

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nepal: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRNP002
GLIDE FL-2008-000104-NPL
Operations update n° 04
2 April 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update: 31 December 2008 to 18 March 2009.

Appeal target (current): CHF 2.65 million (USD 2.33 million or EUR 1.73 million).

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, in cash and kind, the appeal is 80% covered. This Operations Update includes the whole Nepal Red Cross Society emergency operation. With bilateral support from partners, the Nepal Red Cross Society's flood operation is fully funded.

[<click here to go directly to the financial report, or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- The emergency appeal was launched on October 20 for CHF 2.6 million (USD 2.33 million or EUR 1.73 million) for 12 months to assist more than 20,000 families affected by the Saptakoshi River flood and the monsoon floods in the west and far-west of Nepal.
- A preliminary emergency appeal was launched on 29 August 2008 for CHF 1.39 million (USD 1.2 million or EUR 861,530) for nine months to assist more than 5,000 families affected by the Saptakoshi River flood.
- The disaster relief emergency fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 (USD 227,740 or EUR 154,700) was initially allocated on 28 August 2008 from the International Federation's DREF, to support the Nepal Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance.
- A number of other partners from within and outside the Red Cross Movement have also contributed to the Nepal Red Cross Society's flood relief operation.

Summary:

Monsoon floods in Nepal's Terai plains affected over 200,000 people, causing distress to an already vulnerable population. The worst impact of the flood has been on the eastern side of Nepal, along the country's border with India. The other badly-affected region is the mid- and far-west, where the floods have been exacerbated by landslides. The disaster has claimed more than 60 human lives while many more were injured.

Incessant rain throughout August resulted in the Saptakoshi river levels rising above danger levels and on August 18 2008, the river broke its weakened embankment. The changed course of the river meant that it flowed through a densely populated area of Sunsari district. Approximately 70,000 people were displaced, a vast majority of whom lost their homes. These families needed shelter until work on restoring the embankment and diverting the river to its course prior to the disaster was completed. Much of this work is in progress and is expected to conclude before the next monsoon season. However, the river's course has been changed to where it was before the disaster while further work on the embankment goes on simultaneously.



Beneficiaries living in tents as seen from a Nepal Red Cross distribution point in Sunsari district. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

In the meantime, a UNESCO report shared with humanitarian actors in Nepal has said that the breach in the Saptakoshi river's embankment happened due to poor maintenance of the spurs meant to protect it. Since this was the responsibility of the Indian government, it is being taken up between the two governments at the official level. This report has also assessed the possibilities of such breaches being repeated and declares that the risk persists. The report will be shared with the government of Nepal.

Since the onset of this flood and the breaching of the Saptakoshi river's embankment, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) deployed around 2,800 volunteers and trained staff for an assessment of the emergency and later, the registration of beneficiaries. This was followed with distribution of pre-stored relief, both food and non-food (consisting of tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and clothes) and the delivery of emergency shelters and first aid services. NRCS volunteers also assisted in restoring the family links of people torn apart from their families as a result of the disaster. This included provision of free telephonic services to the affected population facilitated by an agreement with the country's telecommunications authorities. This was the first time a humanitarian organization provided such a service in a disaster situation.

On the western part of the country, torrential rain beginning 19 September 2008 triggered flash floods and landslides. According to initial assessments, the number of affected people was approximately 50,000 in eight districts. However, reports of the affected population compiled as part of the relief operation showed that over 200,000 people were affected by these floods. A total of 40 people died due to the floods and landslides while several sustained injuries.

The response of the NRCS to the floods in the west is similar to the Saptakoshi River floods, though on a smaller scale considering the extent of damage and the displacement due to the floods from the Saptakoshi breach was greater than the damage and displacement in the west. While the focus in the eastern part of the country has been on emergency shelter as the river washed away homes, in the west, most affected people were able to return home.

The NRCS has been working in cooperation with the Government of Nepal, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations and local organizations involved in the relief operation. Over the years, the NRCS has done considerable work with the community and the current relief efforts are being carried out with active support and contributions from communities.

