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DREF Operation Update India: Cyclone Phailin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN013
GLIDE n° [TC-2013-000133-IND](#)
Operation update n° 2
12 February 2014

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 for this update: 19 October 2013 to 31 January 2014

CHF 500,000 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Cyclone Phailin was rated as a very severe cyclone that hit India last October. Over 1.1 million residents in Odisha state, which has a population of 41.9 million, were evacuated before the storm and due to the floods that followed. An estimated 13.23 million people were affected; 47 people were found dead. Seventeen districts and 18,374 villages in total have been affected. In Andhra Pradesh (AP) 16 districts and 5,000 villages were affected by this severe cyclone.

During the reporting period, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) continued the relief operation in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. IRCS has enriched its strategy to cater to the needs of the most vulnerable population affected by cyclone Phailin while delivering non-food items (NFIs). Consultations in a participatory manner were conducted with various donors to assist people whose houses were damaged to restore better living conditions. The water purification units deployed in Ganjam and Puri districts have completed their mission as the affected population have started using their usual drinking water sources.

Overall the Red Cross interventions have been commendable - where the Honorary Governor of Odisha State personally congratulated the Secretary of the IRCS Odisha state branch for mobilizing volunteers efficiently for early warning, evacuation and making available 75 Red Cross cyclone shelters



A beneficiary whose house was damaged in cyclone Phailin receives relief items in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.
Photo: IRCS

to provide shelters to vulnerable communities during the early warning phase. Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Red Cross state branches were also appreciated for responding to the disaster within a week's time with relief packages containing NFIs and candles soon after evacuation, providing treated water and promoting hygiene practices in the in affected communities.

On 19 January 2014, Union Home Minister announced that the centre would release INR 915 crore (approx. CHF 131 million; USD 147 million) for the reconstruction work in Odisha following cyclone Phailin.

An operational plan in complementary to the DREF operation was developed, including replenishment of relief stock, and field activities in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. The plan has been incorporated in the India Development Operational Plan (DOP) 2013, which is carried forward to DOP 2014.

Changes have been made in the [DREF budget](#) as a result of the following factors: a) The cost of procuring the relief items was less than originally budgeted. As a result, the remaining sum has been reallocated to support the work of volunteers in the field, such as travel costs, as many of them were mobilized to support field work during the emergency phase; and b) the different relief items were booked under different budget codes. The budget has been revised to reflect the actual account codes of the different items procured.

Partners who contributed to this DREF operation include the Austrian Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross and government, Canadian Red Cross and government, DG-ECHO, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and government as well as allocation from the Tsunami Residual Fund.

[<click here for the DREF budget; and here for contact details>>](#)

The situation

Cyclone Phailin pounded the states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, bringing winds of more than 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour), uprooting trees, overturning trucks, and knocking out power lines.

Table 1: Summary of damages/losses in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states

SN	Facts and figures	Total
1	Population affected as of 15 October 2013	approx. 13.23 million
2	No. of death as of 18 November 2013	47
3	No. of districts affected	17 districts (Odisha), 16 district (AP)
4	No of villages marooned/affected as of 18 November 2013	18,374 villages (Odisha), 5000 villages (AP)
5	No. of relief shelters/camps	200 shelters for 239,400 people
6	No. of person evacuated	approx. 1.7 million
7	No. of houses damaged	approx. 950,000
8	Crop area affected	671,457 hectares

Given the scale of destruction in cyclone Phailin and its resultant floods, rebuilding of collapsed houses in winter posed immediate challenge for the affected people. According to state government estimates, about 950,000 houses were damaged, including 540,000 in cyclone and 407,000 in the subsequent floods. The government had estimated the total loss to houses at around INR 3,890 crore (approx. CHF 558 million).

Livelihood restoration has been a priority for the Odisha government. During the government and non-government meeting held in the month of November, an appeal was made to participating agencies to

focus plans and strategies for short, medium and long-term support for recovery of livelihoods and services, and rehabilitation of infrastructure.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the agency responsible for policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management, is working with the State Government of Odisha to develop a model based on the state's experience with cyclone Phailin. NDMA has commended the state for its disaster-resilient power supply infrastructure and housing schemes for people living near the coast.

