

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

10 December 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 7 including revised Budget and programme extension; Period covered: 14 October to 30 November 2004; Appeal coverage: 103.8%¹ ([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 initially six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries (30,000 families). The appeal budget is revised down in this Operations Update to CHF 2,026,765. Bilateral donations, local fundraising and partnerships have, together with the contribution to the appeal, ensured that the full plan of action will be implemented, exceeding the number of beneficiaries in the rehabilitation phase than originally planned. The appeal has been extended to nine months (27 April 2005) to ensure proper implementation of the rehabilitation and capacity building phase.

Outstanding needs: nil

Related Annual Appeals: [Nepal 01.58/2004](#) and [Nepal 05AA048/2005](#)

Operational Summary: The armed conflict and the unstable political situation in the country have continued during the operation. However, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to implement activities without any major problems. The operation has shown that the Nepal Red Cross has been respected as a competent and neutral organisation and the operation has now entered into the rehabilitation phase. The Nepal Red Cross will assist at least 2,000 families by supplying materials to assist with reconstruction of homes. Identification of 1,700 of these families has been done and procurement of construction materials is taking place.

The emergency relief phase of the operation was successfully completed at the beginning of November. Over 30,000 families have received family packages and 1,000 vulnerable families have received food items covering their mid-term needs. Food assistance was also given to families in the emergency phase of the flooding. The district branches were responsible for raising funds and in-kind food items in the first response phase. By the end of October, 15,000 families had received water purification liquid, meeting the target of the appeal, however outside the planned time frame. This was due to difficulties in obtaining enough liquid from the sole supplier in Nepal.

Most of the warehouse replenishment of relief stocks has been done and pre-positioning of goods at regional and zonal warehouses is ongoing.

The positive impact of earlier disaster preparedness (DP) activities on the Nepal Red Cross emergency response has been reviewed in a participatory three-country action learning process (PAL) led by the South Asia regional delegation. The Nepal report can be obtained upon request.

Through coordination and cooperation with local international non-government organisations (INGOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to deliver more relief assistance than planned.

¹ NB this is against the reduced revised appeal of CHF 2,026,765

Local donations have also made it possible to revise the budget and ensure that rehabilitation and capacity building activities can go ahead even if the original appeal budget was not fully funded. An updated appeal budget is included in this update.

To ensure the rehabilitation and capacity building phase can be fully implemented the time period for this appeal has been extended by three months, until 27 April 2005.

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:

- *Nepal Red Cross Society, Kathmandu, Badri Khanal, Executive Director, badri@nrcs.org phone: 977 1 42 70 650 fax: 977 1 42 71 915.*
- *Federation Office, Kathmandu, Karin Hakansson-Furga, Federation Representative, ifrcnp01@ifrc.org phone: 977 1 42 85 843, fax: 977 1 42 86 048.*
- *ICRC Delegation, Kathmandu: Nicolas Bachman, Communication Delegate, Kathmandu.kat@icrc.org phone 977 1 44 82 285, fax: 977 1 448 29 37.*
- *For regional overview, contact Alan Bradbury, Acting Head of Regional Delegation, South Asia , New Delhi. Phone +91 11 2685 8671, mobile +91 98 1030 1984, email – ifrcin134@ifrc.org*
- *In Geneva: Suzana Harfield, Asia-Pacific Department; email: suzana.harfield@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4353 and Ewa Eriksson, email ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org phone +41 22 730 4252.*

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, affecting 800,000 people in 25 of Nepal's 75 districts, killing 185 people.

Parts of southern Nepal were submerged for over two weeks. There were numerous landslides in the hilly region with many homes swept away. At the height of the disaster, 37,000 families were displaced. A total of 68,000 houses were destroyed or damaged. Infrastructure such as schools and roads and bridges were severely affected in the flood-hit districts.

The situation is back to normal and all displaced persons have either returned to their homes, are living with relatives or in temporary housing. Many families are still facing problems as they have lost their livelihood and rehabilitation activities supporting these families are now commencing.

