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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) 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° 3
17 April 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 to 11 April 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 16 districts and 5,000 villages were affected by this severe cyclone.



IRCS national disaster response team member distributing non-food items to the families affected by Cyclone Phailin in Odisha. **Photo:** IRCS.

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 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) 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 ([published in the DREF update no. 2](#)) 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.

A one-month extension has been requested for this DREF to complete the tendering process for replenishment of family pack items for the IRCS which has been delayed due to several holidays in the months of March and April and ongoing national and state elections. With the extension, the revised operation end date is 14 May 2014, with final report available by 14 Aug 2014.

Partners who contributed to this DREF operation include the Austrian Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross and government, Canadian Red Cross Society and government, DG-ECHO, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and government as well as allocation from the Tsunami Residual Fund. The DREF is 94 per cent replenished as of 7 April 2014.

[<click here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Cyclone Phailin pounded the states of Odisha and to a lesser extent Andhra Pradesh, bringing winds of more than 200 kilometres an 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 (Andhra Pradesh)
4	No of villages marooned/affected as of 18 November 2013	18,374 villages (Odisha), 5000 villages (Andhra Pradesh)
5	No. of relief shelters/camps	200 Red Cross shelters for 239,400 people
6	No. of person evacuated	approx. 1.7 million
7	No. of houses damaged	approx. 9.5 lakh
8	Crop area affected	6,71,457 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 Odisha state branch who is also the chair of the state inter-agency group (IAG) coordinated the 6th IAG meeting held at Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar whereby an updates about the coordination efforts for relief operation between different IAG agencies was shared. A brief presentation was 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 i.e. tarpaulin sheets, NFI and livelihood in the most affected districts of Ganjam, Puri and Balasor. It was brought to the attention of the participating agencies that due to the deteriorating condition because of continuous rainfall particularly in Ganjam district there is an immediate need to respond to 2.5 lakh temporary shelters. Indian Red Cross Society presented an status update on the interventions undertaken in response to Cyclone Phailin and relief stocks available.

Likewise the 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 this 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) received basic shelter items.• 5,500 families (27,500 beneficiaries) received basic non-food items.
Proposed Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

Progress against outcome:

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

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

- 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 Table 2).

Table 2: Summary of relief items distributed in 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	5,060 pcs	5,893 pcs
2	Cotton blanket	1,951 pcs	5,000 pcs	6,951 pcs
3	<i>Dhoti</i>	2,951 pcs	5,000 pcs	7,951 pcs
4	<i>Saree</i>	2,951 pcs	5,100 pcs	8,051 pcs
5	Kitchen set	798 pcs	4,100 pcs	4,898 pcs ³
6	Mosquito net	500 pcs	5,000 pcs	5,500 pcs
7	Plastic bucket	300 pcs	5,000 pcs	5,300 pcs
8	Towel	2,951 pcs	5,100 pcs	8,051 pcs
9	Tarpaulin	16,055 pcs	1,100 pcs	17,155 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, IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU) assistance was sought for the replenishment of 15,000 tarpaulin sheets, 5,500 kitchen sets and 5,500 mosquito nets.
- Due to the severity of the cyclone and its impact on the relief distribution, the IRCS State branch took more time than expected to coordinate the response and to ensure information management on the NFIs distribution from the field. This resulted in delay in the procurement for the replenishment of local family pack items. The tendering process was further delayed due to several holidays fall in the month of March and April, coupled with ongoing national and state elections. With the timeframe extension of this DREF, the tendering process that will lead to the replenishment of family pack items to the IRCS can be concluded.

³ An updated figure will be provided in the final report as IRCS NHQ requires time to gather and process the information from the State branches.

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 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. Approx. 600,000 litres 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 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 affected families.

The IFRC South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) logistics team coordinated with the ZLU 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 (i.e. *dhotis*, *sarees*, blankets and towels, etc.) has commenced.

Communication

IRCS was supported to update their [website](#) with a section dedicated to Cyclone Phailin response and relief operation news and updates. SARD Regional Communication Manager visited 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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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:

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.