocks. International sourcing of relief goods, such as tarpaulins, kitchen sets and mosquito nets will be done through the Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management

(OLPSCM) department in Kuala Lumpur. OLPSCM will also provide additional logistics support to IFRC CCST in Delhi and IRCS as needed.

Information technologies (IT) and Communications

CCST Delhi will promote IRCS's response on IFRC and other channels, with technical support from the communications staff of IRCS and Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO), Kuala Lumpur.

Communications support to the National Society will also be provided by IFRC seconded staff with support from APRO. This may include developing and publishing the national appeal, media relations to maximise opportunities, generating and sharing audio visual material, capacity strengthening and public communications assistance that contributes towards the positioning of the National Society response. In addition, communications support shall also be provided on resource mobilization and appropriate messaging.

The state branches will ensure visibility and beneficiary communication during the relief distributions. Banners and information charts of the items being distributed will be put on display at all the distribution points. In addition, a complaint redressal mechanism will also be activated. A CEA RDRT will be deployed to provide technical support for the establishment of the grievance redressal mechanism. The IT support systems Manager will provide lead support for the IT and communications as needed.

Security

IRCS and IFRC security focal points will continue to monitor the situation regularly. Any security concerns will be handled with local authorities, IRCS national headquarters, IRCS state branches where appropriate, as per the existing security framework. IFRC will coordinate with ICRC on the security issues in case any of the operational areas has additional risks that fall in the ambit of ICRC's security framework.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

IRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood affected areas through its branches and volunteers. IFRC will provide technical support in programme management to ensure the operational objectives are met.

Operation updates will be scheduled to provide necessary information in relation to the progress of the operation, any changes in the situation during the reporting period, and any problem, constraint or unmet needs. A final report on the operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

A post distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted for all relief distributions. This will be done to evaluate the utility of items as well as beneficiary satisfaction. Open Data Kit (ODK) will be used to collect data during the activities. A lesson learnt workshop will be conducted towards the end of the DREF operation to check if objectives of the operation are met, and to analyze operational challenges and gaps in planning. This will be held either in Tamil Nadu based on the feasibility of travels by participants.

Administration and Finance

Operational expenses such as volunteer per diem, accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Per diem, local travel and accommodation for volunteers and surge team members (NDRT/NDWRT) shall be implemented as per IRCS decision/directives. Procurement of relief items will be done following IFRC standard procurement procedures. IRCS national headquarters will provide finance and administration support to the operation, with support from the finance team of the IFRC CCST Delhi.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 3,500 households (17,500 people)

Male: 8,768¹

Female: 8,732

Requirements (CHF): 194,500

Needs analysis: The initial rapid assessment of needs indicates people whose houses were fully damaged in Tamil Nadu are in need of emergency shelter. As of 20 November, thousands of people whose houses blew away due to high velocity winds are living in temporary shelters. According to the data published by the government of Tamil Nadu, an estimated 60, 000 homes are fully damaged which includes 30,328 thatched houses. There is a need for the affected families for multipurpose tarpaulins, which are traditionally used to cover the floors as most popular use and cover the roofs. Local authorities are currently conducting assessments of the shelter damages to guide their support.

Population to be assisted: 3,500 households whose houses were fully damaged due to cyclone will be assisted with emergency shelter. They will be selected through a participatory process involving the affected population themselves, local authorities and Red Cross volunteers. The selection criteria will focus mainly on households who have lost their houses, livelihoods, women headed households and persons living with disabilities. Since the selection will be done through a participatory process and Red Cross branches closely work in alignment with authorities, the most vulnerable would be considered as its target people to be assisted. The use of the shelter items will be monitored by the volunteers.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The relief items quality and quantity per affected family will comply with the Sphere standards. In this view, each household will receive two tarpaulins and one kitchen set. Procurement of tarpaulins and kitchen sets will be carried by IFRC and will fully comply with procurement standards of the Federation. IRCS will participate in all procurement processes to ensure transparency and accountability.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions								# of households will have shelter and settlement needs whose houses are fully damaged and who lost all household items. (Target: 3,500)					
	Shelter Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households								# of cyclone affected households assisted through emergency shelter and settlement assistance. (Target: 3,500)					
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps		x	x	x									