Operational developments

The rehabilitation phase started as planned with the identification of families that will be assisted to reconstruct their homes. Seeds are being distributed to provide food support and cash-income for families. To further strengthen the response mechanism of the Nepal Red Cross, some capacity building activities are funded through this appeal. To ensure the effective implementation of the rehabilitation and the capacity building phase, the time period of the operation has been extended by three months to a total of nine months.

By the end of October, the planned 30,000 family packages had been distributed to beneficiaries. Distribution of food items to 1,000 families covered by this appeal was finalised in the beginning of October. This distribution targeted the mid-term needs of especially vulnerable families. Additional food distribution in the direct emergency phase had been done through raising local resources. Replenishment of relief stocks to the warehouses is being finalised.

District chapters continue to mobilise volunteers and staff for specific interventions. The assessment and identification of beneficiaries for the rehabilitation phase has been done in the districts concerned.

The Nepal Red Cross is coordinating closely with other organisations as it is seen as the lead agency in response to the disaster due to its extensive network. There is regular contact with UN agencies, the Home Ministry and other organisations active in the DP Net.

A regionally coordinated action learning exercise took place in the flood-affected areas in September. A national society/Federation team visited and consulted communities and districts affected as well as having discussions at headquarters level and with national stakeholders. National and regional lessons learnt workshops have been organised to evaluate the relief phase of the operation. Preliminary findings underline the importance of the Nepal Red Cross's role as the only organisation able to effectively provide disaster relief to people in conflict areas. The value of the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes is also emphasised. Communities who were prepared have been able to respond, evacuate and save lives. The report from the action learning exercise will be published shortly.

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.

Progress/Achievements

Most of the affected districts raised funds and in-kind food for distribution to the most vulnerable in the emergency phase of the operation. Over 8,000 families received food aid through these initiatives. However, it was not possible to cover all the needs in this way, especially in poorer districts with limited Red Cross capacity. Food assistance meeting the mid-term needs of an additional 1,000 families was therefore funded through this appeal. During October and at the beginning of November, the targeted beneficiaries received a full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organisations.

Each beneficiary family received 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.

Villages that have been involved in the CBDP programme used their revolving fund and food stocks to distribute food to vulnerable community members. Through local fundraising and monthly collections, communities build up small reserves consisting of grain and a revolving fund to be used in times of disaster. This programme has proved to be effective and the value of it appreciated by participating communities.

Impact

The ability of some district branches to locally mobilise food assistance directly following the disaster reflected good preparedness and response capacity, and greatly assisted beneficiaries who had extremely limited options for sourcing food at that time. The additional support through this and other internationally funded actions has been supplementary to what is done on local level.

Constraints

Time over-runs in beneficiary assessment, food procurement and the transfer of funds to the districts have contributed to the objective not being met by the end of August as planned. Four of the districts targeted were in remote mountainous districts with little or no road access, which delayed the operation. These issues will be addressed in the evaluation phase. Despite these delays, over 8,000 beneficiary families received food assistance from branches through locally mobilised resources before the end of August.

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.

Progress/Achievements

By the end of October, the Nepal Red Cross had distributed 30,659 family packages, exceeding the target. Most of these families receiving the packs were affected by the July floods; however, a further 969 families were hit by the floods in September. The Nepal Red Cross will continue to distribute relief packages from stocks as required. Each family package contains a kitchen set, a plastic bucket and jug, female sari, male dhoti, printed cloth, blanket and tarpaulin.

Restocking has been finalised for all clothes, blankets, dhotis, plastic sheet and buckets. Suppliers are still delivering kitchen sets, tarpaulins and saris. Relief stock is also being transported for pre-positioning in the various regional and zonal warehouses of the Nepal Red Cross.

Since some of the family packages budget was met through local donations from non-government organisations (NGOs) in Nepal, the total budget for purchasing the items has not been used. Some of the funds will be redirected for rehabilitation and some for strengthening the response capacity, especially at district level.

