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Alert note

India, Cyclone 'Arnab' 30th October 2026

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Forum: ACT India Forum

Type of emergency: Cyclone 'Arnab'
Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 28th October 2026

1. The nature of the emergency

The very severe Cyclonic storm 'Arnab' is a tropical cyclone that developed over the Bay of Bengal and intensified before making landfall along the coast of Andhra Pradesh on 28th October 2026. It brought strong winds, heavy rainfall, coastal inundation and flooding, with continuing rainfall and secondary impacts in neighbouring states.
The cyclone was fuelled by warm sea-surface conditions in the Bay of Bengal. Meteorological reporting indicated that the storm intensified rapidly, creating a risk of destructive winds, heavy precipitation, flooding and damage to coastal and inland communities.

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

Cyclone Arnab and its aftermath have caused widespread damage across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, with heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides affecting several districts.

Andhra Pradesh:

- Five cyclone-related deaths reported in preliminary government updates.
- Approximately 89,000 people evacuated to 101 relief camps.
- Around 180 houses damaged and over 220 trees uprooted.
- Electricity, mobile communication and road connectivity disrupted.
- Coastal infrastructure and coastal roads damaged.

Odisha:

- Approximately 47,830 people evacuated across eight districts, according to preliminary reports.
- Affected districts include Ganjam, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Nuapada.
- Ganjam recorded exceptionally heavy rainfall, with Patrapur receiving 546 mm within 24 hours.
- More than 40,000 people reportedly affected in Ganjam.
- Around 711 villages across seven blocks affected in Gajapati.
- Flooding, landslides and damaged roads and bridges disrupted access to several villages.
- In Kandhamal, landslides in Raikia and G. Udayagiri resulted in evacuation of residents.
- Local reports from Gopalpur and Rangeilunda indicate waterlogging and damage to houses.
- In Baxipalli ODRP, 42 households were affected, six roofs were lost and 12 people were rescued.
- Balaswar District Continued heavy rainfall following the cyclone has affected several areas.
- IMD issued an Orange Alert for heavy rainfall on 30 October 2026.
- Low-lying areas face risks of flooding and waterlogging.

Sources and references:

1. The Times of India – 30 October 2026
2. The New Indian Express – 29 October 2026
3. The Indian Express – 28 October 2026
4. Odisha Government – Cyclone situation update

3. Local and national capacity

Local structures and resources available

India has established disaster-management institutions and response mechanisms that can support the emergency response. Relevant local resources include:

- District administrations, local elected bodies, village-level institutions and community volunteers.
- State Disaster Response Forces and police, fire and emergency services.
- Health facilities, ambulances, local medical teams and public health workers.
- Cyclone shelters, schools and other designated evacuation facilities where safe and accessible.
- Community organisations, churches, faith-based institutions, NGOs and local civil-society networks.
- Public distribution systems, local markets, agricultural extension services and existing social-protection schemes.

Government plans and current response

India's disaster-management framework includes the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities, district authorities and emergency-response agencies. The India Meteorological Department issued cyclone bulletins and warnings ahead of landfall, while large-scale evacuations were reported in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

As of 29 October, reported government actions included:

- Pre-landfall evacuation and preparedness measures.
- Deployment of rescue teams in flood-affected Odisha.
- Efforts to arrange Coast Guard helicopter support for aerial evacuation where road and boat access were insufficient.
- Restoration of electricity in many affected districts, although some areas continued to experience outages.
- India has national and state disaster-management plans and standard operating procedures.

National and international organisations, including the UN

National response is being led through government disaster-management and emergency-response mechanisms, supported by local authorities and response agencies.

Relevant actors to consult or coordinate with include:

- National and state authorities: NDMA, state disaster-management authorities, district administrations and relevant line departments.
- Emergency services: National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Forces and local rescue teams.
- Indian Red Cross Society and national NGOs: Potential support for relief distributions, first aid, community outreach and emergency supplies, subject to confirmed deployments.
- ACT Alliance members and other faith-based organisations: Potential support for local assessments, relief distributions, shelter, WASH, food security and early recovery.
- UN agencies: OCHA, where an international coordination role is established; UNICEF for children, WASH and education; WHO for public health; WFP for food security and logistics; UNFPA for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risk mitigation; and IOM for displacement-related needs, subject to their mandates and actual engagement

4. Key needs and gaps

The following are preliminary priorities based on reported damage, flooding and infrastructure disruption.