¹ According to Gol's Ministry of Stats and Prog Implementation, the most recent sex ratio data available

(http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/reports_and_publication/statistical_publication/social_statistics/WM17Chapter1.pdf) shows that in Tamil Nadu, with every 1000 males, there are 996 females.

AP011	Identification of caseloads and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups – inclusion factors integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response	x	x	x									
AP011	Procurement and distribution of 7,000 mosquito nets to 3,500 households.		x	x	x	x	x	x					
AP011	Conduct health promotion and disease prevention activities		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				



Protection, Gender and Inclusion²

People targeted: 3,500 households (17,500 people)

Male: 8,768

Female: 8,732

Requirements (CHF): 1,000

Needs analysis: The purpose of including the two below activities is to ensure the response operation planning address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) as much as possible.

Population to be assisted: 3,500 households.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The operation will be ensured to comply with the minimum standards for inclusion and protection.

P&B Output Code	Inclusion and Protection Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs							The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services. (Target: Yes)						
	Inclusion and Protection Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.							# of NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. (Target: 1 – IRCS)						
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP031	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning		x	x	x									
AP031	Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		

² This area of focus is a merge of what previously was Social Inclusion and Culture of Non-violence and peace. It is under development, so for now it represents the physical merge of three existing relevant outputs.

[illegible]

Budget

DREF OPERATION

21-11-2018

MDRIN021: Cyclone Gaja Tamil Nadu

Budget Group	DREF Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	91,000
Clothing & Textiles	14,700
Utensils & Tools	80,500
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	186,200
Storage, Warehousing	5,000
Distribution & Monitoring	19,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,000
Logistics Services	9,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	41,500
National Staff	5,000
National Society Staff	7,500
Volunteers	15,300
Total PERSONNEL	27,800
Workshops & Training	8,700
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	8,700
Travel	10,500
Information & Public Relations	1,908
Office Costs	1,000
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	13,408
Programme and Services Support Recovery	18,045
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,045
TOTAL BUDGET	295,653

Reference documents

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:****In Indian Red Cross Society**

- Dr. Veer Bhushan, Joint Secretary; phone: +91 11 2371 0429; email: jointsecretary@indianredcross.org

In IFRC CCST New Delhi

- Leon Prop, head of CCST; phone +91 11 233 24203; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org
- Meenu Bali, acting senior officer, operations; phone: +91 9971641414; email: meenu.bali@ifrc.org

In IFRC Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur

- Martin Faller, deputy regional director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of DCPRR; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Mathieu Leonard, operations coordinator; email: mathieu.leonard@ifrc.org
- Malin Denninger, interim operations coordinator; mobile +60-11-2320-7646; email: OpsCoord.APRO@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, regional logistics coordinator; mobile: +6012 298 9752; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Tiffany Loh, operations coordination; email: tiffany.loh@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Michael Brazier, acting resource mobilization in emergencies coordinator; email: michael.brazier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Siew Hui Liew, PMER manager; email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



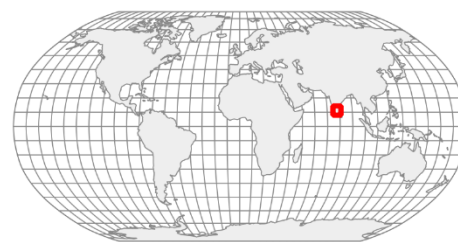
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