As in past instances, the NRCS took the lead role in the implementation of non-food relief distribution. In the current flood relief operation, the national society has also assumed the lead implementation role in emergency shelter in the Sunsari district, and has worked in close cooperation with Oxfam in Saptari district. The NRCS has carried out food distributions in Sunsari and the western part of the country. The food for this distribution was procured and provided to the NRCS by the World Food Programme (WFP) and was distributed among beneficiaries by Red Cross volunteers together with the NRCS staff. The distribution costs were covered by WFP.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal formalized the cluster approach for the country in the course of the Koshi River flood and the International Federation coordination team took the cluster lead in the emergency shelter, working closely with the NRCS and other cluster leads, especially with Camp Management, which is lead by IOM. Through the formalization of the cluster approach in Nepal, cluster leads have agreed to take up their lead coordination role on a permanent basis, including preparedness activities. In the meantime, the International Federation team handed over its coordination responsibility to UN-Habitat, as the operation has shifted from emergency to recovery.

In the immediate period following the floods, the displaced population was staying in 28 different locations, mainly schools, colleges and *madrassas* (Islamic prayer and learning space) located in Inaruwa municipality. Since September last year, this population has been shifted into established shelter camps that are closer to their original homes. The NRCS, with support from the International Federation and in coordination with other organizations, addressed the arising needs of the affected population in view of the onset of the winter.

However, many of the displaced people whose property and homes were eroded by fierce river currents have no options than to continue living either in the camps or with host families. Anxieties and tensions are rising among the people. With assistance from IOM, the government has prepared a database of affected people who are entirely displaced due to the floods (meaning that they cannot return to their place of origin), and those affected partially (meaning that their place of origin is covered with sand but is retrievable) and also families and people who were affected only by flooding and are able to return to their place of origin. While the government has come up with a compensation package of NRS 50,000 (approximately CHF 770) along with a Red Cross-provided shelter tool-kit for the last two categories, it has yet to announce its plans for the first category (those displaced by the flooding).

The NRCS headquarter deployed seven field officers in Sunsari and Saptari to coordinate the ongoing relief

operation. With the relief distribution nearing its last phase, there is now one office from headquarter level with two support staff in Sunsari. The NRCS representatives are working together with the teams from the Red Cross district chapters and the district authorities. They were supported by a short-term shelter delegate deployed by the International Federation's disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur in the immediate days following the disaster.

All relief materials requested by the NRCS from the International Federation's regional logistics unit (RLU) warehouse in Kuala Lumpur reached Nepal on time and the distributions of these are now in the final stage. The relief has been provided in a coordinated way to ensure the most vulnerable beneficiaries receive assistance and to also avoid possible duplication. However, the last phase of relief distribution has been held up because of the tense situation prevailing in the field.

One of the remaining items for distribution is the shelter tool kits. It was felt that the beneficiaries would not be able to use these tool kits while still living in make-shift tarpaulin-covered homes inside camps. After discussions with government representatives during the initial days of the relief operation, it was decided to defer the distribution of the shelter tool kits and club this with the government's returning package, shifting the item from being a part of the emergency distribution to forming part of recovery. Given the delay in the distribution of the tool kits, any further decision regarding this will be taken together with the government representatives.

Logistics support in the form of two short-term logisticians was also provided by the International Federation in the initial stages for the receipt and storage of goods in the NRCS regional warehouse in Biratnagar. In addition, the NRCS district chapters have provided relief assistance in the western region for the flood-affected people. The NRCS has distributed food and non-food relief items to the affected families, most of who have either returned or are in the process of returning to their original locations.

The International Federation office in Nepal has been supporting the NRCS with fundraising, facilitation for technical support, policy decision making and representation towards and coordination with the international community. Partner national societies who have contributed to the appeal so far include the American, Austrian, Belgian, British, Canadian (from the Canadian government), Danish, Finnish, Japanese, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Swedish Red Cross Societies. In addition to the Red Cross family, USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Italian government and private donors have provided cash contributions. The International Federation, on behalf of NRCS, would like to thank all partners for their very quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

