

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

9 October 2001

Appeal No. 29/01

Launched on 3 September 2001 for CHF 2,035,000 for 6 months

Beneficiaries: 100,000

Operations Update No. 2 Period covered: 11 September - 4 October 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 29%

Related Appeals: 01.41/2001 Cambodia; 01.40/2001 South East Asia regional programmes

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,597,532

The Disaster/Situation: Additional funding is urgently required for relief items, and to implement planned water and sanitation activities. As water levels decrease, the impact of floods still needs to be assessed. Food security continues to be a major issue as harvests are lost and rice seed is scarce.

Operational Developments

Several parts of the country continue to experience heavy but localised rainfall resulting in flooding and slow receding of water levels in the major rivers. Almost all hydrological stations in the Mekong River north of Phnom Penh are below flood warning levels but flooding is still significant in areas downstream of the Cambodian capital towards the border with Vietnam. This trend is expected to continue unless tropical storms in either Vietnam or Laos bring additional rainfall affecting Cambodia. The table below shows the current water levels as of 3 October at the main measuring stations in Cambodia and the forecast for 3 days:

River	Measuring station	Alarm level	Observed water levels	Forecast water levels		
			3 October	4 October	5 October	6 October
Mekong	Stung Treng	10.50	7.62	7.45	7.27	7.11
Mekong	Kratie	22.00	18.29	18.08	17.88	17.67
Mekong	Kompong Cham	15.20	13.69	13.60	13.50	13.38
Bassac	Phnom Penh (Bassac)	10.50	10.52	10.47	10.41	10.36
Tonle Sap	Phnom Penh Port	10.70	9.45	9.42	9.38	9.34
Bassac	Koh Khel (Bassac)		7.61	7.59	7.59	7.58
Mekong	Neak Luong		7.52	7.49	7.47	7.45
Tonle Sap	Prek Kdam (Tonle Sap)		9.70	9.67	9.66	9.65

Source: Mekong River Commission (MRC) web site forecast (www.mrcmekong.org)

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) cumulative damage statistics from 12 affected provinces at 26 September:

1. DAMAGE TO PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	
Type of Infrastructure	Quantity affected
National Road	39 km
Secondary Road	973 km
Bridge	108 units
Culvert	43 units
School	856 units
Health Centre	43 units
Irrigation	145 units
Temple	240 units
2. DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURE	
Rice producing areas	104,039 hectares
Other crop producing areas	10,112
Livestock killed (cattle, buffalo, pig)	953
3. EFFECTS ON POPULATION	
Provinces affected	12
Districts affected	81
Commune affected	522
No. of families	342,126
No. of people	1,669,182
No. of families evacuated to safe areas	107, 215
No. of people evacuated	508, 666
Deaths	62
Houses Destroyed	2,734 units

The NCDM Secretariat further reported that ongoing assistance by the government was provided or planned to 90,000 families (450,000 people) but the details of these are unavailable. The NCDM has advised all relief agencies to provide the NCDM Secretariat with adequate and timely information on the type, quantity of assistance and the target areas for distribution. This is to ensure that assistance will be directed to those areas most affected by the floods and to beneficiaries who have not yet received the necessary help. The implementation period for the World Bank loan (USD 35 million) and the Asian Development Bank loan (USD 55 million) for rehabilitation of the damage caused by last year’s flooding is three years and rehabilitation work is currently ongoing. Further infrastructure damage caused by this year’s flood will therefore be covered through these loans. Neither of the loans include rehabilitation of the water and sanitation sector.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) supported by the Federation’s Delegation in Cambodia have played a key role from the outset of the floods.

Needs Assessments and Relief Distributions

As affected communities slowly leave the safe areas and return to their villages, needs assessments for essential relief items and water sanitation continue. The main needs are food, shelter, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, medicines for the treatment of fever, cough and diarrhoea.

Joint Cambodian Red Cross, Federation and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) water and sanitation needs assessment teams completed their field trips of 32 existing safe areas on 9 September. The three joint water and sanitation assessment teams then proceeded to assess a further 56 new safe areas throughout 5 provinces from 19 to 25 September.

