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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) India: Extreme cold weather

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRIN010
GLIDE n° CW-2012-000207-IND
11 January 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (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.

CHF 57,100 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 January to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to replenish this DREF allocation are encouraged.

Summary: Despite efforts by the government, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), and a large number of NGOs, reports indicate that there are a growing number of deaths due to exceptionally low temperatures; most of the deaths are among the homeless and the elderly. Leading newspapers and electronic media have been highlighting mounting death toll due to extreme cold weather in the northern states in India. To date, 233 deaths have been reported by the media. However, the government has yet to confirm this figure.

IRCS is distributing blankets to homeless and other people in need. The IRCS national headquarters has already released 10,000 blankets to state branches in the affected region. This operation intends to replenish 10,000 blankets distributed by the National Society from its disaster preparedness stocks positioned in regional warehouses.

This operation is to be implemented over a period of three months and will therefore be completed by 10 April 2013; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 July 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

North India is currently experiencing its coldest weather in decades, with Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana among those worst affected by the inclement weather. Nightly temperatures have been regularly falling



the relatives of patients in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi on 9 January 2013.

Photo: Stephen Ryan / IFRC

below 3 degrees Celsius in the capital, four to five degrees lower than the normal seasonal average. In the first week of January 2013 Delhi recorded a temperature of 1.9 degrees, the lowest in 44 years. Residents of other states, including Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan, are also braving unusually low temperatures. In the Kashmir valley, temperatures have dropped several degrees below zero.

Recognizing that there are many vulnerable people who are being severely affected by this inclement weather, IRCS has begun distribution of blankets to those in the greatest need. Almost 10,000 blankets have already been dispatched by the National Society's national headquarters to their state branches in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

At this time, weather variations can be extremely difficult to predict in India, due to high influence of fog and other humidity conditions on the temperature. However, the winter period in North India prevails until February, and further cold waves can be expected during this period.

Coordination and partnerships

IRCS with its sister organization, St. John Ambulance India, has initiated distribution of blankets in Delhi. IRCS branches in various north India states have been coordinating with the local authorities while working towards minimizing impact of cold wave on the most vulnerable people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Cold wave continues to affect life in the capital with the minimum temperature dipping to 2.4 degrees Celsius on 7 January 2013.

IRCS, together with St. John Ambulance India, has initiated distribution of blankets to people accompanying their relations who are receiving treatment in hospitals in Delhi, which they reach after many times travelling long distances. Accompanying persons are often not able to access on-site shelters, as space is limited and there are regularly large numbers of people seeking access. This leaves them with no other option but to stay on roadsides and open places in the cold, as they cannot afford other accommodation. These people are being rendered assistance through the distribution of blankets to protect them from the cold weather conditions.

During the second week of January, IRCS initiated the distribution of 1,000 blankets to the cold afflicted patients and attendants in central government hospitals in Delhi. The table below provides details of the distribution of blankets to state branches already implemented by the society's national headquarters.

State	No. of woolen blankets
Jammu and Kashmir	2,000
Uttarakhand	2,500
West Bengal	500
Bihar	2,500
Tripura	200
Uttar Pradesh	2,000
Total	9,700

IRCS intends to reach at least 10,000 people through the distribution of these blankets.

The needs

People without shelter are the most vulnerable. Though the prevailing temperature is not unheard of in India, around 78 million homeless people are ill equipped to face the cold weather conditions. In order to keep people better protected from cold weather, blankets are the most important need at present.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)
Outcome: 10,000 people received blankets are better protected from the cold.
Outputs (expected results): Individuals in six states received blankets and IRCS stocks are replenished.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 10,000 blankets to protect homeless and other vulnerable people from the cold. • Replenishment of the distributed stocks.

- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.
- Procurement and replenishment of 10,000 blankets.

IRCS has dispatched pre-positioned blankets from its warehouses. This DREF operation will replenish these stocks using the Global Framework Agreement for blankets. Global framework supplier for blankets is based in India. The Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur will be sought for the procurement of blankets.

