

## ORISSA CYCLONE UPDATE

Friday, November 26, 1999

## 0. Background

An Information and Monitoring cell has been set up at Bhubaneswar and this update will now be brought out from Bhubaneswar R.O. and will be in 2 parts. The first part will be highlights of the situation, our response, response by ODMM and government and highlights of media scan. The second part will be case studies and photographs collected from the field by field based teams and mobile teams. This is a team effort and contributions are from field/ mobile teams, Bhubaneswar R.O team and colleagues from other AAI offices. Ms. Dharitri Patnaik, Bhubaneswar R.O., will be in charge of collating information and putting the Update together.

## 1. Situation at a glance

- Affected districts : 10
- Number of People affected : 12.5 lakhs
- Number of People without Shelter : 4.6 lakhs
- Number of Human Casualties : 7619
- Loss of Livestock : 2.6 lakhs
- Crop Loss : 80%-100%
- Loss of Trees : 20 lakhs

(Source: Field reports submitted to ODMM by individuals, organisations and media reports)

## 2. Our Response

## 2.1 Health

The health teams comprising of a doctor, paramedic and volunteers are moving to different locations to provide relief to the ailing people and stop spread of epidemics in the affected areas. ActionAid is supporting the health relief activities of the ODMM in the forty identified nodes.

- Water in Bagadia Gram Panchayat in Jagatsingpur District is contaminated with chemical effluents from the Paradip Phosphates Ltd. All people (and livestock) who came into contact with the water have got infected with skin infections like rashes, boils and eczema like symptoms. Harsh Mander who witnessed this, has contacted the National Pollution Control Board and requested them to send a team of experts to the spot immediately to examine the water and suggest antidotes to the medical team. They have also been requested to initiate action against the company that did not provide for adequate safe guards.
- The medical team also spotted 5 corpses in a tank that was being used by the local people. The medical team under Dr. Mamata set up an OPD and treated 80 cases of which 63 were cases of skin infections. The medical team for testing collected few bottles of water from the site. Two members of ADHIKAR (local NGO) have returned to Bhubaneswar with foot sores.
- According to our information in Jambu, Dr. Prasad of ActionAid medical team treating one patient at Arun Nagar who happens to be the lone survivor out of the ten members of the household.
- There was another news received from Kantapada about cases of viral fever and malaria and few cases of diarrhoea in several villages.

## 2.2 Communication

The following is the list of the various HAMS operating in the affected areas to provide vital communication links in the inaccessible areas (district names are given in brackets):

Stationary Hams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jambu (Kendrapada)</li> <li>• Mallipura (Jagatsinghpur)</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bari (Jajpur)</li> <li>• Kantapada (Cuttack)</li> </ul>
Mobile Hams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paradip - Kujanga - Ersama - Balikuda - Kendrapada</li> <li>• Health Team (Dr. Mamata Pattnaik)</li> <li>• ActionAid team</li> </ul>

### 2.3 Interventions in our long term projects

#### United Artists Association:

Ganjam was hit by the cyclone on 17<sup>th</sup> october. Nine villages of our project were affected. The immediate response was:

- Water in seven open wells were disinfected to provide safe drinking water.
- Support was provided for awareness on safe hygienic practices to prevent epidemics in nine villages.
- Four medical teams have visited the affected villages and families.
- Village health volunteers in each village have been provided with medicines.
- People have mobilised five hundred and eighty tarpaulins from TISCO and the govt respectively.
- 150 tarpaulins was provided by ActionAid.
- ActionAid mobilised Rs.500000 from NORAD for relief. Two hundred thirty two persons will be given Rs.50 per day for a month to rebuild their houses.

#### Vikash:

The 118 villages lying in the coast of Bay of Bengal of this community based rehabilitation project has been hit by super the cyclone.

Out of the 118 villages the project responded to the needs of 45 worst hit villages. 9025 persons were given six meals through 21 community kitchens. Hundred thirty persons were also treated for health problems by the medical team.

#### Samajik Seva Sadan:

All the 48 villages of the integrated community development project working with the tribals in Dhenkanal was affected by the cyclone. Plastic sheets were provided to 628 fully destroyed houses and 300 partially destroyed houses.

