

Oxfam Situation Report

Number: 15 (Tamil Nadu cyclone 2015)

Date: 2 March, 2016

Prepared by: National Humanitarian Hub, Kolkata, India

Summary information

COMMON NAME OF EMERGENCY (e.g., frequently used name)	South India Floods 2015- Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh
DATE (external/internal break-out)	3 rd December, 2015 (3 rd spell of Floods)
DURATION	90 days
COUNTRY	India
CATEGORY (1, 2, 3 – for more information see the section 3.2)	CAT 3 (located in two states; Govt. response activated; reports state over 3 million people affected).
MAIN CLASSIFICATION (Natural Disaster, Conflict, Health/Medical, Incident, Other)	Natural disaster (heavy rainfall due to depression and devastating floods)
FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CLASSIFICATION (if any)	<p>Tamil Nadu Heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places over north Tamil Nadu leading to one of the worst floods in the history of the state.</p> <p>Andhra Pradesh Nellore, Kadapa, Chittoor and East Prakasam are also affected by the south India rains and floods.</p>
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED	Over 300 dead in Tamil Nadu; 3 million affected
HUMANITARIAN LEAD	Oxfam India
IMPLEMENTING OXFAMS PART OF THE CLT	Oxfam India
CONTRIBUTING OXFAMS (FUNDING AFFILIATES)	Oxfam GB (CAT Fund), Oxfam Canada (CHAF), Oxfam Hong Kong (DRF)
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BUDGET	
PARTNERS	BLESS (based in Cuddalore district; former Oxfam GB partner during tsunami response 2004) IWDI-Integrated Women Development Institute (Based in Chennai) SNIRD Andhra Pradesh (Nellore district)
DURATION OF RESPONSE	6 months (Dec 2015- May 2016) Relief Phase 6 months (Jan 2016-June 2016) Early Recovery Phase
COMMENTS	Aim: To reach 8,000 flood affected communities in Tamil Nadu

Key Issues

- The Central Government of India has accorded the status 'calamity of severe nature' to the worst floods Tamil Nadu witnessed in over hundred years.
- Mud huts with thatch roofs have been severely affected in the floods. Walls have melted away, the flooring made of mud remained damp and sludgy weeks after the floods.
- Households have lost their utensils, stoves clothes and other belongings in the flood
- The focus in Chennai, Cuddalore and Kanchipuram continues to be on ensuring relief materials reach the flood affected communities as well as rehabilitation.
- Debris from the floods around the settlements in some rural areas have affected the mobility of residents. Stagnant water and debris from the floods have become a health risk for the communities living in the flood affected areas.
- Access to safe drinking water remains an area of concern.

General Humanitarian Situation

- Oxfam has reached out to over 4000 households with humanitarian assistance including Shelter kit distribution, Non Food Items (NFI), Hygiene kits and food rations.
- 80% of 2.6 million populations were affected, 500 out of 686 GPs affected and 11 out of 13 blocks were affected.
- There have been 354 deaths, loss of 4,383 cattle and destruction of 117,000 huts across Tamil Nadu according to Official Government Statistics.
- In Cuddalore district 323 panchayats are affected from 7 blocks.

Government Intervention

- An additional compensation of Rs 5,000 has been sanctioned to the families who lost their houses in the floods by the state government.
- Compensation of Rs 13,500 per hectare has also been sanctioned by the state government for those who lost their crops.
- On January 4th, 2016 the Tamil Nadu Government released the flood relief compensatory funds for nearly 1,400,000 families in Chennai, Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore. The amount has been credited into the bank accounts of these families.
- So far relief amount of 400,000 INR has reached 245 flood victims. The fund allocation is set to continue till the end of February.
- 3,042,000 households will be eligible for rice, dhotis and sarees from PDS outlets with a proof of their passbook and family ration card.
- 14 new flood forecasting stations to be set up in Tamil Nadu by Central Water Commission (under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation).
- The government also said that permanent homes would be built for them in a few pockets in south Chennai. For those whose huts were partially damaged, 5,000 INR would be given as compensation. For families who lost their huts, a flood relief of 10,000INR ten kilo rice, and garments such as dhoti and saree will be given.

Actions Taken by Oxfam



OXFAM RESPONSE AREA:

1. CHENNAI CITY
2. CUDDALORE DISTRICT
3. KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT

Map: Tamil Nadu Flood Response Area

Tamil Nadu

- **LESSONS LEARNT WORKSHOP:**

- Oxfam India's Humanitarian Team held an intense three day capacity building workshop titled "Lessons Learnt" on 18th- 20th February 2016 in Pondicherry. The workshop was attended by the following participants from Oxfam India:
 - 18 participants from Humanitarian Hub, Kolkata
 - 3 participants from the Head Office, Delhi
 - 2 participants from the Regional Offices, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
 - 9 participants from the Tamil Nadu Flood Response Field Team.