A breach in the embankment of the Koshi River occurred on 18 August and caused the displacement of more than 70,000 people from different villages of Sunsari district in Nepal. Eight village development committees (Paschim Kusaha, Laukahi, Ghuski, Sreepur, Haripur, Narshimha, Madhuban and Basantapur) were affected, three of these being badly affected (Paschim Kusaha, Sreepur, and Haripur). These village development committees were completely destroyed and were inundated for several months. In many villages, the fertile land was totally eroded and replaced by a thick layer of sand. Other village development committees in the area (Bhokraha, Madhuban, Narshimha, Basantapur and Dhuskighat) experienced some limited flooding and were host to displaced families. Nepal's East-West highway had been cut open at several places to let the water flow and was replaced by a ferry service to bridge the road gap. In the month since, the damaged roads have been renovated. As the damaged villages remain covered with sediments and sand up to five feet deep, this will considerably affect agriculture and livestock and will have a long-term impact on the affected population, most of whom were subsistence farmers. Most of the electronic communication has resumed. The electricity supply lines that were brought down by the flood have now been restored.



A beneficiary sitting outside a make-shift tent provided by the Nepal Red Cross Society in Saptari district. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

Although the Saptakoshi River flooding occurred in Sunsari district only, the humanitarian operation got spread over two districts – Sunsari and Saptari – as the displaced population was seeking safe areas and arrived in the neighbouring Saptari district (approximately 6,000 families found emergency shelter with the support of Oxfam and the NRCS). Most people settled in the camps along the old river bed or the road and they are served with humanitarian assistance from various organisations coordinated by the active clusters leads for provision of food, water and sanitation, emergency shelter, camp coordination, education and protection. Camp coordination committees were in place and many families improved their basic shelter conditions to face the onset of winter. The relief programme also took into account the region's winter season and sleeping mats woollen clothes and blankets were mobilised through local partnerships and distributed.



Up to 800 beneficiaries received relief from any one distribution centre in a day. The centres are facilitated by volunteers. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

In Sunsari, the displaced people were initially sheltered in 28 different interim camps (schools, colleges and *madrassas*). These displaced families have been shifted to 16 new camps constructed by different humanitarian organizations including the NRCS. The NRCS has taken an implementation lead for emergency shelter in Sunsari and is responsible for 13 of the total 16 camps, where it provided shelter. The NRCS has provided non-food relief items to all 16 camps.

Initially, displaced people living in Sripur and Paschim Kusaha of Sunsari district faced shortage of water and sanitation facilities. This situation has now improved as various humanitarian organisations have provided water and sanitation facilities. Most of the affected population have shifted and have erected shelters closer to their original habitations. The NRCS has provided the support to erect the huts.

The relief operation is now in its final stage and can be wound up in a matter of days if the situation on the ground returns to normal. The World Food Programme (WFP) discontinued its food ration distribution for the flood-affected people though it is open to the idea of supporting a food for work programme as part of the recovery phase, which is yet to begin.

In the meanwhile, the situation of the affected people, especially those not in a position to go back since their land and homes have been completely destroyed due to erosion from the floods, has not improved. The government recognises this and in early-March, the government requested WFP to provide the affected families with food rations for another two months.

A verification of the number of beneficiaries for early recovery has been undertaken by the district administration with help from IOM. Some problems have been encountered while accessing the number of the beneficiaries. For example, a significant number of people from Bihar in India, across the country's international border had also arrived and enrolled as flood-affected. As a result of a verification drive undertaken by the Nepal Government, and with monetary support of NRS 4,500 (roughly CHF 70) as expenses for transport, much of this population moved back into India and, consequently, the number of beneficiaries reduced.

As part of this verification, a database of affected people has been prepared according to which the affected people have been drawn into three categories of red, yellow and green:

- Red: Those entirely displaced due to the floods (meaning that they cannot return to their place of origin);
- Yellow: Those affected partially (meaning that their place of origin is covered with sand but is retrievable); and,
- Green: Families and people affected only by flooding and able to return to their place of origin.

The government of Nepal has announced a return package for flood-affected families (belonging to the Red and Yellow categories) returning to their original places of residence from the relief camps and the government is verifying the families who will qualify for this. The relief package will consist of a one-time monetary compensation of NRS 50,000 (approximately CHF 770) and the shelter-tool kit provided by the Red Cross. As mentioned earlier in this report, this shelter tool kit was clubbed with the returning package as it was felt that people could not put it into use while in the camps and could serve a better purpose as a recovery tool. The government has yet to announce its plans to rehabilitate the families displaced by the floods (categorised as Red).