CRC distributions

Date	Province	Number of beneficiary families who received relief assistance	Remarks
11 Sept	Prey Veng	951	By CRC NHQ
12 Sept	Phnom Penh	543	By CRC NHQ
13 Sept	Prey Veng	1'893	By CRC NHQ
22 Sept	Kandal	513	By CRC NHQ
22 Sept	Kg. Cham	1'500	By CRC NHQ
22 Sept	Kandal	957	By CRC NHQ
23 Sept	Kandal	915	By CRC NHQ
24 Sept	Kampot	1'334	By CRC NHQ
25 Sept	Kandal	787	By CRC NHQ
27 Sept	Kampot	2'634	By CRC NHQ
28 Sept	Prey Veng	600	By CRC NHQ
01 Oct	Takeo	1'409	By CRC NHQ
03 Oct	Kampot	1'131	By CRC NHQ
TOTAL	7 Provinces	15'167	

CRC planned distributions in October

5 Oct	Takeo	2'474	
5 Oct	Kg. Cham	240	
6 Oct	Kg. Cham	240	
6 Oct	Kg. Cham	440	
7 Oct	Kg. Cham	1'100	
8 Oct	Kg. Cham	960	
8 Oct	Takeo	1'409	
9 Oct	Svay Rieng	918	
9 Oct	Svay Rieng	778	
10 Oct	Svay Rieng	1'046	
10 Oct	Koh Kong	1'203	
12 Oct	Takeo	1'402	
15 Oct	Kampot	702	
16 Oct	Takeo	3'734	
24 Oct	Kandal	1'027	
TOTAL	6 Provinces	17'673 families	

Detailed distribution lists are available from the CRC Disaster Management Department at the national headquarters. The CRC continued to receive support in cash and kind from local donors and partners towards their national emergency appeal. To date, USD 219'162 in cash, 255 metric tonnes (MT) rice plus 500 MT from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), 400 sarongs, 100 pairs of trousers, 2'000 items of clothing, 50 cartons of noodles and 20 boxes of canned fish were received. The cash was used to procure rice and other essential relief items. The in-kind donations were distributed immediately to beneficiaries. The WFP and CRC agreed on target areas and a distribution schedule for the 500 MT of WFP rice. Distributions commenced in September.

Health

To date, there has not been any real Red Cross involvement in this sector. The Ministry of Health is monitoring the situation, supported by WHO, UNICEF and others. No major outbreaks of water borne diseases have been reported.

Objective 1: 20,000 families have received health education information

A comparative bid analysis (CBA) was received from CRC for health education leaflets. These were field tested and used during last year's floods and will be distributed with relief items. The slow response to this appeal caused the delay in issuing the purchase order.

Objective 2: 26 safe areas have been assessed

Following the water and sanitation needs assessment in 32 safe areas, only a few additional needs were identified such as water purification tablets, static water tanks, 20 litre jerry cans. Families return to their homes as soon as waters recede but animals are left behind in safe areas with caretakers until the flood waters have gone.

Water and sanitation

The Singapore Red Cross offered to send a technically qualified water and sanitation officer to support water and sanitation activities. The Delegation and CRC are considering this offer as the detailed plan of action for water and sanitation activities is developed.

Objective 1: Permanent water and sanitation facilities are constructed in safe areas to minimise the risk of the wide-scale spread of infectious illnesses, particularly diarrhoea and skin diseases.

Following the joint water and sanitation assessment of 56 new safe areas between 19-25 September in Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Stung Treng and Kratie, a preliminary summary of needs was circulated by the Federation to all relevant agencies. The response will be mapped out by participants of the MoRD-chaired Water Supply and Sanitation Sectoral Working Group Meeting. The Federation, in cooperation with CRC and MoRD, plan to equip at least 30 new safe areas with water and sanitation facilities and conduct hygiene education sessions. Implementation of these activities will commence when flood waters have receded sufficiently.

Objective 2: Existing water supplies are functioning properly.

Water levels were still high, so a comprehensive assessment of damaged water points in affected provinces is not yet possible.

Objective 3: Safe water and hygiene information in flood affected areas.

The Ministry of Health have distributed water purification tablets and aluminium sulphate in affected provinces.

Relief distributions

Relief distributions were conducted in co-operation with NCDM and others to avoid a duplication in assistance. CRC preparedness stocks provided by the Belgian Red Cross/Belgian Government will be fully utilised for this disaster to cover the primary needs of the most vulnerable and the CRC will seek to identify another donor to supplement their disaster preparedness stocks.

Objective 1: 20,000 families have basic relief items

CRC prepared a comparative bid analysis (CBA) for relief items for 20,000 families. A purchase order for 3,000 kits was issued on 4 October. The balance of items will be ordered as further funds become available.

Shelter

Objective 1: 20,000 families in safe areas have adequate shelter

CRC prepared a comparative bid analysis for 20,000 plastic sheets. A purchase order for 3,000 sheets was issued on 4 October. The balance of sheets will be ordered as further funds become available.

Logistics / Communications

Objective 1: A communications network is established in flood affected areas

Insufficient funds available.

Federation Delegation

The Federation Disaster Preparedness delegate, nominated as flood co-ordinator during this operation, attended the Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT) training in Singapore in September. This training provided additional disaster management information and skills which have been put into practice.