In addition, members from Oxfam's local partners, IWDI (Chennai) and BLESS (Cuddalore) also participated in the workshop.

- Participants were allocated into three groups, where each group visited 2 Flood Response villages in Tamil Nadu each to make observations from Field Visits and Focus Group Discussions.
- Logistics Team, Programme Team, Fundraising and Communications Team as well as the Finance Team identified and discussed areas of strength and areas requiring improvement for the Tamil Nadu Flood Response so far.
- Discussions helped in the identification of current 'gaps' in the delivery of Oxfam India's humanitarian response. Participants agreed on action points that will address these gaps.
- Our local partners also shared valuable insights so that partnerships can be strengthened. This workshop was crucial in enabling the team to deliver a more efficient and effective response.

- **WATER CONTAMINATION:**
 - **Water Contamination Levels:** Based on the reports on 39 samples, 46% of the samples contain extremely high levels of Faecal Coliform contamination. 1 water source has been rehabilitated in Cuddalore district.
 - **Household Water Filters:** 2412 households in Cuddalore and Kanchipuram districts have received Household Water Filters.
 - **Community Water Filters:** Additionally 28 Community Water Filters have been installed in Cuddalore and Kanchipuram.

- **HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION:**

Distribution of Hygiene kits to 395 households in 3 CHAF supported villages in Cuddalore was completed.

Hygiene kits have been provided to a total of 4219 households. The breakdown is as follows:

 - **Cuddalore :** 2916 households have received Hygiene Kits.
 - **Kanchipuram:** 709 households have received Hygiene Kits.
 - **Chennai :** 673 households have received Hygiene Kits.

- **NFI KIT DISTRIBUTION:**

Distribution of NFI Kits under DRF has been completed. 673 households in Chennai have been identified for NFI support.

 - **Emergency Shelter Kits:** 5893 households have received Emergency Shelter kits comprising Tarpaulin and Groundsheet. The tarpaulin was extremely useful for rainproofing the thatch roofs. The groundsheet was useful as households faced immediate challenges of finding a dry surface to sleep post-floods since the mud flooring of their huts were sludgy.
 - **Blankets:** 2 blankets per household have been distributed to 11638 households to protect them when they were exposed to weather elements.
 - **Bedsheets:** 2 bedsheets per household have been distributed to 11786 households as these households lost bedding during the floods.
 - **Kitchen Set:** Kitchen sets customised to local requirements have been distributed to 5893 households.
 - **Smokeless Chulhas:** 5112 Smokeless Chulhas have been distributed. Many homes lost their chulhas which were made of mud during the floods.
 - **Mosquito nets:** 5893 households have received mosquito nets protecting them from exposure to increased vector-borne diseases due to post-flood water stagnation.
 - **Solar lamps:** 2412 Solar lamps have been distributed.

- **CASH TRANSFER:**
 - **Beneficiary Registration (UCT):** CHAF-sponsored UCT registrations have been completed. Registrations for DELL sponsored UCTs are ongoing.
 - **Disbursement:** UCT through bank transfer has been initiated. 158 UCT of Rs 10,000 each have been disbursed.

- **HYGIENE PROMOTION:**
 - **Public Health Promotion:** Public Health Promotion work is being carried with a group of trained volunteers in Cuddalore and Kanchipuram. The main focus of the hygiene promotion activities is on safe hand washing demonstration and safe sanitation practice. The target audience is women and children. There have been 132 campaigns and demonstrations so far in Cuddalore and Kanchipuram. PHP volunteers are doing household monitoring (using the standard checklist) in 7 villages where Hygiene Kits have been distributed.
 - **WASH Committees:** 18 Village WASH Committees have been successfully formed in target villages.
 - **Activities:** Oxfam PHP Team have conducted a variety of programmes aimed at hygiene promotion such as the 'Oxfam Cleanest House Competition' during Pongal celebrations, Village Sanitation Fair, drawing competitions for schoolchildren, Hygiene promotion mass campaigns
 - **IECs and wall murals:** 2 informative wall murals containing the F-disease transmission chart have been completed in Srinivaspuram and Ambedkarnagar villages in Cuddalore district and Information, Education Communication banners (IECs) have been put up in all target villages.