Impact

The family packs gave displaced families the ability to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs have also been met. The pre-positioning of relief goods at regional, zonal and district level well in advance of the monsoon season was identified as one of the strengths of the of the disaster response mechanism during the lesson learnt workshop.

Constraints

There have been no significant constraints during the reporting period. There were civil disturbances, mainly in the capital Kathmandu at the beginning of September, which slowed delivery to warehouses from suppliers. However, the Nepal Red Cross utilised stocks in its various warehouses to minimise the impact of these delays.

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 (CBFA) and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in.

Progress/Achievements

A total of 15, 000 families received bottles of water purification liquid within the first one-and-a-half months of the operation.

In addition to the 15, 000 bottles purchased from the appeal budget, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) donated 34, 000 bottles, which have all been distributed to beneficiaries.

Due to local donations, part of the budget for this item has been reallocated to other activities.

District chapters in affected areas mobilised volunteers from the CBFA programme, junior/youth Red Cross volunteers and teacher sponsors in sanitation and awareness generating activities.

In coordination with CARE Nepal, the Nepal Red Cross is installing 500 tube wells in the districts of Mahottari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Saptari and Dhanusha. CARE will be distributing materials for reconstruction and/or rehabilitation in these districts through the national society.

Impact

Water purification liquid has been essential for people to have access to clean water since it has taken some time to clean up wells and other water sources. Some waterborne diseases were reported during the emergency phase; however major problems or epidemics were avoided.

Constraints

There is just one manufacturer of Piyus water purification liquid in Nepal and the national society's demands exceeded the existing stocks. Delays were caused as more purification liquid was manufactured. This led to the objective of distributing water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation not being met. A total of 2,500 families were assisted in that time frame while the target was reached after six weeks.

Rehabilitation

Objective: To assist 2,100 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income. (NB this objective has been amended from the original target of 30,000 families. The target of 30,000 will be met through distribution through an agreement with CARE Nepal not funded under this appeal)

Progress/Achievements

Seeds are being purchased by the district chapters and will be distributed to 2,100 families. The seeds financed through this appeal will be distributed to the same families that receive assistance to reconstruct their houses. Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chili and other local vegetables.

However, the Nepal Red Cross will distribute seeds to more than 30,000 families through an agreement with CARE Nepal. The society is receiving seeds in-kind for distribution in the five most affected districts in the Terai region.

Impact

Yet to be measured as distribution has just started.

Constraints

N/A

Objective: To assist 2,100 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses. (This objective has been amended with the number of families to receive assistance increasing from 1,700 to 2,100.)

Each family will receive construction material and a Red Cross employed expert will give advice regarding the construction under the supervision of the national headquarters (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

Twelve districts have been selected for the rehabilitation phase. Beneficiaries have been selected by the district staff according to clear criteria defined by NHQ. Targeted families are those who have lost their homes to floods and are especially vulnerable due to factors such as the lack of an extended family network while a large number of households are headed by women. A total of 1,700 families have been identified so far; however there is funding for an additional 300-500 families to be assisted. These families will be selected when the first round has been finalised. Districts have started tendering processes to purchase construction materials.

The number of families targeted has increased since the approach has been modified. Initially it was planned that families would receive construction materials, such as cement, iron bars, bricks, etc., to rebuild an entire house. However, since the majority of the houses were only partially damaged, it has been decided to provide families with construction materials to ensure that each family has at least two rooms. Local construction materials, such as thatch, bamboo, stone, wood, etc., will be used. Local construction experts will be assigned to give advice to the families rebuilding their houses.

In addition to this appeal funded activity, the Nepal Red Cross, with the support of CARE Nepal and using the approach described above, is distributing construction materials for 3,100 houses in Sarlahi, Siraha, Mohattari, Dhanusha and Saptari.

Impact

Not applicable at this point. Impact will be reflected in later reports.