On 18 September, the delegation signed a contract with the International Institute of Disaster Risk Management for the services of a Disaster Management Consultant. The Consultant commenced his assignment on 24 September and he was seconded by CRC/Federation to the National Committee for Disaster Management for co-ordination and management support.

The overall goal of the Disaster Management Consultant is *'to provide technical advise to the NCDM Leadership and Management in ensuring that disaster impacts are adequately analysed and disseminated, enabling the Royal Government of Cambodia to response to humanitarian needs of flood victims in a timely and appropriate manner.'* This will be done by assisting NCDM Leadership in implementing its mandated roles and responsibilities, in conducting damage and needs assessment, analysis, decision making and co-ordinating stakeholders' response to the floods.

The objectives of the NCDM, under the guidance and support of the Disaster Management Consultant are:

- As the co-ordinating authority in disaster management, oversee the implementation of Circular on Disaster Preparedness and Management (RGC/NCDM SR 02) by Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Chairman of NCDM dated 2 July 2001.
- Conduct Working Group (WG) and other relevant flood disaster related meetings in an efficient and effective manner.
- Conduct joint damage and needs assessments in flood affected areas.
- Conduct analysis of the disaster management information and disseminate it effectively to its partners.
- Articulate and report the needs of the flood victims and affected areas efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Facilitate the development, drafting and stakeholders agreement to A Standing Order for Flood Disasters in Cambodia (Emergency Response Plan for Flood), that elaborates on existing and proposed NCDM/RGC Circulars, Decrees, draft Policies and Procedures including clarification on roles and responsibilities in various phases of flood disasters.

The expected outputs of the Disaster Management Consultant are:

- Effective disaster management information gathering, analysis and dissemination during the current flood disaster.
- Draft Version: A Standing Order for Flood Disasters in Cambodia (Emergency Response Plan for Flood).
- End of Mission Report.

Coordination and Management

The National Committee for Disaster Management conducted two Working Group (WG) meetings with input from three technical sub-groups. The Working Group agreed to these follow-up actions:

- Assess the needs for rehabilitation of damaged agricultural areas and the type of assistance needed. NCDM will co-ordinate with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture on the government's request for FAO assistance for acquiring rice seeds.
- NCDM to convene a meeting in co-ordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology to identify a plan to improve early warning and preparedness. This plan includes requesting support from the Mekong River Commission and interested NGOs who are currently implementing Community based Disaster Management Programmes.

Data collection and the entire disaster information management system remains a major challenge for the overall flood operation. The NCDM has formally requested that the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UN-DMT) contracts the Disaster Management Consultant and his team for a further 12 months following the Federation/CRC contract. This would be to provide support for the process of NCDM capacity building, and the implementation of the NCDM 2-year Plan of Action for Development.

Joint needs assessments were initiated between the NCDM, UN-DMT, CRC and others. The conclusions from those assessments have yet to be published.

The Federation, the UN-DMT and the WFP in particular have maintained close contact sharing information and consulting each other. A meeting between the Federation, the DM Consultant and the WFP took place on 1 October discussing the current situation and possible extension of the contract of the DM Consultant. The Consultant also participated in the UN-DMT meeting on 2 October and was introduced to UN Agencies forming the DMT.

The Federation maintains close contact with the CRC and the Belgian Red Cross Logistics delegate for data gathering, information sharing, planning, and implementation of the operation. Participating National Societies (PNSs) present in the country (American Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross and the French Red Cross) were kept informed on planning and response.

The Federation received an invitation to the Mekong River Commission-organised “Regional Strategy for Food Management and Mitigation” workshop in Cambodia on 10 to 11 October. The Federation will participate in this workshop together with the SEA Regional Delegation and representatives from all Mekong Delta National Societies.

Outstanding needs

Available funding has been allocated for relief items (15% covered), water and sanitation activities (40% covered), disaster management consultant (100% covered) and operational support (45% covered). Additional funding is **urgently required** to procure the remaining relief items, and to implement the planned water sanitation activities.

Conclusion

As water levels decrease, the impact of floods on the population, physical infrastructure and agriculture land still needs to be assessed. Food security continues to be a major issue as harvests are lost and rice seed is scarce. Whilst the government is addressing capacity building within the disaster management sector, assistance from international and non-governmental organisations will continue to be necessary. The establishment of a disaster management working group, including UN, Red Cross, International Organisations and NGOs, to assist in the development of NCDM is essential in order to develop the disaster management sector to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation’s website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Cambodia - Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 29/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			12.10.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'034'955		TOTAL COVERAGE 29.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
SWEDISH - RC /GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	152'000	01.10.2001	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		147'058	GBP	351'469	01.10.2001	
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	51'096	01.10.2001	
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISK	3'393	03.09.2001	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				20'000	11.09.2001	
MONACO - RC		50'000	FRF	11'465	04.09.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				589'423	CHF	29.0%