- **LATRINE CONSTRUCTION:**
 - 34 latrines have been constructed in Chennai as well as Cuddalore and Kanchipuram districts.
 - The construction of 5 latrines is ongoing in Chennai slum area along with the construction of 2 bathing spaces.
- **RAISED HANDPUMPS:**
 - Site Selection has been completed for 8 raised handpumps in Cuddalore.
- **DEBRIS AND VILLAGE CLEANING:**
 - Debris and village cleaning along with PHP demonstrations has been completed in 11 villages in Cuddalore district.
 - Village cleaning along with PHP demonstrations has been completed in 2 villages in Kanchipuram district.
 - Oxfam has previously successfully completed debris cleaning in one of the worst affected slums in Chennai city- Koyambude (St. Thomas Nagar new colony).
- **Monitoring Evaluation Accountability & Learning (MEAL)**
 - **Oxfam Data Collection App:** Field Testing of Oxfam Data Collection App was conducted in Cuddalore

Oxfam has carried out detailed assessments in the following areas:

- **Post-distribution Monitoring:** Post Distribution Monitoring is ongoing in the villages where NFI distribution has been completed.
- **Joint Monitoring Visit:** Joint monitoring by consortium members have been carried out at real time in order to address the gaps in response.
- **KAP Baseline Survey:** The Knowledge Attitude Practice baseline survey on wash baseline has been completed in all target villages.
- **Post-relief Early Recovery Assessment:** Oxfam has concluded its post-relief early recovery assessment in Chennai city, Cuddalore district, and Kanchipuram district. The assessment has helped inform the design of Oxfam's early recovery intervention in the coming months. The assessments were in the areas of Shelter, Livelihoods and WASH.
- **Rapid Gender Assessment:** Oxfam has also completed the Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) in Cuddalore district, Kanchipuram district and Chennai city. The RGA methodology used was mostly qualitative in nature, involving focus group discussions with women (and men) in some of the worst affected locations. The recommendations from the RGA are being incorporated in Oxfam's ongoing relief phase response, and early recovery interventions.
- **Sectoral Assessments:** Detail sectoral assessment conducted to understand the early recovery need to link relief intervention with early recovery and community resilience building.
- **Complaint Mechanism** has been established in the programme.
- **COORDINATION:**
 - **District and Block level coordination:** Oxfam is closely coordinating with district & block level administration and line departments like PHE, Health etc. Oxfam's WASH interventions are well appreciated by the local government.
 - **Official visits:** Block development officer and Other PHE department officials visited Oxfam's intervention areas, participated in different Hygiene promotion events like Sanitation Fair and collectively advocated for 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Mission).

- **Inter-agency Groups Coordination:** Oxfam India coordinating with State & District Inter agency groups of Tamil Nadu and SPHERE India towards coordinated response. This helps in directing our response in such a way so that we identify in locations where assistance is required most, and to ensure there is no overlap of same assistance with other humanitarian agencies.

- **WASH Expo:** Oxfam is invited by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Chennai to participate in WASH expo on 27.02.2016. The event will be jointly organized by UNICEF & VIT-Chennai.

- **DRY FOOD RATION DISTRIBUTION:** Oxfam has reached a total of 1050 households with first round of dry ration distribution in Tamil Nadu (750 households in Cuddalore district and 300 households in Kanchipuram district) within 6 days of the Floods.

Oxfam's first round of dry food package includes: rice, lentils/dal, sugar, tea leaves, tangerine, spices and biscuits covering essential food needs for these households for 15 days.

- **CHLORINE TABLET DISTRIBUTION:**
 - 3196 households were given immediate access to safe drinking water during the emergency response phase.
 - Oxfam distributed and demonstrated the usage of 60 chlorine tablets (NADCC) to ensure access to safe drinking water for 30 days per household.

Andhra Pradesh

- **DRY FOOD RATION DISTRIBUTION:** In Andhra Pradesh, Oxfam's partners distributed food ration kits comprising rice, lentils/dal, sugar, tea leaves, tangerine, spices and biscuits to 540 households across 8 villages in Nellore district.

Communications

The crisis has received media attention since the last week of November, when there was a spike in rainfall. Deputy Director- Humanitarian & DRR interview on Oxfam's response aired on India Today.

Oxfam India SITREPs, Response Strategy and flood updates are being regularly shared with affiliates, donors, corporate and others. Sit Reps for Tamil Nadu Flood Response have been uploaded on sumus. The Lessons Learnt Report highlighting the action plan for improved response will be shared. Donor-wise updates are in progress.

Advocacy and Lobbying:

Oxfam is coordinating with state IAG, SPHERE and other NGOs on the ground to ensure there is no overlap in the assistance provided by each.