Affected families are being encouraged to apply for this relief package but this process and the returning package itself has now become a contentious issue with people protesting against the government against what they believe is a very inadequate compensation. The protests have become politicised and violent and the situation in

the region has been very tense for almost a month now. It has been made clear to the Red Cross by leaders of the ongoing agitation that they have nothing against the Red Cross shelter tool kit and that their grievance is against the government's compensation package for its inadequacy for their resettlement which is now articulated by the 'struggling committee'.

The government has formed a 'High level Task Force' which also includes representation from among the affected population to find a solution to the issue.

By the end of March, IOM plans to phase out as Camp Coordination Camp Management focal point. No organisation has been identified to continue the work for the extended residual population of 20,000 that cannot return. IOM continued preparing the camp consolidation strategy and assessing camps on both Sunsari and Saptari side.

NRCS has provided emergency shelter in the form of tarpaulins and bamboo to the beneficiaries and as and when matters are resolved, the Red Cross is fully prepared to undertake the distribution of the tool kits. However, in case the disagreement over the returning package persists, NRCS has the option of distributing the shelter tool kits by itself. This has been discussed with the district authorities in Sunsari.

Western Floods:

The torrential rainfall that started from 19 September in the western region of the country triggered floods and landslide in eight districts in the West (Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardeya, Gulmi, Dhadeldhura, Salyan, Dang and Doti). Some surrounding districts also experienced limited flooding and landslides. More than 200,000 people were affected, 40 died and several others sustained injured. Unlike the case of the floods in the East, the number of displaced people in the West is limited and the vast majority of affected people were able to return home after the water level receded. The situation in the affected areas began returning to normal with ending of the winter season, mainly due to the initiative of the local people themselves. However, there are some thousand people who are still squatting on low-lying forest areas because they have been displaced by recurrent floods. The affected population is supported with non-food relief items and water and sanitation to avoid water-borne diseases.

In the Khailad and Urma village development committees of Kailali district, about 275 families continue to live in low-lying forest areas. These families have been displaced due to the floods and are living in the forest as they are afraid of returning to the low-lying area they lived in earlier which gets flooded annually. This situation has brought them into direct conflict with the forest officials who, with police aid, have resorted to forcibly evicting these people from their settlements and have even burnt their huts. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is monitoring the issue.

The relief operation is still continuing in two of the eight affected district of western region because the number of beneficiaries was raised as the communities they belonged to was cut off and could not be reached during the initial assessment period was inundated by flood waters. Later on, the district branches were involved in relief distribution and this matter of the cut-off communities was addressed at a later stage. Food was distributed in Kailali, Kanchanpur and Bardiya districts. NRCS took the lead role in distribution of food item which was supported by WFP. Since the start of the flood relief operation, 31,245 families (207,452 people) benefited from food distribution.

Coordination and partnerships

The cluster approach was formalized by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal and all humanitarian work for the Saptakoshi river flood is coordinated through designated lead agencies as follows:

CLUSTER APPROACH	AGENCY
Food	WFP
Camp management	IOM
Shelter	International Federation (emergency) / UNHABITAT (recovery)
Water and sanitation	UNICEF
Nutrition	UNICEF
Education	UNICEF, Save the Children
Protection	OHCHR

The International Federation took up the lead coordination role for emergency shelter for the Saptakoshi river flood. A cluster coordination team arrived on September 12 and carried out the work in the initial three months following which, since December, its work was handed over to UN-HABITAT who are the focal agency for shelter recovery under the recovery network chaired by UNDP. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee and cluster meetings are hosted by UNOCHA or the Humanitarian Coordinator on a national level. In addition, the

government has been holding their central disaster relief committee meetings with relevant line ministries present, in which the Red Cross Red Crescent is an ex-officio member and the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNOCHA are participating as invitees.