1. Food security and nutrition: Immediate food assistance for households cut off by flooding or unable to cook; safe food storage; infant and young child feeding support; nutrition screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women; and cash or food assistance where markets are functioning.

2. Safe shelter and essential household items: Emergency shelter materials, tarpaulins, bedding, blankets, clothing, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, solar lights and household kits. Damaged homes

require assessment, and families whose homes are unsafe need accessible temporary accommodation.

3. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): Safe drinking water, water-quality testing, household water treatment, emergency water storage, sanitation facilities, handwashing supplies and menstrual hygiene materials. Flooded wells and damaged water systems need inspection and rehabilitation.

4. Health and protection: Restore access to primary healthcare, essential medicines, maternal and new-born care, emergency referrals and psychosocial support. Assess the safety of temporary shelters and provide confidential protection referrals, including for survivors of gender-based violence.

5. Livelihood recovery:
Assess crop, livestock, fishing equipment and market losses. Support agricultural inputs, livestock care, fishing-gear replacement, cash assistance and restoration of small businesses. Prioritise households without savings or alternative income.

The initial assessment will prioritise the following outstanding information:

- Within 24–72 hours: District-wise casualties, people stranded, evacuation-centre occupancy, urgent food and water needs, functioning health facilities and immediate access constraints.
- Within 3–7 days: Verified household damage, displacement, housing requirements, agricultural losses, WASH conditions and disaggregated data on vulnerable groups.
- Within 1–3 weeks: Consolidated recovery requirements, livelihood losses, government compensation arrangements, unmet humanitarian needs and early recovery funding gaps

Please type your response here

Please indicate whether you are considering:

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

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise
LWSIT	Odisha (Sorada Block of Ganjam district)	Food and Non-Food , Livelihoods, Psycho-social support WASH and Shelter
CNI SBSS	Odisha	Livelihood, WASH, Education, Nutrition, Gender, Youth, DNH (40+Years) Disaster Relief (10+ Years)
CARD	Odisha (Gajapati & Kandhamal District)	Food & Non Food Community Development, Emergency Response, Health, Agriculture , Rehabilitation, Education, Livelihood

6. Potential responses.

ACT India Forum Members – LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD will implement the program directly in the Cyclone 'Arnab' affected districts in Odisha. At the same time, it would take the support of local 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.

LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD has planned to use Rapid Response Funds to support the cyclone affected

people by providing basic food materials, cash transfer, temporary shelter, non-food items, agricultural seeds, hygiene kits and allied services. Each member organization planned to provide humanitarian assistance to 700 households each (i.e., 2,100 in total approx.) through rapid response program 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, CNI SBSS and CARD has planned its proposed intervention to focus on the life-saving priorities:

1. Distribution of Food Materials

2. Essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Hygiene Kits

3. Unconditional Cash Transfer to cyclone affected families

Evidence-Based Geographic Focus:

The proposed intervention areas have been identified through:

- Primary data: LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD's own rapid needs assessments conducted in cyclone affected villages in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts of Odisha through local churches and partners
- Consultations: Local authorities, community leaders, District IAG, and affected households.
- Verification: Cross-checking with OSDMA, Sphere India bulletins 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 who are at greater risk during and after cyclone 'Arnab' affected them (particularly Dalits and Adivasi people)

LWSIT, CNI SBSS and CARD will prioritize villages and settlements in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts where:

- Damage to housing due to cyclone and assets are severe.
- Water logging and standing crops submerged due to heavy rains impacted by cyclone 'Arnab'.
- Access to government relief is irregular or insufficient.
- Existing community structures (volunteers, local groups) can support effective and accountable distribution.