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

Through the action learning exercise, some areas of the response system have been identified as needing further strengthening. The following activities have now been prioritised: at district branch level volunteers and staff will receive DM training on topics such as communication, assessment, coordination and reporting; a selected number of districts will be equipped with a disaster kit, including a mobile evacuation centre; communication systems, including the geographic information system (GIS), will be enhanced; some of the warehouses urgently need repair and the central warehouse will be retrofitted for earthquakes; and a DM plan will be printed and contingency planning for major disasters elaborated and published.

Impact

Areas requiring improvement have been identified and funding and resources have been allocated to address these. The actual impact of improved disaster response and preparedness capacity can only be reflected in the longer term.

Constraints

N/A

Federation Coordination

Through the earlier established DP-Net, the Nepal Red Cross has done most of the coordination and liaison with other organisations involved in the flood response. Many of the INGOs and also some of the UN agencies have cooperated closely with the Red Cross. They have adapted some of their interventions to the Nepal Red Cross standards, such as family packages. Other organisations have also donated their in-kind contribution to the Red Cross for distribution to beneficiaries. The Red Cross is the only organisation with the extensive network needed to execute the distribution and it is also the only organisation with unrestricted access to conflict-affected areas. All districts affected by the flood are in some way touched by the ongoing armed conflict. The Federation office has supported the Nepal Red Cross in this work according to the needs and requests of the society.

The appeal was shared with all major embassies and local agencies. In combination with the launch of the World Disaster Report, the Nepal Red Cross presented the results of the relief part of the flood operation. This was attended by several partner NGO and UN agencies, as well as media.

National Society Capacity Building

Branches in all affected districts mobilised 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 are being used to deliver 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 Nepal Red Cross.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented CBDP programmes in 13 of the 25 affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. CBFA 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.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Nepal Red Cross presented its flood operation achievements to the media during the launch of the World Disaster Report. A total of 15 journalists attended and there was extensive coverage in both English and Nepali language press and TV. NRCS continues to collate information from the field via its extensive branch network. NHQ is liaising with various media to share information about the emergency operation and highlighting various activities. The national society website (www.nrsc.org) is being updated regularly. The Nepal Red Cross' activities are also being outlined in the national society's fortnightly national radio programme.

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

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 17/2004

Nepal - Floods 2004

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VALUE
			CHE
			VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter & construction	1,048,000	680,900	(367,100)
Clothing & textiles	867,000	580,900	(286,100)
Food & seeds	92,000	47,678	(44,322)
Medical & first aid	30,000	3,600	(26,400)
Utensils & tools	327,000	292,200	(34,800)
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2,364,000	1,605,278	(758,722)
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Other capital expenses	0	15,760	15,760
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support	180,000	131,739	(48,261)
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COST</u>			
Warehouse and distribution	45,000	34,444	(10,556)
Transport & vehicle cost	7,000	17,840	10,840
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	3,000	10,000	7,000
National staff	13,000	14,515	1,515
Workshop & training	36,000	55,706	19,706
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	10,000	17,500	7,500
Information expenses	0	0	0
Administrative & general expenses	111,000	123,983	12,983
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	405,000	421,487	16,487
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,769,000	2,026,765	(742,235)
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0	1,944,735	
NET REQUEST	2,769,000	82,030	

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,769,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 70.1%
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		69,300	USD	87,630	27.08.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
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%)
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		98,040	GBP	224,119	29.07.04	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH - RC		24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - RC		25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04	
DANISH - GOVT				9,539	17.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC		100,000	EUR	152,900	10.08.04	
IRANIAN - RC		15,000	USD	18,968	01.11.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC				30,000	27.07.04	
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC		132,000	HKD	21,358	24.09.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS
JAPANESE - RC		106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
CHINA - MACAU - RC				10,000	30.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,157,497	NOK	393,743	11.08.04	
PRIVATE DONORS				636	16.09.04	
PRIVATE DONORS - IMPM		540	EUR	838	04.10.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
SWISS - RC				53,476	06.08.04	
UNITED STATES - EMBASSY		50,000	USD	63,225	30.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,793,666	CHF	64.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146,750	CHF	5.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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