At the field level, sectoral committees for the flood, health, water and sanitation, and shelter have been established. These sectoral committees are chaired by the district officer together with the respective cluster lead. In addition, Inter-Agency coordination meetings are being held once per week at the district disaster relief committee (DDRC) office in Sunsari and Saptari districts. UNOCHA has a presence in Biratnagar which is close to both Sunsari and Saptari. Additional information sharing between the International Federation and the NRCS with UNOCHA, the government and other humanitarian organizations is ongoing on a regular basis.

The NRCS has been entrusted with the lead role for the distribution of non-food relief items in all affected districts and with a lead implementation role in emergency shelter in the Sunsari district. In addition, the NRCS has collaborated with WFP to carry out food distributions in Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Sunsari. NRCS is also collaborating with other UN agencies and international organisations to implement non-food distributions.

The NRCS national headquarter is coordinating with the regional warehouses and concerned district chapters to manage the non-food relief item distribution. Red Cross district committees in Kailali and Kanchanpur have been coordinating with the respective District Disaster Relief Committee and other stakeholders at the district level. In order to complete the relief operation in the western part of the country, NRCS has been working closely with ICRC, WFP, Government of Nepal, SCF-US and UNICEF.

The NRCS national headquarter is supporting its district chapters in Sunsari, Saptari and western districts and is coordinating with the concerned stakeholders. In the early days of the disaster, the International Federation office in Nepal was assisted by partner national society delegates already present in Nepal. The Federation office has been supporting the NRCS with the emergency appeal, operational planning, policy decision making especially on emergency shelter, donor relations and fundraising and representation towards and coordination with the international community. In addition to the short-term delegates, an International Federation relief delegate is currently working with the NRCS to finalize the operation under the emergency appeal.

Other Red Cross National societies are partnering in this operation through bilateral agreements with the NRCS. These include Luxembourg Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Hong Kong Red Cross. The NRCS has also got support from the Danish, German and Chinese embassies in Kathmandu. Other contributors to the NRCS include Mercy Corps, Annapurna Post and Himalayan Times (media houses in Kathmandu), UNOCHA, the British Gorkha Regiment in Nepal and an association of Nepalese doctors based in UK besides individual contributors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The NRCS is the main humanitarian actor on the ground and is working closely with the district authorities. As a consequence, the national society was entrusted the lead implementation role for non-food relief distribution for all districts and for emergency shelter in Sunsari. It has also supported the WFP food relief. A total of 2,811 NRCS volunteers and 18 staff members were involved in the relief operation in Sunsari and Saptari, and 300 volunteers and staff members in the western region of the country. The distribution of non-food relief item sets (blankets, water cans, clothes sets, utensils and tarpaulins) has been completed in Sunsari. Similarly, the distribution of non-food relief item sets in Saptari is also completed.

The NRCS headquarters had deployed seven trained staff in the field to help in the relief operation and presently one staff with two assistants are still working in Sunsari district. The national society has a network of warehouses with a capacity of around 30,000 non-food relief items (now scaled up to 33,000). During this relief operation, non-food items have been made available from its pre-positioned relief stocks in the warehouses located at Biratnagar, Birgunj and Mahendra Nagar as well as the central warehouse in Kathmandu. This is in addition to the relief provided from the International Federation regional logistics unit (RLU) warehouse in Kuala Lumpur. All relief materials received through the emergency appeal have been distributed in Sunsari and Saptari and ongoing in the western region. In addition, the shelter kits distribution is yet to be done in Sunsari as this is connected to the return package.



Nepal Red Cross volunteers organizing non-food relief item kits before distribution outside a distribution centre. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

Relief Distribution (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: In coordination with other actors on the ground, 20,000 most vulnerable families are supported with non-food relief items, including kitchen sets, clothes, blankets and jerry cans.

Achievements:

The relief items – mainly jerry cans and blankets – were made available through the International Federation's RLU warehouse in Kuala Lumpur and have already been distributed in Sunsari and Saptari districts. The NRCS has already distributed staple food provided by the WFP in Sunsari and the western districts. In addition, the NRCS has been managing the non-food relief items from its regional warehouses and the central warehouse in Kathmandu. In the west, the distributions are ongoing in two of the eight village development committee, but are in the final stage. As per the needs identified, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Gulmi, Salyan, Doti and Dang districts received non-food relief item support.

