



NEPAL: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

Appeal no:30/2000
20 October 2000

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 658,180
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 9,500 BENEFICIARY FAMILIES FOR 2 MONTHS***

Summary

More than 50,000 people have been affected by floods and landslides in almost all parts of Nepal since the beginning of the monsoon in May. The situation worsened significantly at the beginning of August when flash floods occurred as a result of heavy rains in the Himalayas, altering the routes of rivers and causing landslides. The death toll in Nepal has been estimated at 144 people. A further 250 people have died of encephalitis as a result of the flood waters.

According to the findings of the team from the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Federation which visited some of the worst affected regions, a number of disaster victims have received aid. There have been food distributions by the district chapters of the NRCS and other agencies including Oxfam. The Nepal Red Cross Society also provided non-food aid in the form of family packages to approximately 7,600 families across the kingdom. The government has provided cash compensation to the flood victims. Water supplies have also been repaired. The government has provided assistance to the hospitals where people are being treated for encephalitis and UNICEF has provided medicines. However, there are acute needs for relief assistance to those families to whom distribution has not been possible because of their inaccessibility. Over 2,000 of the affected families have lost their land and homes.

The Disaster

Floods and landslides are common in Nepal during every monsoon season between June and September. However, this year the rain in early August was very heavy, causing extensive flooding and landslides throughout Nepal. The scale of the disaster has increased since many rivers changed their course and destroyed village settlements through which the rivers charted their new course. This will become a

major issue in the future as the riverbeds are expanding and, in lower areas, covering cultivated land with sand. Landslides have been the main disaster in the hilly regions, causing most deaths within the affected population. 11 village development councils, most affected by the floods and landslides and with a population of over 30,000 people, were totally isolated. Loss of property has been estimated at a value of CHF 12,000,000 by the government and the figure may be even higher.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The government of Nepal has formed a special committee for the management of the current floods and landslides. The Vice-Chairman of the country's Planning Commission chairs this committee which will work hand-in-hand with the central disaster management committee, of which the Nepal Red Cross Society is a permanent member. The government helped the affected families by providing cash donations of 3,000 - 5,000 NRs (CHF 95). In the case of death, the government provided each bereaved family with 10,000 NRs (CHF 238). During large-scale disasters such as this, the government provides food assistance. The government is also responsible for providing land to those who have become landless. In general, the government does not distribute relief items, but concentrates on rescue activities and the clearing of roads.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The NRCS has extensive experience in the field of disaster response. There are Red Cross district chapters in every district in Nepal. Each district chapter has skilled personnel trained for disaster response and sufficient numbers of volunteers. The NRCS has a central warehouse in Kathmandu, four regional warehouses, four zone warehouses and 18 depots situated in strategic areas.

The Red Cross district level committees assessed damage and losses and prepared a survey report of the affected areas. On the basis of this report, relief materials were requested from the central warehouse. Some district chapters resettled flood affected people temporarily, provided food items, such as puffed rice, potato and sugar with their own funds. The district chapters worked with the local authorities in beneficiary selection. In September, the NRCS distributed some 7,600 family packages to the flood and landslide victims. The family package consists of a blanket, a tarpaulin, utensils, a saree and 16 meters of clothing materials. The NRCS Banke district chapter, with the assistance of the Swiss Red Cross, distributed food and non-food items to 1,700 families. Furthermore, the Nepal Red Cross has initiated work to acquire land for landless labourers for the building of houses.

Other Agencies' Action w

Oxfam has distributed a week's ration of rice to 582 families in four districts of Terai, together with tarpaulins and water purification tablets. Plan International has ensured safe water in the Banke area and UNICEF has provided medicine for encephalitis patients through the government and the Nepal Red Cross Society.

Co-ordination w

The government co-ordinates the activities of relief organisations through a central disaster relief committee at national level, together with committees in the districts. The Ministry of the Interior oversees the co-operation and the Nepal Red Cross Society is fully involved in these committees.

