

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

NEPAL: FLOODS

11 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 17/2004; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 4 August to 10 August, 2004; Appeal coverage: 27%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,767,360 (USD 2,193,457 or EUR 1,802,246) for six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries.

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,013,732 (USD 1, 595, 591 or EUR 1, 306, 314)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 01.58/2004](#)

Operational Summary: The Nepal Red Cross has during the past week focused on detailed assessments, identification of beneficiaries and preparation for continued distribution. Tenders have been finalised, and suppliers selected for a further 16,000 relief packages as well as for water purification liquid. Supplies are being delivered to the Society's warehouse. The national society has to date distributed over 18,000 family packs to families badly affected by the floods. Food has also been distributed to needy families.

During the week there has been wide national media coverage and resource mobilisation in-country is continuing. There is a good response from local missions and local international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and there have been some additional international contributions. The reasonable input to the Appeal to date makes it possible to continue the immediate response fulfilling most of the objectives in the plan of action. However, additional funds for implementation of the rehabilitation phase are still urgently required.

A possible constraint to the operation looms with the Maoists threatening a blockade on Kathmandu. They are warning vehicles to stay off the roads leading to the capital from 18 August unless a series of demands are met by the government.

The Federation and Nepal Red Cross have used a cash transfer system for many years and pledge-based reporting will therefore be provided directly by the national society.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Heavy rains which began in early July resulted in widespread flooding and landslides, causing suffering to thousands of people in eastern and central regions of the country.

As of 10 August a total of 800,000 people had been affected in 25 of Nepal's 75 districts. The official death toll remains at 185.

Many families were forced to evacuate with parts of southern Nepal submerged for over two weeks. There have been numerous landslides in the hilly region, sweeping houses away and forcing families to flee. More than 37,000 families are now displaced in the affected areas. Large areas of cultivated land and newly planted rice has been washed away. Up to 68,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged and many schools have been damaged. Infrastructure has been severely affected with bridges swept away and roads destroyed or damaged.

Water levels are receding but that threat is now being replaced by illness, with cases of waterborne diseases and diarrhoea on the increase. There is a need for caution despite the improvement in the weather over the past 10 days with the monsoon season forecast to last into next month. Nepal remains vulnerable to further flooding and landslides.

Operational developments

District branch staff and volunteers are responding to the disaster. They are continuously involved in assessments, identification of beneficiaries and distribution. The past week's work has focused on detailed assessment, tendering and purchasing. No distribution of family packages has therefore taken place in the past seven days.

Earlier, more than 18,000 family packages had been distributed with 16,000 from the central and regional warehouses of the national society and more than 2,000 received through other organisations. Additional plastic sheeting was provided to 800 families. The most affected branches are raising funds and in-kind materials from local businesses and various INGO/NGOs. These districts are therefore able to provide food and other relief items to a large number of the affected population.

Assessment teams dispatched from NHQ to the 14 most affected districts have returned. Information gathered is being processed to analyse needs and finalise beneficiary selection. The assessment teams worked in close collaboration with district staff and volunteers. Upon recommendations of the assessment teams, an additional 3,000 family packages have been released to eight districts from various warehouses.

NHQ is continuing to produce regular reports on the number of affected people based on information from branches. With Red Cross volunteers able to access most of the affected communities, the national society has a reasonably clear picture of the current situation. There is regular contact with UN agencies, the Home Ministry and other organisations active in the DP Net.

The Maoists have announced a possible blockade on Kathmandu from 18 August unless various demands are met by the government. The group has warned vehicles to stay off roads approaching the capital. This looms as a significant constraint for the Nepal Red Cross operation. The situation will be monitored and reported on.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Operation goal: To meet urgent needs of 180,000 beneficiaries of 30,000 vulnerable displaced and flood-affected families through the provision of food and family packages as well as to assist 15,000 families in the rehabilitation phase with seeds and 400 families with construction material.

Emergency relief

Objective: To assist 1,000 flood-affected families with food items for one month, to be distributed before the end of August.

Many of the affected districts are raising funds and in-kind food for distribution to the most vulnerable in their region. However, this not possible in some of the poorer districts which have limited Red Cross capacity. This food assistance will therefore be directed to the neediest families in districts lacking resources. The targeted

beneficiaries will receive the full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organisations.

Each beneficiary family will receive a monthly ration of 73.8 kg rice, 10.8 kg pulse, 4.5 kg vegetable oil, 3.6 kg sugar and 1.35 kg salt.

Progress/Achievements

Identification of districts in most need of food support is being finalised based on information gathered by the recently returned assessment teams. The food will be purchased locally and distribution will be finalised by the end of August.

District branches have raised CHF 11,200 worth of food through local fundraising. There have also been donations of CHF 57,000 from INGO/NGOs to branches with these funds being used for purchasing food.

With little or no cooking facilities, beneficiaries were supplied with dried food at the beginning of the disaster. However, as families return home and gain an increased capacity to cook, they are being supplied with more nutritious rice and pulses.

The World Food Programme has returned from its assessment mission and further discussions with the Federation and national society to coordinate interventions will take place.

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Objective: To assist 30,000 flood-affected families with family relief packages during the first month of the operation, including replenishment of already distributed family packages. From within these targeted beneficiaries, 15,000 families will also be provided with additional plastic sheeting for protection of goods, food and clothing.

Each family package contains a kitchen set, a plastic bucket and jug, female sari, male dhoti, printed cloth, blanket and tarpaulin. In addition to the material worth of these packages they also have a high psychological value, reinforcing to beneficiaries that they have not been forgotten and that the Red Cross cares for their welfare.

Progress/Achievements

A further 3,000 family packages have been dispatched to eight different districts for distribution. Care/Nepal is donating another 2,800 family packages for distribution in five districts. Distribution of 560 packages by each of these five districts is planned for the end of the week.