To date, 23,060 pieces of tarpaulins, 13,076 sets of utensil, 41,080 pieces of blankets and 20,189 jerry cans have been distributed to the Koshi flood-affected people. A total of 163,552 metres (corresponding to 10,222 families at the rate of 16 metres per family) of cloth have also been distributed. The relief materials were provided in a coordinated way in order to avoid duplication. A total of 22,600 jerry-cans were provided from the International Federation's RLU warehouse in Kuala Lumpur against a requirement of 24,000.

The NRCS is in the process of procuring non-food relief items (kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, sari, dhoti and clothes pieces) to replenish the stock distributed during the relief operation. As per the emergency appeal launched on October 20 2008, in addition to the relief goods provided from the RLU warehouse in Kuala Lumpur, the International Federation was requested to replenish 20,000 kitchen sets and blankets, as well as 18,000 tarpaulins and sarees, sarongs and clothes. At current, a total of 15,000 tarpaulins, 10,000 utensil sets, and around 8,000 pieces of printed poplin have been received from the identified supplier, while the supply of the rest of the non-food relief items is in progress.

The NRCS is planning to increase the stock of its country-wide warehouses to 33,000 non-food relief item sets. As Nepal is experiencing a dry period with less rain than expected, fires have broken out in several parts of the country. At the moment, stocks are again being sent out to the districts chapters to support communities affected by these fires.

The NRCS has distributed non-food relief items to affected families both in the country's eastern and western regions, as shown in below:

Relief Items	Sunsari	Saptari	Western Region	Total	Provided by KL	provided from NRCS stock
Cloth*	70,448 meters (4,403 families)	93,104 meters (5,819 families)	34,695 meters (2,167 families)	198,247 metres (12,389 families)		198,247 metres (12,389 families)
Tarpaulin	7,015 pieces	11,281 pieces	4,764 pieces	23,060 pieces	14,000 pieces	9,060 pieces
Kitchen sets	3,331 Set	6,486 set	3,259 sets	13,076 sets		13,076 sets
Jerry can	8,638 pieces	11,551 pieces	-	20,189 pieces	22,600 pieces	
Blanket	12,164 pieces	18,284 pieces	10,632 pieces	41,080 pieces	28,000 pieces	13,080 pieces
Full NFRI sets	-	650 Set	3,676 sets	4,326 sets		4,325 sets
Ladies sarees	4,403 pieces	5,819 pieces	4,940 pieces	15,162 pieces		15,162 pieces

*Each family got approximately 16 metres of cloth in the form of culturally compatible clothing

As mentioned in preceding paragraphs, NRCS is in the process of procuring non-food relief items to replenish the stock distributed during the relief operation. However, because the number of beneficiaries dropped as a result of fresh assessments and because a coordination mechanism allocated beneficiary camps to other humanitarian agencies as well, some of the non-food relief items remained un-distributed. This excess is being pre-positioned for emergencies such as the fires that have affected over 600 families so far. The NRCS is planning to increase the stock of its country-wide warehouses to 33,000 non-food relief item sets. The following table gives an idea of such pre-positioning:

Relief Items	Total quantity distributed	Replenishment by IFRC	Provided from NRCS stock	Request for pre-positioning
Cloth*	12,389 units	18,000 units	12,389 units	5,611 units
Tarpaulin	23,060 pieces	18,000 pieces	9,060 pieces	8,940 pieces
Kitchen sets	13,076 sets	20,000 sets	13,076 sets	6,924 pieces
Jerry cans	20,189 pieces	22,600 pieces	-	2,411 pieces
Blankets	41,080 pieces	20,000 pieces	13,080 pieces	6,920 pieces
Ladies sarees	15,162 pieces	18,000 pieces	15,162 pieces	2,838 pieces

* Each unit of cloth totals 16 metres of cloth per family

In many cases, Nepal Red Cross was called in to distribute relief for other organisations as well. For example, 650 non-food relief item sets distributed in Saptari came from the Norwegian Refugee Council and Caritas and included up to 35 items over and above the regular NRCS non-food relief item sets.

