

Alert note

India, Odisha Floods 2nd September 2026

Completed by: Bibekananda Biswal, LWSIT

Date completed: 02.09.2026

Forum: ACT India Forum

Type of emergency: Floods

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 02.09 2026

1. The nature of the emergency

The Odisha government on Wednesday (September 2, 2026) warned of another round of flooding in Balasore district as the Subarnarekha River, swollen by heavy rains in neighbouring Jharkhand, was in spate. Odisha is experiencing a severe monsoon-related flood emergency in 2026, with repeated episodes of heavy to very heavy rainfall, riverine flooding and inundation affecting communities across several districts. The emergency has been particularly acute in northern and coastal Odisha, including Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Kendrapara districts. The situation has been compounded by rainfall in upstream catchments and increased river discharge, resulting in the overflow of major rivers systems including the Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga. The flooding is primarily associated with intense and persistent monsoon rainfall, low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas, heavy rainfall in upstream catchments, and subsequent rises in river levels and reservoir/barrage releases. In Balasore, the Subarnarekha River has repeatedly risen above its danger level, causing extensive inundation of low-lying villages and disruption of roads and other essential infrastructure.

There are 6 deaths reported due to collapse of house wall. 1,426 houses have been damaged due to high floods this year. 489,000 livestock affected while 234,000 poultry birds also affected which is also the source of livelihood for many poor and vulnerable people those are affected by floods. In Bhadrak: 1,27,807, Jajpur: 1,78,636, Khordha: 25,641., Kendrapara: 47,631. There are 31 Cattle Camps being operational. A further deterioration occurred in late August–early September 2026. Heavy rainfall associated with a low-pressure system over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal–north Odisha coast resulted in renewed rises in the Subarnarekha. There are 1,381 Villages, 74 Blocks in 6 Districts have been badly affected by floods. After visiting the marooned villages in Jajpur, Balasore and Bhadrak districts, Chief Minister of Odisha held a high-level review meeting on the prevailing situation and discussed the immediate steps needed to be taken, as 940,000 people are affected by the floods.

As of 2nd September 2026, an additional 100 villages in Balasore were reported inundated, with the river reaching 11.54 metres at Rajghat, above the danger level of 10.36 metres. Increased upstream discharge following the opening of gates at the Galudih Barrage further increased the flood risk in downstream areas. As informed by Indian Meteorological Department, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall likely to cause across Odisha and Chhattisgarh with thunderstorms, lightning, gusty winds and widespread disruptions expected. Low-pressure system over Bay of Bengal likely to move north-westwards, intensifying rainfall across Odisha, West Bengal and neighbouring states.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency *(please include your source of information)*

Because of floods, Jajpur faced the highest crop loss (27,548 ha), while Balasore saw prolonged riverine flooding. Kendrapara struggled with marooned villages and broken connectivity, and Keonjhar recorded

four of the six confirmed deaths. Other districts—including Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Nayagarh, Jharsuguda and Rayagada—reported moderate flooding and infrastructure damage. The humanitarian distress remains high across marooned and partially inundated villages. Over 864,000 people have been affected across 22 districts, with thousands returning to damaged homes lacking safe water, sanitation, and electricity. Vulnerable groups—women-headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities, SC communities, fishing families—continue to face disproportionate hardship.

Livestock and fisheries have suffered extensive losses, particularly in Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Balasore. Flooding disrupted fodder availability, veterinary access, and fishponds, affecting rural livelihoods. The Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department has activated rapid response teams, but needs remain high for fodder, medicines, and restocking.

Thousands of kutcha and pucca houses have been partially or fully damaged, especially in Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Balasore. Embankment breaches along Baitarani, Kani, Brahmani and Subarnarekha caused widespread structural losses. Many households have returned to unsafe dwellings requiring urgent repair materials. Road connectivity remains disrupted in several riverine pockets, particularly in Kendrapara (Aul, Rajkanika, Pattamundai), where villagers continue using makeshift banana-tree rafts. Rural roads, culverts and bridges have suffered extensive damage, delaying restoration of essential services. Flooding contaminated drinking water sources across multiple districts, with tube wells submerged and piped water systems disrupted. The PR&DW Department has deployed water tankers, bottled water, and mobile treatment plants, but many villages still rely on unsafe sources. Power restoration has progressed rapidly, though pockets of rural areas remain disconnected due to submerged transformers and damaged lines. Restoration teams continue working on a war footing (*Source: Sphere India*).

