

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## INDIA:Flash Floods in Leh

DREF operation n° MDRIN005

11 August 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 54,543 (USD 52,476 or EUR 39,516) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the India Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 40,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** A massive cloudburst occurred in Leh after torrential rains in the intervening night of 5-6 August 2010. So far, 136 persons have lost their lives and 200-250 are injured. Five relief camps have been opened in the affected areas. An experienced team of national disaster response trained (NDRT) volunteers will be deployed by IRCS for operationalising the NOMAD water purification units and distribution of non-food items. This group will also continue with the assessment of the area while working of the assigned tasks. Further action will be developed based on the assessment findings, and IRCS will look into mobilizing the needed resources to address the outstanding needs through various mechanisms.



The national disaster water and sanitation response team in action. Photo: India Red Cross Society.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 10 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 February 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget or here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

A massive cloudburst occurred in Leh after torrential rains in the intervening night of 5-6 August 2010. The worst hit areas are Leh Bus Stand and nearby Choglamsar village. So far, 136 persons have lost their lives and 200-250 are injured. Five relief camps have been opened in the affected areas.

Reported damages so far are:

- BSNL exchange and Bus Stand in Leh town has completely been washed away.
- The Civil hospital and Leh airport has been inundated.
- The Nyoma-Leh road has been blocked due to heavy mud-slide.
- The Fayang Bridge on the National Highway between Kargil and Leh has been washed away, thus disrupting traffic.
- The pumping station has been washed away thus, disrupting water supply in Leh township.
- The Cultural Institute of Buddhist Studies has been affected.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp completely washed away.

Around 6,000 army and paramilitary personnel have been deployed for rescue and relief operations in the affected areas.

In Leh, one team consisting of 45 personnel was deployed in Leh along with the rescue and relief equipments, as tabulated below:

<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>
Medium arctic tents	250 pieces
Tarpouline	120 pieces
Angle cutter	6 pieces
Inflatable boat	3 units
Chain saw	6 pieces
Generator set	3 units
Bolt cutter	11 pieces
Hand saw	6 pieces
MFR kit	3 units
Breathing system	3 units
Oxygen cylinder	3 units
Medicine from RML Hospital, Delhi	10 Qtls to provide rescue and relief operations

The disaster management division, MHA, have been provided with five (5) units of INMARSETs to the state government of Jammu and Kashmir, Leh, for emergency communication purpose.

More than 1,400 people have died across 19 of India's 28 states during the monsoon rains this year.

## Coordination and partnerships

On review of the difficult terrain and the presence of government resources on the ground and considering its auxillary role, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been closely working with the government through the Ministry of Health for responding to the emergency situation in Leh following the cloudburst. A team of Red Cross staff and volunteers have been working from the onset of the disaster.

A meeting was convyed in the Emergency Operations Centre by the IRCS secretary general to appraise actions taken by the national society in response to the cloudburst in Leh to the Movement partners in the country. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been extending its fullest cooperation to the IRCS in planning and mobilisation of relief supplies. IFRC has made available its disaster management manager to the national society to lead the IRCS team in Leh.

The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is in contact with various embassies and consular services to have a coordinated reunification of family links (RFL) strategy. ICRC will participate in coordination meetings in New Delhi and facilitate contact in Leh with the IRCS team.

ICRC is preparing an imminent deployment of a small RFL/assessment team (one RFL specialist and two cooperation FO) to Leh to support the IRCS team there.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS national headquarters, along with the IFRC India country office, is closely monitoring the unfolding situation in Leh and is in regular contact with the affected state branch. The IFRC India country office is closely following-up with the IRCS national headquarters on the rising needs from the state branch on technical support request, in carrying out the emergency assessment in the affected areas.

IRCS is meeting daily to review the situation and to discuss the next steps to take. The daily meetings include the IFRC head of India office, while several other technical meetings are held daily between IRCS and IFRC to best coordinate the relief efforts and the best response to the affected areas.

The IRCS chairman and the union health minister, along with the IRCS secretary general, visited Leh on 7 August. Following this visit, IRCS has sent the following relief supplies to Leh:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Blankets	1,000
2	Kitchen sets	1,000
3	Tents	500
4	Nomad Units	2
5	Body bags	200
6	Gum boot	123
7	Glowes	75
8	Masks	100
9	Boiler Suits	50

Along with these items, a team of three people have departed on 10 August for Leh from Delhi. This team has been joined by four Red Cross staff and volunteers who have been involved in the operation since the start of the disaster.

The Ministry of Health and Defense are coordinating arrangements for transportation of goods and personnel.

## The needs

Some 1,000 families have been identified as the worst affected. The goods and personnel are being sent to Leh based on the recommendations submitted by the IRCS Jammu and Kashmir branch. As soon as the deployed teams arrives at Leh, the teams will operationalise the NOMAD water purification units and will assess further needs of the affected population which will be the base for further action to be taken by IRCS.

## The proposed operation

An experienced team of national disaster response trained (NDRT) volunteers will be deployed by IRCS for operationalising the NOMAD water purification units and distribution of non-food items. This team will also continue with the assessment of the area while working of the assigned tasks.

### Relief distributions (food, basic non-food and emergency shelter items)

**Objective: The immediate needs of at least 1,000 flood-affected families (5,000 beneficiaries) have been met through relief distributions.**

#### Activities planned:

- Detailed need assessment by IRCS and mobilisation of national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) members and volunteers.
- Procurement for replenishment of non-food item (NFI) stocks.
- Dispatch and transportation by IRCS to the distribution sites.
- Storage and distribution of relief items by trained IRCS volunteers and staff.
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.

### Emergency health, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective: The risks to the flood-affected people from waterborne or water and sanitation related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation to population of 40,000 persons.**

#### Activities planned:

- Deploy NOMAD water purification units in Leh.
- Assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene situation.
- Mobilisation and operationalisation of water purification units in the affected areas to supply potable drinking water to the population of 40,000.
- Provision of safe drinking water to flood-affected families.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

## **Action Plan**

The initial plan is to deploy human resource, water purification units and non-food items to Leh to intensify the intervention. However, the deployed personnel will be responsible for the development of further plan of action based on the assessment which will give direction to the operation.

The items will be distributed by the IRCS state/district branch staff and volunteers, in close consultation and cooperation with the state and central authorities.

## **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The steady flow of timely and accurate information between those working in the field and other major stakeholders will support the programme objectives of this DREF, increase the profile, funding and other support for the national society and the International Federation.

It will also provide a platform on which to advocate in the interest of vulnerable people. In close collaboration with the operation, those affected by this emergency will be provided with information to support their relief and recovery. Donors and national societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote this operation, and communications initiatives will help build the information and public relations capacity of the host national society for future emergencies.

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

In India:

- Indian Red Cross Society: Dr. S P Agarwal, Secretary General; email: [spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org); phone: +91.11.2371.6441; fax: +91.11.2371.7454
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**DREF BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	4,762	4,762
Water & Sanitation	4,762	4,762
Ustensils & Tools	27,643	27,643
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>37,167</b>	<b>37,167</b>
Travel	9,286	9,286
Communications	3,000	3,000
Other General Expenses	1,762	1,762
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>14,048</b>	<b>14,048</b>
Program Support	3,329	3,329
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,329</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>54,543</b>	<b>54,543</b>