Coordination and partnerships

During the reporting period, the secretary of the IRCS Odisha state branch, who is also the chair of the state inter-agency group (IAG) in Odisha, coordinated IAG meetings. Updates from various agencies were shared, and action plans were coordinated. Presentation was also made on the response of the government and prevailing situations in Odisha. Emphasis was laid on Ganjam, Puri and Balasor districts, which has been severely affected by cyclone and flood. IAG members and other NGOs participated and briefly updated on the response and recovery plan.

A state-level government and non-government organization meeting was organized in the month of November by the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, under the leadership of the Additional Chief Secretaries of finance and revenue and disaster management department. Following this, there was an appeal to focus on immediate need for temporary shelter, including tarpaulin sheets, NFI and livelihood recovery in the most affected districts of Ganjam, Puri and Balasor. It was brought to the attention of the participating agencies that due to the continuous rainfall particularly in Ganjam district there is an immediate need to assist 250,000 affected families on providing temporary shelters. IRCS presented its update on interventions in response to cyclone Phailin and relief stocks available.

Likewise the IRCS Odisha state branch secretary coordinated the state level consultation on 'Issues of women in disaster' in collaboration with United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) on 4 November 2013. The purpose of the consultation was to bring together different stakeholders on a common platform to discuss and identify key issues for policy initiatives for women, girl children during disaster.

The Vodafone India Foundation has contributed CHF 114,568 bilaterally to IRCS for this operation. Through this grant funding support was provided for deployment of trained disaster response teams to support response and rescue operations assisting 2,800 families through the distribution of non-food items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate basic non-food items and temporary shelter needs of the 15,000 cyclone affected families (75,000 beneficiaries) are met through distribution of family packs and tarpaulins.

Outputs:

- **15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) received basic shelter items.**
- **5,500 families (27,500 beneficiaries) received basic non-food items.**

Proposed Activities:

- Deployment of NDRT/NDWRT/SDRT/volunteers to conduct needs assessments.
- Verify/prepare lists of beneficiaries, and identify distribution points.
- Mobilization of stocks from available warehouses – taking into consideration the destroyed infrastructure and difficult access.
- Distribution of tarpaulins¹ as temporary shelters or repairing of damaged houses for 15,000 families.
- Distribution of family pack² including basic relief items to 5,500 families.
- Replenishment of the distributed stocks.
- Regular monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.
- Conduct Lessons Learnt workshop after the completion of the operation.

¹ The current plan only provides one tarpaulin (instead of normally two) per family to seek more coverage of families as per the needs shown. Once more resources and access are available, the number of tarpaulins provided to each family will be reviewed and may be adjusted.

² One family pack includes mosquito nets, sarees, dhoti, bucket, kitchen set, cotton blanket, towel and bed sheet.

Progress against outcome:

- IRCS deployed assessment teams to the cyclone hit areas and prepared operation plan of actions. Based on the assessment findings, the India Development Operations Plan of 2013 was revised to accommodate the additional needs that the Cyclone Phailin operation required.
- As per the proposed DREF distribution plan, IRCS has completed distribution of 15,000 tarpaulins and almost completed distribution of the 5,500 family packs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (refer to below table).
- Replenishment of 15,000 tarps and 5,500 mosquito nets has been completed. Procurement of 5,500 kitchen sets has been placed. The local procurement of other items of the family pack items will commence soon.



Relief Distribution in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh. Photo Cred: IRCS

Table 2: Summary of relief items distributed by IRCS Odisha and Andhra Pradesh state branches as of 31 January 2014

SN	Type of relief items	Odisha	Andhra Pradesh	Total
1	Bed sheet	833 pcs	5060 pcs	5893 pcs
2	Cotton blanket	1951 pcs	5000 pcs	6951 pcs
3	<i>Dhoti</i>	2951 pcs	5000 pcs	7951 pcs
4	<i>Saree</i>	2951 pcs	5100 pcs	8051 pcs
5	Kitchen set	798 pcs	4100 pcs	4898 pcs
6	Mosquito net	500 pcs	5000 pcs	5500 pcs
7	Plastic bucket	300 pcs	5000 pcs	5300 pcs
8	Towel	2951 pcs	5100 pcs	8051 pcs
9	Tarpaulin	16,055 pcs	1100 pcs	17155 pcs