Co-ordination within the National Society is also carried out at two levels, the central disaster management committee and the district disaster management sub-committee. The district disaster management sub-committee also includes the Chief District Officer of the Nepal government.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

An NRCS and Federation team undertook an assessment mission in three districts in the eastern and central regions which were badly affected by the floods. A further assessment was carried out in the mountainous western region of Kaski district which was severely affected by landslides. Unfortunately, for security reasons, it was not possible to undertake an in-depth survey in Kaski, though initial distribution of family relief packages was undertaken by the NRCS.

Shelter is emerging as an important need of the populations in these regions. Furthermore, it is essential to reinforce NRCS capacity to respond efficiently to future disasters. Since the NRCS has exhausted its supply of relief goods in order to respond to needs, it is vital to replenish these goods to ensure prompt response in the event of future disasters.

Immediate Needs •

1,900 of the worst-affected families in remote areas require a family package. Natural disasters occur regularly in Nepal which is also prone to earthquakes; fires are also frequent since sparks from a kitchen fireplace easily ignite thatched roofs. Given the frequency of disasters, the NRCS requires 7,600 family packages to replenish the depleted stock of the NRCS warehouses. A total of 9,500 family packages are therefore needed.

Red Cross Objectives •

The NRCS relief operation has two objectives.

- to provide relief assistance to isolated families affected by the floods and landslides. These families have been displaced and are in immediate need of shelter, clothing and utensils.
- to strengthen the capacity of the National Society to respond in a timely manner in the event of similar disasters in future. The NRCS is in urgent need of resources to replenish its depleted stocks of relief goods.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: November - December 2000 •

The aim is to assist the population affected by the floods and landslides in Nepal which occurred between June and September 2000 through the provision of family packages to disaster victims in remote areas which have, to date, been inaccessible.

The plan also seeks to reinforce the capacity of the Nepal Red Cross Society to respond immediately in times of disaster through adequate stocks of relief items.

Geographical Coverage and Beneficiary Numbers •

The beneficiaries number 1,900 families (9,500 individuals) in following districts:

Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, Siraha, Chitwan and Kanchanpur.

The NRCS and Federation mission carried out its assessment in these districts and found that 3,217 families had been affected by the disaster in these districts. Of these, 1,900 families were identified as particularly vulnerable. Beneficiary selection was carried out by the NRCS in consultation with the local authorities to ensure that priority has been given to the most vulnerable who were most severely affected by the floods and landslides.

Capacity of the National Society •

The NRCS has vast experience in disaster preparedness and management. It is a well organised National Society with a dedicated disaster management department and committee at the national headquarters. The committee provides the policy direction to the department which is responsible for the implementation of the programmes. The National Society has four regional and zonal warehouses, as well as district and village level depots.

Each district chapter has a district level disaster management committee. There is skilled manpower, trained in disaster management in each district with a network of dedicated volunteers and the youth and junior Red Cross.

Present Capacity of the Federation in South Asia •

The Federation has a regional delegation in New Delhi which provides technical support to the National Societies in the region.

Evaluation •

Monitoring of the relief distributions will be carried out by the Nepal Red Cross Society headquarters staff.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The Nepal Red Cross Society has, through its own resources, responded efficiently and promptly to the floods and landslides disasters and has assisted victims of the disasters through provision of essential relief items. However, a number of displaced vulnerable disaster victims in remote areas are still in need of basic relief items since they have lost their houses and all possessions. Furthermore, in order to enable the National Society to respond in the event of future disasters, there is a vital need to replenish relief supplies.

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management & Co-ordination Division

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 30/2000
Nepal - floods and landslide		
TYPE		VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Tarpaulin		131,720
Clothing & textiles		237,980
Blankets		50,360
Utensils & tools		94,520
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		514,580
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Motorcycle: 1		2,200
Office furniture & equipment		1,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		44,381
Technical support		13,285
Professional services		14,733
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		
		17,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
National staff		24,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		10,000
Information expenses		5,000
Administrative & general expenses		12,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		143,600
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		658,180
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		
NET REQUEST		658,180