Due to flood situation, the operational communities where LWSIT has its presence and implementing the community development programs through the project title 'Social Transformation Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) are badly affected and people lost their belongings, livelihood and household materials due to high flood in 2026. According to the latest update about 35,000 people were rescued and shifted to 108 flood shelter centers in Jaipur District alone. The trained volunteers and members of Community Based Disaster Management Task Force (CBDMTF) helping the local communities, shifting them to the safer places amidst the flood situation. The CBDMTF are instrumental and the actions taken by them are well acknowledged by the local authority. There are 15 Villages with 615 Households with population of 3,095 have been badly affected in the LWSIT project operational area of Jajpur district. All these families are Dalits and Tribal as they are socially and economically backward.

In Balasore district, where CARD has their presence through the local partners, people are badly affected by floods. In the short term, affected families face food insecurity, unsafe water and sanitation, temporary displacement, loss of household assets, health risks and protection concerns. In the longer term, continued loss of crops, livestock, employment and productive assets may lead to debt, reduced household income, schools are closed, increased vulnerability of women and children, and prolonged livelihood insecurity. Given the recurrent nature of the flooding, immediate humanitarian assistance combined with early-recovery and livelihood support is required, particularly for the most vulnerable households in Jaleswar Block.

3. Local and national capacity

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Odisha said, the safety of people and quick assistance were being accorded the highest priority, with focus on reaching relief materials. Official sources said over 1.35 million people in 1,895 villages across 10 districts have been badly affected by the floods between August 13 and 26. Around 1,02,481 hectare of paddy crop have been damaged. Communication has been restored to 775 affected villages, while 57 rescue teams have evacuated 76,051 people to safer places using boats. More than 525,000 people are being provided cooked food through 87 free kitchens run by govt. dept. Govt. Odisha has declared that, those with partially damaged pucca houses will get Rs 6,500, while partially damaged kutcha houses will receive R 4,000 as repair assistance, while Rs 5,000 assistance specifically designated for purchasing handloom equipment.

ACT India Forum Members such as LWSIT has its presence in Jajpur district and implementing the community development programs through the project title 'Social Transformation Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER)' are badly affected and people lost their belongings, livelihood and household materials due to high flood in 2026. According to the latest update about 35,000 people were rescued and shifted to 108 flood shelter centers in Jaipur District alone. The trained volunteers and members of Community Based Disaster Management Task Force (CBDMTF) helping the local communities, shifting them to the safer places amidst the flood situation. The CBDMTF are instrumental and the actions taken by them are well acknowledged by the local authority. There are 15 Villages with 615 Households with population of 3,095 have been badly affected in the LWSIT project operational area of Jajpur district. All these families are Dalits and Tribal as they are socially and economically backward.

CARD has the local presence in Balasore district, community relationships, programme experience and operational capacity required to implement a targeted emergency response in the proposed areas, while coordinating with government authorities and other humanitarian actors. CARD remains committed to reaching the most affected and vulnerable communities in and will continue to do whatever is possible within its capacity to support their revitalization and long-term well-being.

CNI SBSS has their presence in Kendrapada district through the diaconal agency of Diocese of Cuttack. The program will be implemented through collaboration and coordinated efforts with the help of local members.

4. Key needs and gaps

The state governments of Odisha is responding with their capacity. However, there are some gaps identified are; Relief distribution is inconsistent across locations due to the submerge of areas, many families still lack adequate dry ration and shelter materials not reaching by the government, dry ration is not sufficient to the affected families, livelihood recovery remains a major concern, cattle feed is a major challenge as all the grazing land stagnant with the flood water, water purification table shortage by the concern department, etc.