NRCS has completed distribution of sleeping mats in Sunsari. 3,995 mats have been distributed among as many families. This number has gone down from the initially assessed number (5,000 families) as many of the intended beneficiaries were Indian nationals from across the international border and these families returned after the Nepal government funded a returning allowance of NRS 4,500 to each family. Sleeping mats in Saptari was distributed by Caritas.

Emergency Shelter:

Objective: 12,000 most vulnerable disaster-affected families, i.e. the displaced families from the Koshi River flood are supported with emergency shelter material to construct a shelter in a safe and humane place, preferably their place of origin after return, a host family or an interim camp.

Achievements

All the 7,000 shelter kits, including the 14,000 tarpaulins, are received from the International Federation's RLU warehouse in Kuala Lumpur. The tarpaulins have been distributed to the beneficiaries, whereas there was a decision – based on the recommendation of the shelter cluster coordinator – not to hand out the tool kits in the camps, but to reserve them for returning beneficiaries. This was discussed in a coordination meeting in the field and this decision also has the government's agreement and as such, the tool-kits are now part of the government's returning package, taken in the form of an early recovery distribution. However, with no certainty about the time frame of this distribution, the NRCS has come to an agreement with the authorities for carrying out its own distribution of these tool kits in case the government's returning package fails to take off.

In Sunsari, the displaced people were sheltered in 16 new camps constructed by different humanitarian organizations, including the NRCS. So far, the NRCS has provided a total of 7,015 tarpaulins to erect huts for displaced families. Initially, a total of 764 bamboos for 191 displaced families were distributed to erect huts. The rest of the displaced families are managing the bamboo themselves and the cost incurred for these bamboos has been reimbursed by the Red Cross to 965 families so far. Before this, in collaboration with Action Aid, the NRCS had erected a total of 275 huts in Sunsari's Lauki camp. However, the remaining beneficiaries for whom the Red Cross appealed, had received bamboos earlier from other organizations before the Red Cross stocks reached the field. This way, their need for bamboos for erecting their tarpaulin-roofed shelter was addressed.

In Saptari, Oxfam took a lead role and the NRCS was complementing the tarpaulin distribution. The NRCS has distributed a total of 11,281 pieces of tarpaulins in Saptari. This includes 2,490 tarpaulins provided to 1,295 families as replacements. In Saptari, the bamboo poles were distributed by Oxfam.



Nepal Red Cross Society has provided a total of 7,015 tarpaulins to erect huts for displaced families. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

Logistic and Human Resource

Objective: To ensure efficient, effective, and timely shipping and distribution of relief items and shelter to selected beneficiaries. To provide cash or in-kind support to a selected number of displaced beneficiaries to reconstruct their houses.

Achievements towards objective:

In order to ensure the effective response and recovery operation, the NRCS had established a field office in both Sunsari and Saptari districts in addition to its district chapter offices. Presently, the NRCS office, consisting of one officer and a field-based accountant-cum-administrative assistant and a driver, has been managing the overall accounting and administrative works of the Koshi flood from Sunsari.

The Sunsari district chapter continues to mobilize its volunteers for the relief operation and the branch office members and officials are also involved in the operations to different extents. For example, the branch president regularly attends the coordination meeting in the field at the district headquarters. He is assisted by the staff deployed in the field from the headquarters.

With the finalization of the relief part and a scaling down of the operation, the NRCS staff presence in the field was reduced as a logical conclusion.

The International Federation has been supporting the emergency operation through the International Federation's Nepal office, short-term technical delegates, (two logisticians and one shelter delegate) and one relief delegate currently based in Kathmandu. In addition, the emergency shelter cluster team has built good capacity of the NRCS in information management and the former national IOM staff member of the cluster is now working with the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit at the NRCS.