### 2.4 Efforts by other AAI offices

(This is incomplete as the update from Bangalore could not be downloaded due to internet connectivity problems at Bhubaneshwar and will be updated on Monday)

Appeal by ActionAid India Society on behalf of the Donor Agency Network in Bangalore has raised over Rs. 200,000. Bangalore will purchase polythene sheets with the donations received and will send it to Bhubaneshwar on Monday along with donations of old clothes that have been received.

### 3. Highlights of orissa disaster mitigation mission

Orissa Disaster Mitigation Mission (ODMM) has been formed by the NGOs and individuals to facilitate non-governmental efforts to carry on the mission of relief and livelihood restoration for all the cyclone affected areas. Food, clothes, shelter and medicines are the needs that are being addressed by ODMM.

**HEALTH:** The health teams comprising of a doctor, paramedic and volunteers are moving to different locations to provide relief to the ailing people and stop spread of epidemics in the affected areas.

**FOOD:** Rice, chuda, baby food, gur and some times cooked food from the government is being distributed to the different nodal points of the ODMM.

**SHELTER:** Polythene sheets candles and matchboxes are being sent to different nodal points.

**CARCASS DISPOSAL:** Carcass disposal teams are moving to different areas to dispose the carcasses of dead animals in the nodal areas as fixed by the ODMM.

**NO OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVED:**

Total number of volunteers is 334.

**NODE POINTS IN OPERATATION**

Names of the villages where the nodes are located (catering to surrounding villages as well) district wise is given below. The names of the agencies responsible for the nodes are given in brackets. Medical relief in all nodes are supported by ActionAid.

**Kendrapada:** Patamundi (SVA); Makalpada (CPSW) Rajnagar (BGVS); Garadpur (RCDC)  
**Jagatsinghpur:** Alipingala (CYSD); Balikuda (CYSD); Biridi (FACE); Kujanga (ADHIKAR); Ersama (CYSD)  
**Bhadrak:** Bhadrak (FELLOWSHIP); Chandbali (SAMBANDH); Basudevpur (LOK MANDAL); Tihidi (Soporte)  
**Jajpur:** Badachana (UGS); Dharmashala (PALLISHREE); Jajpur (COPHEE)  
**Puri:** Nimapada(1)-(CCWD); Gop (Kunduna)-(VIKASH); Gop (Nuahat)-(VIKASH); Astarang (RCDC); Nimapada(2)-(RWI)  
**Dhenkanal:** Gondia (DAG)  
**Khurda:** Balianta (PECUC); Baiipatna (SPARD)  
**Cuttack:** Kantapada,-Patsundarpur (SPARD); Kantapada-Baijor (CYSD); Niali (NYP); Tangi (USS); Mahanga (FACE)  
**Balasore:** Balasore (PRAVA)  
**Keonjhar:** Haladihi (BGVS); Anandpur (Pradhan/DJS/IDP)

ODMM is being supported by OXFAM, Action-Aid, CARE- India, ISPO, CAPART and CENDRET, Government of Orissa (medicine), Vasundhara, CYSD, PRANAB and members of civil society: IDE staff, Bhubaneswar, Sambar Valley development Society, Vishakhapatan.

#### **4. Highlights of efforts by the State Government**

The Govt of Orissa in addressed the disaster situation in the state through the **Special Relief Commission (SRC)**. Relief materials are being air dropped for the areas still cut off and sent by road to the accessible affected areas. Food, tarpaulins and medicine are being sent. The state govt received support from the Army and neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Everyday 485.44 metric tonnes of biscuits, water, fruits, milk powder, candles, match boxes 18,236 quintals of rice, 4284.1 quintals etc are being airdropped. 738 trucks carrying medicines, dry food, clothes and tarpaulins are being despatched to the affected areas.

#### **5. Media scan**

(Scan of electronic media and the internet will be provided in subsequent updates)

##### **5.1 Print**

- Official toll doubles in one day from 3460 to 7447. Govt claims on relief and ground reality differ. ( The New Indian express: 11.11.99)
- Interior villages in Ersama block still remain marooned and adequate supply of food has not reached them. ( The New Indian express: 11.11.99)
- Crop worth Rs.94.5 crore damaged in Balasore : ( The Utkal Age; 12.11.99)
- No survivor to tell cyclone horror from Sahanga- 20,000 dead in Ersama says the local Member of Legislative Assembly. ( The Utkal Age; 12.11.99)
- Non cooperation by the state hampering relief work says ODMM in a press conference. ( The Utkal Age; 12.11.99)
- Orissa needs not less than Rs. 100 billion aid, CM urges PM : The New Indian express: 12.11.99)