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

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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DREF OPERATION

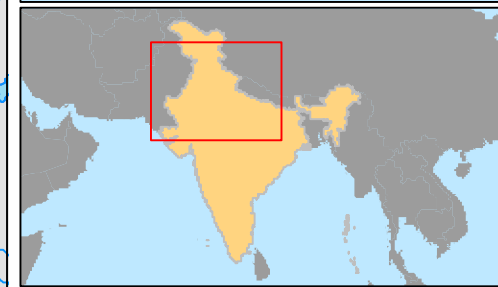
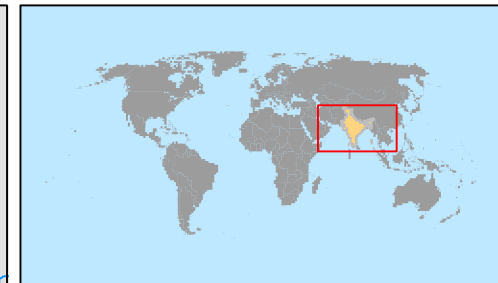
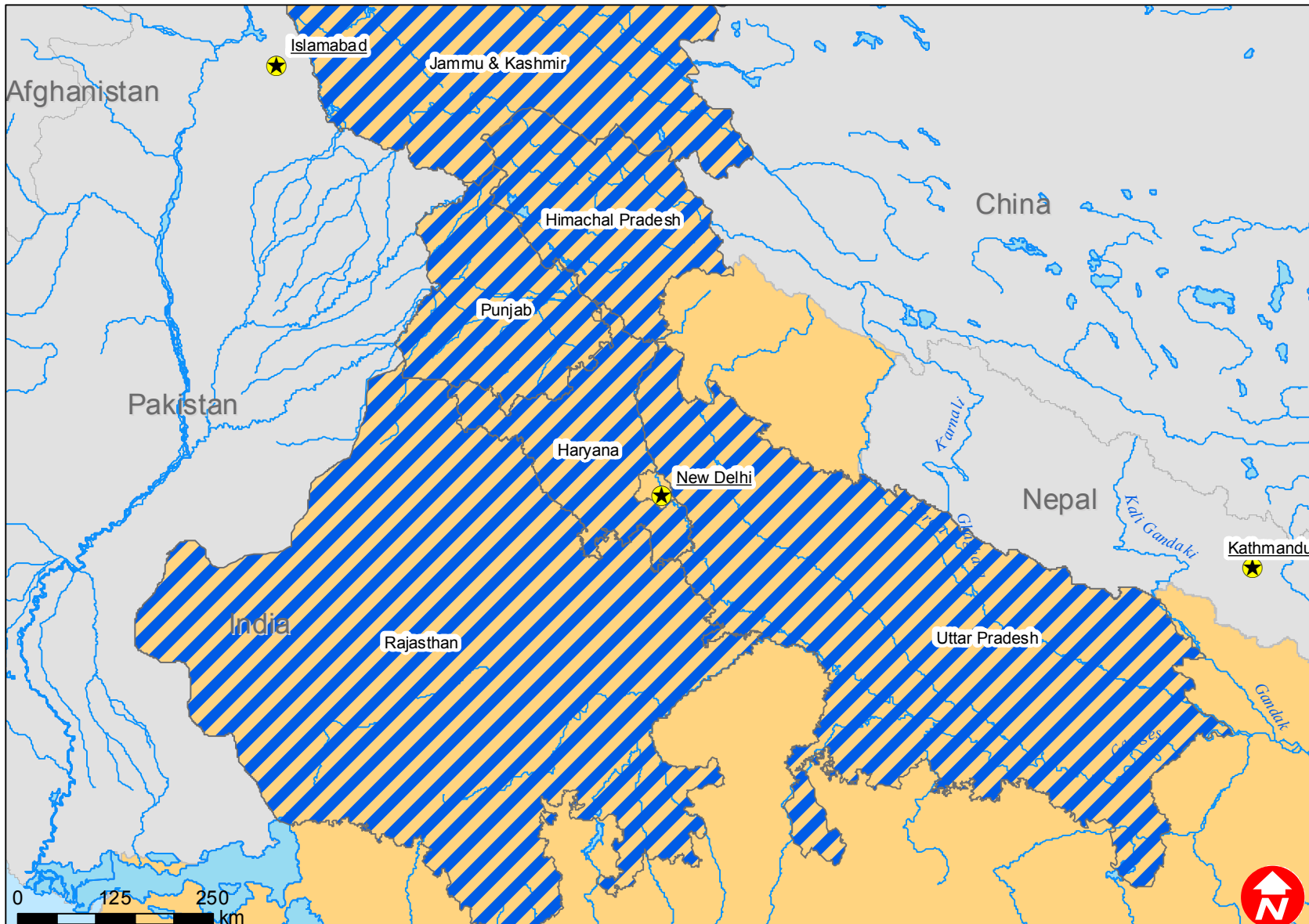
11/1/2013


MDRIN010 NORTH INDIA COLD WAVE

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	49,115
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	49,115
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,500
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	1,500
Information & Public Relations	2,000
Communications	1,000
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,000
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,485
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,485
TOTAL BUDGET	57,100



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 Affected states