Planned activities / Recovery:

The operation has shifted to recovery. As mentioned earlier, the NRCS will manage the distribution of shelter tool-kits along with the government's returning package. However, the time frame of distribution of the government's returnee package has yet to be decided. As mentioned above, the NRCS will undertake the distribution of the shelter tool-kits in case the government's returning is delayed indefinitely.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Nepal: Nepal Red Cross Society, Pitambar Aryal (Disaster Management Director), email: pitambar.aryal@nrsc.org, phone: +977.14.27.0650, fax: +977.14.27.1915
- In Nepal: International Federation office (Andrea Reisinger, International Federation Representative), email: andrea.reisinger@ifrc.org, phone: +977.985.104.7071
- In India: International Federation South Asia Regional Delegation (Al Panico, Head of South Asia Regional Delegation, New Delhi), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1125
- In Malaysia: International Federation Asia Pacific zone office (Jagan Chapagain, Deputy Head of Zone) email; jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org, phone + 60 3 2161 0892
- International Federation Asia Pacific zone office, disaster management unit (Daniel Bolanos, disaster response delegate), email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org, phone: +60 39 207 5728; mobile: +6012 283-7305
- For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting coordinator, phone +603 9207 5775, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org. All pledges should be sent to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org.

***<Interim financial report and annex attached below;
click here to return to the title page>***

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRNP002 - Nepal - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/2
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2009/12
Appeal	MDRNP002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	2,647,699					2,647,699
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	55,000					55,000
Austrian Red Cross	30,441					30,441
British Red Cross	133,768					133,768
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	78,000					78,000
Danish Red Cross	3,985					3,985
Finnish Red Cross	103,229					103,229
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	127,379					127,379
Italian Govt Bilateral Emergency Fund	161,500					161,500
Japanese Red Cross	47,785					47,785
Luxembourg Red Cross	8,093					8,093
Netherlands Red Cross	323,000					323,000
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	171,200					171,200
Unidentified donor	55,000					55,000
C1. Cash contributions	1,298,379					1,298,379
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)	18,001					18,001
USAID	583,635					583,635
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	601,635					601,635
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
Danish Red Cross	63,313					63,313
Japanese Red Cross	34,300					34,300
Luxembourg Red Cross	125,500					125,500
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	223,113					223,113
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	2,123,127					2,123,127
D. Total Funding = B + C	2,123,127					2,123,127
Appeal Coverage	80%					80%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	2,123,127					2,123,127
E. Expenditure	-1,467,847					-1,467,847
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	655,280					655,280

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRNP002 - Nepal - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/2
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2009/12
Appeal	MDRNP002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)	2,647,699						2,647,699	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	832,667	236,994				236,994	595,672	
Clothing & textiles	598,120	107,942				107,942	490,178	
Utensils & Tools	233,380	75,015				75,015	158,365	
Other Supplies & Services	98,186						98,186	
Total Supplies	1,762,352	419,951				419,951	1,342,401	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	80,016						80,016	
Computers & Telecom	14,586						14,586	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	5,001						5,001	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	99,603						99,603	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	41,842	2,071				2,071	39,771	
Distribution & Monitoring	18,337	174,571				174,571	-156,234	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	105,813	89				89	105,724	
Total Transport & Storage	165,992	176,731				176,731	-10,739	
Personnel								
International Staff	88,668	20,958				20,958	67,710	
Regionally Deployed Staff	25,005	10,171				10,171	14,834	
National Staff	18,004	3,016				3,016	14,988	
National Society Staff	117,015						117,015	
Consultants		1,368				1,368	-1,368	
Total Personnel	248,691	35,513				35,513	213,178	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	15,003	698				698	14,305	
Total Workshops & Training	15,003	698				698	14,305	
General Expenditure								
Travel	31,673	17,292				17,292	14,381	
Information & Public Relation	11,669						11,669	
Office Costs	36,007						36,007	
Communications	10,002	522				522	9,480	
Professional Fees	3,334						3,334	
Financial Charges	2,000	6,581				6,581	-4,580	
Other General Expenses	89,271	873				873	88,398	
Total General Expenditure	183,957	25,267				25,267	158,690	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		687,100				687,100	-687,100	
Total Contributions & Transfers		687,100				687,100	-687,100	
Programme Support								
Program Support	172,100	96,547				96,547	75,553	
Total Programme Support	172,100	96,547				96,547	75,553	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		26,040				26,040	-26,040	
Total Services		26,040				26,040	-26,040	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,647,699	1,467,847				1,467,847	1,179,852	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,179,852				1,179,852		