# **BULLETIN-5**

## **ORISSA DISASTER MITIGATION MISSION**

### NEWS FROM THE FIELD

- Bhutamunda Node, Kujang block reported epidemic (diarrhoea) incidence from 7/11/99 which has affected at least 4-5 people in each of the 22 wards. Total population of the 21 affected wards is 1277 (Pabitra Bal, Adhikar).
- Forum Against Child Exploitation (FACE), Orissa a partner of ODMM has make a quick estimate of children affected by the super cyclone. Many a children have become orphans, homeless and are passing through a severe malnutrition phase. Five Balashrams have been severely affected. According to FACE about 3 million children have been affected. More than 15, 000 schoolhouses have been severely damaged. Children have lost all their books and the schools have lost all their Teaching Aids. Unless immediate measures are taken these children would run the risk of becoming beggars and child labourers( Fact finding team led by Mahendra Parida, State convenor, FACE)
- Abhaya Singh from Ersama reported that there has been 1860 casualties in Ambikka (4 villages) gram panchayat. (9.30 pm, Ersama)
- The carcass team today got a boost as 42 more volunteers joined them. They have requisitioned more volunteers as they feel that they are not able to clear the carcass fast enough to stop the spread of epidemic. (Animal Care, JP DAS)
- Lok Bikash, Badachana block till date has been working on their own and have been able to clean garbage and ponds with local volunteers. They have disinfected 40 villages with bleaching power. The local doctors mobilised by the organisation are using medicines procured from ODMM and collected from other sources. Free kitchen is running in 10 villages since 8/11/99 for 3000 affected villagers. Carcass of the dead animals is being removed with the help of villagers (Md. Saffique, Lok Vikash).
- In Nariso, Balipatna block, SPARD distributed blankets, clothes sponsored by Pepsi given to the ODMM. The target groups were SC, Landless and BPL families. (Report of Field staff)
- The NGO, PURAN was able to mobilise villagers to remove carcasses of 63 dead animals in their nodal area i.e. Biridi, Jagatsinghpur district while in Cuttack district, another NGO, USS has been able to clean 37 carcasses.
- Kharasrota and its branch rivers have surrounded five Gram Panchayats of Binjharpur block (Jajpur Dist.). These GPs have been cut off from the mainland. Despite air dropping the villagers are not getting the relief materials as the air dropped materials are being grabbed by antisocial elements. Immediate attention is needed for this area. (Dhirendra Panda)
- According to the DAG of Dhenkanal, in 5 rubber plantation 80% of the trees have been uprooted while all cashewnut plantations have been destroyed.(Emanuel Pathil)
- The village children of Narilo, Malikapur, Gabadiha, Badagaon and Naranpur of Balikuda block (Jagatsinghpur Dist.) are being oriented for taking up plantation. The children have cleaned their

village roads and are disposing of garbage. The garbage thus collected are being set on fire, a measure meant for controlling the mosquitoes. ( Ms. Amita , CYSD )

### HIGHLIGHTS OF ODMM ACTIVITIES

**HEALTH:** The health teams comprising of a doctor, paramedic and volunteers are moving to different locations to provide relief to the ailing people and stop spread of epidemics in the affected areas.

*The carcass team left For Paradeep taking Halogen tablets and was accompanied by the health team led by Dr. J.B. Das.*

*Paradeep base team lead by Dr. Prakash and Dr. Srinivas left for Paradeep and would be based there for a three days atleast and extent their stay if so required.*

*Another team consisting of doctors from S.C. B medical college lead by Dr. M. M. Pradhan left as the mobile health team of the ODMM and would be moving to all the cyclone affected areas..*

*NGOs like PRAVA, VIKASH and Arillo Yuvak Sangh were given medicines, as they have been able to mobilise doctors from their own areas*

*Today eight organisations took Bleaching and lime for their nodal points.*

**FOOD:** Rice, chuda, baby food, gur and some times cooked food from the government is being distributed to the different nodal points of the ODMM.