- During the reporting period, IRCS Odisha State branch conducted First Medical Responders Training for its volunteers under Disaster Management programme. These trainings built capacity of their volunteers to deliver services and improved quality of IRCS interventions.
- For the distribution of relief supplies, IRCS Odisha State branch formed various teams consisting of a life member SDRT members and volunteers. These teams accompanied relief supplies which were sent by the state branch to the districts. The teams also ensured systematic distribution of relief at the district level in close coordination with the local volunteers and authorities.
- Of the distributed items as per this DREF operation plan, 15,000 tarpaulin sheets, 5,500 kitchen sets and 5,500 mosquito nets have been replenished.
- [Please refer to the narrative on the changes in the budget regarding the relief items.](#)

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risks of water and sanitation related diseases have been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Outputs

- **Increased access to safe drinking water to the 5,000 cyclone affected people.**
- **Improve hygiene knowledge and behaviour of the 5,000 cyclone affected people.**
- Detailed assessment to identify villages for intervention.
- Mobilize and installation of water treatment units once location identified and condition allows.
- Establishing water distribution system.
- Training volunteers on hygiene promotion.
- Hygiene promotion activities to affected community by the IRCS volunteers.
- Monitoring of use of household level water treatment and storage.

Progress towards Outcomes:

- To prevent the spread of epidemics in affected villages, Red Cross branches have exerted more effort through extensive hygiene promotion and household water treatment awareness campaigns. To better prepare for it, a one-day orientation programme on hygiene promotion and household water treatment (HWT) was organized on 8 November 2013 to train a team of 25 volunteers who were then mobilized to conduct awareness campaigns in 16 affected villages to promote hygiene practices and various household water treatment techniques.
- The three mobile water treatment units mobilized by IRCS NHQ to Odisha state branch have completed their mission. A total of 600,000 litres (approx.) of purified water have been distributed to the needy communities in close coordination with the local authorities and stakeholders.
- In Andhra Pradesh, the Red Cross volunteers in coordination with the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) and health workers conducted medical camps and awareness sessions on communicable disease and precautionary measures during emergencies in the affected communities.
- Sanitation activities such as cleaning and bleaching/chlorinating water stagnation points, canals, and drainages were undertaken by IRCS Andhra Pradesh state branch volunteers.

Logistics

IRCS has been using free rail transport to dispatch prepositioned disaster preparedness stocks from its warehouses to Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. These goods were further delivered to the district branches for distribution to the cyclone Phailin-affected families.

The SARD office logistics team coordinated with the zone logistics unit for the procurement and transportation of the tarpaulins, mosquito nets and kitchen sets for replenishment of the used stocks. The consignment of 15,000 tarpaulins and 5,500 mosquito nets from Kuala Lumpur has arrived and were delivered to the Kolkata warehouse on 26 December 2013. Local procurement of replenishment of other relief items like dhotis, sarees, blankets, towels, etc will commence soon.

Communication

During the reporting period, IRCS was supported to update their website with a section dedicated to cyclone Phailin response and relief operation news & updates (<http://www.indianredcross.org/cyclone.htm>). SARD Regional Communication Manager had paid field visits shortly after the disaster and produced web stories on the cyclone Phailin relief and response operation:

- <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/india/indian-red-cross-braced-for-potential-impact-of-cyclone-phailin-63526/>
- <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/india/recovering-from-cyclone-phailin-survivors-face-massive-hardships--63582/>
- <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/india/indian-red-cross-sailing-the-last-mile-to-reach-flood-affected-people-63598/>

Our communication support had in turn facilitated more domestic and international media coverage on the needs of the affected people and Red Cross field operations.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. DREF budget [below](#)
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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.

REVISED DREF OPERATION

12/02/2014

MDRIN013 : India Cyclone Phailin

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	178,118
Clothing & Textiles	72,896
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,344
Utensils & Tools	139,982
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	393,340
Storage, Warehousing	18,630
Logistics Services	19,877
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	38,507
Volunteers	16,582
Total PERSONNEL	16,582
Workshops & Training	2,344
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,344
Travel	15,607
Information & Public Relations	1,032
Office Costs	481
Communications	875
Financial Charges	609
Other General Expenses	108
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	18,711
Programme and Services Support Recovery	30,516
Total INDIRECT COSTS	30,516
TOTAL BUDGET	500,000