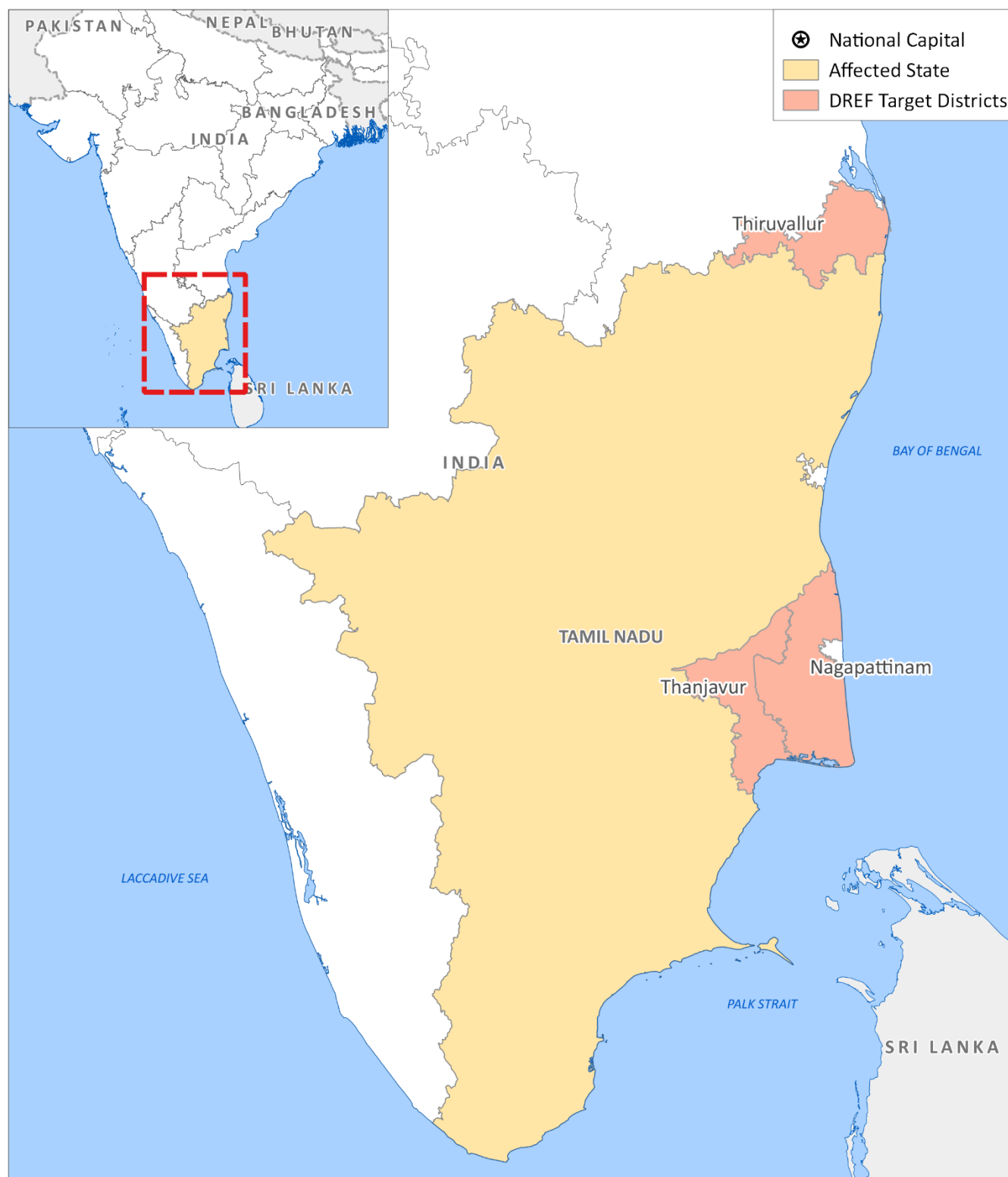


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
 الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



India: Cyclone GAJA in Tamil Nadu Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

21 11 2018 • MDRIN021 • TC-2018-000413-IND



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC.

0 100 200 km