*Rice has been released for 10,000 people in two nodal points. They have also been provided with dal, chuda and gur. Some teams have also taken biscuits.*

**SHELTER:** Polythene sheets, candles and matchboxes are being sent to different nodal points.

*VIKASH and SOPORTE took polythene sheets. Some of the organisations were given old clothes.*

**CARCASS DISPOSAL:** Carcass disposal teams are moving to different areas to dispose the carcasses of dead animals in the nodal areas as fixed by the ODMM.

*Today five teams of carcasses disposal were formed and moved to different areas. Two teams moved in the direction of Paradeep while one team each moved to Jagatsinghpur. Niali and Astaranga. Each team approximately consisted of 8-20 sweepers and 6-16 volunteers. A total of 150 carcasses were disposed in Jagatsinghpur, Niali and Astaranga area. The team from Paradeep had not returned till the time the bulletin was written.*

### PROGRESS CHART

#### NO OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVED:

42 volunteers went with the carcass team to Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Astarang and Niali. 23 Volunteer were attached to different organisations for other relief works. Today the health team took 6 volunteers.

Today a team of doctors has arrived from Bombay.

#### CORE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- A decision has been made to provide an assistance of Rs. 20,000.00 for each node to continue the field activities as long as the financial assurance has not been arranged to fulfil the whole part of the relief approach of the ODMM. This money will be returned back after the organisation will receive the funds from Donors.
- Secondly, ODMM will be at a position to provide material support on a loan basis to the organisations where there is an assurance of financial assistance and having a problem of cash flow.

#### NODE LEADERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Today we had a discussion amongst the representatives of fresh node points to orient them on the ODMM's mission, vision and strategy.
- Then they were being communicated about the supportive role of ODMM.
- It was being shared that there would be a "support team" for the field organisation to facilitate the reflection so that an improvement could be made.
- To establish a transparent and accountable effort, it was proposed that all the implementing organisation should go for creating a relief committee to decide the priority as well as method of implementation.

#### ODMM IN MEDIA:

*Newspaper:* A press release has been sent to all newspapers informing about the various activities taken up by the carcass team.

*TV program:* Indian television has covered the courageous activities of the carcass disposal squads.

#### Tomorrow's plan

The health team has formed six more field teams having two senior doctor each and two other mobile teams with one doctor in each team leading groups of volunteers in addition to nine team already in Puri, Kendrapada, and Jagatsinghpur. The Paradeep health base would be in a very active operational phase.

Efforts to Procure of rice, dal, gur and Baby food is being done on war footing from the FCI- Orissa after the Orissa government failed to release the assured rice from the PDS. Efforts are also being made to procure more polythene sheets from outside the state and requests are being made to procure it from UNICEF.

#### NODE POINT IN OPERATATION

Sl.no.	Block	Organisation Implementing
	<b>Kendrapada</b>	
1	Patamundi	SVA
2	Makalpada (Jambu)	FACE
3	Makalpada	CPSW
4	Rajnagar	BGVS
6	Garadpur	RCDC
	<b>Jagatsinghpur</b>	
7	Alpingala	CYSD
8	Balikuda	CYSD
9	Biridi	FACE

10	Kujanga	ADHIKAR
11	Ersama	CYSD
	<b>Bhadrak</b>	
12	Bhadrak	FELLOWSHIP
13	Chandbali	SAMBANDH
14	Basudevpur	LOK MANDAL
15	Tihidi	Soporte
	<b>Jajpur</b>	
16	Badachana	UGS
17	Dharmashala	PALLISHREE
18	Jajpur	COPHEE
	<b>Puri</b>	
19	Nimapada(1)	CCWD
20	Gop (Kunduna)	VIKASH
20	Gop (Nuahat)	VIKASH
21	Astarang	RCDC
22	Nimapada(2)	RWI
	<b>Dhenkanal</b>	
23	Gondia	DAG
	<b>Khurda</b>	
24	Balianta	PECUC
25	Balipatna	SPARD
	<b>Cuttack</b>	
26	Kantapada, Patsundarpur (Bhodala)	SPARD
27	Kantapada (Baijor)	CYSD
28	Niali	NYP
29	Tangi	USS
30	Mahanga	FACE
	<b>Balasore</b>	
31	Balasore	PRAVA
	<b>Keonjhar</b>	
32	Haladihi	PGVS
33	Anandpur	Pradhan/DJS/IDP

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Government agencies: Govt. of Orissa (medicine)

Individual NGO: Vasundhara, CYSD

Civil society has begun to respond after visiting our website in the internet.