The current needs for the flood affected families are:

- Cash Transfer to meet immediate and multipurpose needs
- Tarpaulin Sheets for temporary shelter
- Hygiene Kits for Women and Adolescent Girls
- Cattle feed

- Black gram support post flood crop cultivation
- Rabi cultivation special reference to the vegetables

☒	sufficient food
☒	safe shelter and basic non-food items
☒	basic health services and facilities
☒	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
☒	livelihood activities
☐	protection services
☒	adequate nutrition

Please type your response here

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required
LWSIT	Odisha (Jajpur district)	Cash Transfer, Food and Non-Food, Livelihoods, Psycho-social support, WASH, Shelter,	Cash Transfer and Hygiene Kits
CARD	Odisha (Balasore district)	Community Development, Emergency Response, Health, Agriculture, Education	Cash Transfer & Non-Food Items (NFIs)
CNI SBSS	Odisha (Kendrapada district)	Livelihood, WASH, Education, Nutrition, Gender, Youth, DNH (40+Years) Disaster Relief (10+ Years)	Cash Transfer

6. Potential responses.

ACT India Forum Members – LWSIT, CARD and CNI SBSS will implement the program directly in the flood affected districts in Odisha. At the same time, it would take the support of district administration, local self-govt. institutions, other stakeholders in the respective areas to assess actual needs and identification of deserving people for the right kind of support and to make sure the support given is well utilised. The involvement in emergency phase is crucial to gain people's confidence as well as to identify the gaps in local needs to adjust implementation strategies. The local stakeholder's cooperation is very important to implement program activities at different states. Since, LWSIT has its presence, there are Community Based Disaster Management Task Force (CBDMTF) are very active, they will be instrumental in program implementation and support. A Total of **150,000 USD** is requested for the three local members in India forum for urgent emergency assistance.

LWSIT, CARD and CNI SBSS has planned to use Rapid Response Funds to support the flood affected people by providing basic non-food items, hygiene/dignity kits and cash transfer. LWSIT has planned to provide the support to 615 households those are badly affected. CARD has planned to provide relief support to 800 Households. Similarly, CNI SBSS has planned to provide cash transfer to 700 Households. All the three Forum Members would like to respond to the needs through rapid response fund as early as possible based on prioritized needs.

Focused Response Strategy

Based on assessment findings and in line with the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund (RRF) objectives, LWSIT, CARD and CNI SBSS has refined its proposed intervention to focus on one - two immediate, life-saving priorities:

1. Distribution of Essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Hygiene Kits

2. Unconditional Cash Transfers to flood affected families

Evidence-Based Geographic Focus:

The proposed intervention areas have been identified through:

- Primary data: LWSIT conducted rapid needs assessments using its existing staff, volunteers and CBDMTF members in flood-affected villages in Jajpur
- CARD conducted its rapid needs assessment through their local partners
- CNIS SBSS conducted its rapid need assessment through their diaconal member churches under the umbrella of CNI
- Consultations: PRI (Panchayat Raj Institutions), local authorities, community leaders, District Administration and affected households.
- Verification: Cross-checking with District Authorities and coordination forums to avoid duplication and ensure alignment with government priorities.

These assessments confirm that the selected locations have:

- **Substantial unmet humanitarian needs** (lack of NFIs, hygiene items, food, and cash support).
- **Limited access** to ongoing relief assistance due to distance, damaged infrastructure, or exclusion from official camp lists.
- High concentrations of vulnerable groups those are socially and economically excludes like ST, SC, OBC, Dalits and who are at greater risk during and after floods.

LWSIT, CARD and CNI SBSS will prioritize villages and settlements in Jajpur, Balasoe and Kendrapada districts where:

- Standing agriculture crops are damaged
- Livelihood affected.
- Damage to housing and assets is severe.
- Access to government relief is irregular or insufficient.
- Existing community structures including CBDMTF, PRI Members and other Volunteers can support effective and accountable distribution.