Oxfam has been having regular discussions with local authorities, partners, team leaders and field staff. Oxfam has also been analysing policy issues in order to shape Oxfam advocacy strategy, priorities and policy positions to advocate for a response that is inclusive, meets community standards and takes into account disaster risk reduction practices in the future.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- From the Rapid Gender Assessment, it emerged that Domestic Violence is common in each household. Almost every woman interviewed admitted to having been physically, verbally and emotionally abused by their spouse. From a woman's perspective, high alcohol intake among men is the reason for their abusive behaviour. Women have expressed that the expenditure on alcohol by their husbands has not decreased after the floods.

Beneficiary numbers:

Oxfam is aiming to **reach 8,000 households** or approximately 48,000 persons (direct beneficiaries) in Cuddalore district and Chennai city. Oxfam is continuously monitoring the situation on the ground and will expand the response to other districts as per need.

New Interventions Planned/Assessment:

Cash Transfers and Livelihood Recovery interventions have been planned.

Oxfam conducted multiple consultations with the affected communities during the implementation period including a separate Gender Assessment to understand the changing needs of the community.

Food security & Livelihood- Since farming and other economic activities had been affected by the floods, the demand of wage labour has shrunk. Most of the marginalised communities depend upon wage labour for their livelihood; hence their earnings have been reduced in the aftermath of the disaster. Standing paddy crops have suffered extensive damage, which will further reduce the demand for farm labour in flood affected areas. This will affect the earnings of marginalized households in the coming months. Therefore livelihood interventions focusing on livestock and agricultural implements are being planned for the early recovery phase.

WASH- Hygiene promotion activities is required to be supported with the Hygiene NFI supplies to ensure the overall hygiene improvement of the target community. The rural communities usually have been provided with assured sources of drinking water. In many places, some of the hand pumps have become non-functional, while the existing piped water supply schemes depend upon the availability of electrical power and functional pumps to fill up the overhead reservoirs. Open defecation is the usual practice and few households have functioning toilets. Women are not aware of safe water handling practices and the importance of proper hand washing. Further, women usually do not adopt hygienic practices during the menstrual period.

Logistics

- We have a guesthouse cum office at Cuddalore and in Chennai.
- The Kanchipuram Team distribution is operating from Cuddalore warehouse.
- The office and warehouse are approximately 35-40 kms from our response locations (approx. 1.5-2 hour drive).
- Oxfam has Framework agreements with vendors for key relief items such as tarpaulin, groundsheet, bucket and hygiene kits. This helps in saving on delivery time and ensuring speedy delivery of essential items on short notice.

Program with partners:

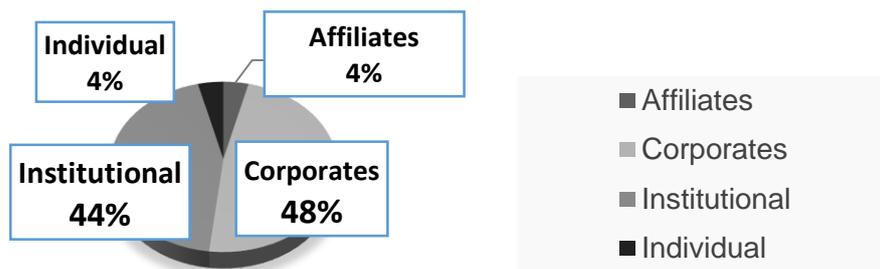
Oxfam India is coordinating with the state Inter agency groups, SPHERE India, local partners (BLESS, IWDI in Tamil Nadu and SNIRD in AP).

Program directly implemented by Oxfam:

Cuddalore district – The programme is semi operational. Oxfam India is working with partner BLESS. Oxfam India staff will supervise and help launch the operation in Cuddalore in close collaboration and coordination with the local government and other agencies operational there. BLESS have their office and infrastructure in Cuddalore.

Chennai city– Oxfam is working with Integrated Women Development (IWDI) in Chennai.

Fundraising: Funding SECURED by Oxfam



Institution	Sum of Amount in INR
Affiliates	5000000
OGB	5000000
Corporates	61110389
CISCO	843753
Intuit	331550
TE Connectivity	80900
Thomson Reuters	568435
Accenture	1196849
Brembo India Pvt Ltd	400000
DELL	9982661
Microsoft	4715745
Next Gen	4000000
UTI	2501250
DELL Local	20239246
CAF	16250000
Individual	5036600
Individual Fund raising	5036600
Institutional	56412807
Buddhist Global Relief	192000
CHAF	12666312
DRF	26512500
START	6653900
The Royal Bank of Scotland	10388095
Grand Total	127559796

Human Resources:

Following Oxfam and Partner Staff are deployed in Tamil Nadu

- **Chennai Office:** 2 Oxfam Staff
- **Cuddalore office:** 15 Oxfam Staff
- **Partner's Staff:** 20 staff members.

Finance and Administration:

The Finance Team is overseeing the donor budget and its utilisation.

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