There has been no further distribution to beneficiaries during the past week. The total number of packages distributed to families stands at 18,634. Of these, 15,925 came from the national society's relief stocks while the remaining 2,709 were received from other organisations at district level. The value of these packs from other organisations is approximately CHF 140,000.

Supplies of 16,000 more family packages have now started to be delivered to the national society. The tender quotations were opened and suppliers selected on 6 August. The tender for purchasing of family packages had been published in major newspapers a week earlier.

In the past week, suppliers for plastic sheeting were selected and orders have been placed.

Impact:

Over 18,000 families have benefited from the distribution of these packs. They have given displaced families the ability to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs have also been met. To receive a relief package is also important recognition of the suffering and the needs a family has. It shows that the Red Cross cares for people that have been forced from their homes and lost their belongings.

Constraints:

N/A

Objective: To deliver water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation. To mobilise volunteers for cleaning up and sanitation activities.

The Nepal Red Cross has not yet built up capacity in the area of emergency health. The Society will distribute water purification liquid to ensure that people can use safe drinking water. It will also mobilise youth, community-based first aid and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in .

Progress/Achievements

The tender for the supplier was finalised during the reporting period and delivery of water purification liquid to the national society is expected to be completed by the end of the week. Distribution to 15,000 families is still on course to be completed by the end of August. District volunteers continue to be involved in clean-up activities together with their communities.

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Rehabilitation

Objective: To assist 30,000 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income.

Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chili and other local vegetables. This intervention draws on positive experiences of kitchen garden programmes in the Nepal Red Cross operation for Bhutanese refugees.

Progress/Achievements

N/A

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Objective: To assist 400 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses.

Families that have lost their homes due to the floods that are regarded as especially vulnerable considering factors such as the lack of an extend family network and large female-headed households will be targeted.

Each family will receive construction material and a Red Cross employed expert will give advice regarding the construction under the supervision of the NHQ construction engineer. Communities will be mobilised to assist with the construction, which is a tradition in many of the villages in Nepal.

Progress/Achievements

N/A

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Capacity Building

Objective: Disaster response capacity and disaster preparedness programmes will be further enhanced and developed based on lessons learned from this flood operation.

Progress/Achievements

N/A

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Federation Coordination

The Nepal Red Cross has been the only humanitarian organisation appointed to the government task force assessing the flood damage. The task force has been commissioned to conduct a 10-day assessment and it will report to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Based on this information, the Ministry will decide whether to launch an international appeal for assistance. The focus of the government and the task force has been on rehabilitation and the mitigation measures. Two meetings have already been held and attended by the Nepal Red Cross representative. The government has released an additional eight million Nepali Rupees (approx. CHF 135,000) for response activities.

In coordination with the Federation, the national society is continuing to liaise with other organisations and UN agencies. Many local organisations are channelling their assistance through the Nepal Red Cross.

The Appeal has been shared with all major Embassies and local agencies. The Danish and American Embassies have contributed to the flood operation while others have informed their governments. Representatives from the Nepal Red Cross and the Federation are continuing to follow up these contacts. The Nepal Red Cross has requested major enterprises within the country to contribute to the flood operation.

National Society Capacity Building

Branches in all affected districts have mobilised their volunteers and members to participate in the flood response. Youth, community first aid and disaster trained volunteers have been especially active. District committees and secretaries have coordinated the operations with the district level disaster committees and kept in close contact with the authorities and other organisations.

The Society has two 3.5-tonne trucks and a number of other vehicles. These trucks are being used to deliver the supplies in various locations. More than 27 warehouses/depots in different strategic locations have also been essential in the current operation. Well-defined procurement procedures, relief operation guidelines and experienced, motivated staff as well as the Society's own relief fund are strengths of the Society.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes in 13 of the 25 currently affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. In Dhanusha district the community distributed its relief stock and used the revolving fund set up under the CBDP programme to provide further assistance to affected community members. Trained volunteers from this community also assisted in distributions made in neighbouring villages. Community-based first aid programmes have been implemented in five of the branches. The first aid volunteers have also participated in the response to the flooding, such as raising local resources for food aid. These volunteers have been involved in their own districts during the initial phase of the operation and will continue to be active throughout the various phases.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A press conference was held at the NHQ on 5 August with more than 20 journalists from national and international media attending. All major Nepali daily newspapers, television channels and radio carried news stories of the disaster situation and the Society's response. The BBC covered the press conference on their Nepali radio programme. The Nepal Red Cross Secretary General and the Federation Representative briefed media about the current needs, operational situation and future needs.

A media and advocacy plan has been completed. A group of journalists will visit affected regions accompanied by a member of the communications staff from NHQ.

The Nepal Red Cross is constantly gathering information from the field via its extensive branch network to access all necessary information regarding the appeal and the operation updates.

There was considerable media interest regarding the whole affected region (Nepal, India, and Bangladesh) from the beginning of the disaster and at the launch of the respective appeals/requests for assistance. Representatives of the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) have conducted numerous interviews with international media, helping highlight the situation in Nepal.

The SARD Information Manager visited Nepal 30 July – 2 August to assist with raising the profile of the situation in Nepal with media. He visited remote affected areas and wrote an article which has been posted on the Federation website (www.ifrc.org/docs/news/04/04080402/) and was distributed to major media outlets for reprinting and as a resource material.

A local press release was issued to Nepal media to accompany the launch of the Federation Appeal on 27 July.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,769,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 19.1%	
AUSTRIAN - RC		35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04	
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
CANADIAN - RC		25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC				30,000	27.07.04	
JAPANESE - RC		106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
UNITED STATES - EMBASSY		50,000	USD	63,225	30.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				529,929	CHF	19.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	