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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Nepal: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRNP005
GLIDE n° EQ-2011-000136-NPL
21 September 2011

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 172,417 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in conducting rapid assessments and in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On the evening of 18 September, Nepal was shaken by an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale. The epicentre is known to be on the Nepal-India border of Taplejung district of Nepal and Sikkim state of India, with a depth of 19.7 km. Tremors were felt throughout Nepal, Bhutan, and some parts of India and Bangladesh.

The full extent of the damage is unclear at this stage as many areas remain inaccessible, due to their remote location as well as heavy rainfall and several landslides. The Government of Nepal does not anticipate a need for external assistance but has activated its National Emergency Operations Centre which has identified seven highly affected districts outside of Kathmandu, mainly in the areas close to the earthquake's epicentre. Based on initial reports from Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) district chapters, it is also known that some infrastructure damage has been sustained in over 17 districts of Nepal.

The current estimates of people affected are based on a variety of sources, including NRCS district chapters, government, UN and media. So far, eight deaths (three in Kathmandu), 89 people injured and structural damage to houses leaving over 430 families (approx 2,500 people) displaced, mainly in the eastern part of the country have been confirmed. It is expected that the numbers will increase in the coming days as isolated areas are reached.

NRCS national headquarters has activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and is in close contact with the district chapters to monitor the situation. District disaster response teams in many of the district chapters, as well as trained volunteers in sub-chapters, have been mobilized to assess damage and provide light search and rescue services. Their efforts have saved at least one life in Bhaktapur district chapter where one person was rescued from under the rubble. NRCS headquarters has already received a number of requests from district chapters for relief support for displaced families.

NRCS is also planning to deploy two assessment teams from NRCS headquarters to two districts closest to the epicentre, consisting of headquarters and district chapter personnel who have received national disaster response team training.

Based on the outcomes of the assessments, NRCS will immediately undertake a one-time distribution of non-food items (NFIs) to 1,500 affected families (approximately 9,000 people). The rationale for this initial

number of NFI distribution is explained further below.

The funding from DREF will support the mobilization of NRCS personnel for damage and needs assessments, including equipment and travel as well as the in-country and/or external procurement for the replenishment of the distributed NFI stocks.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 21 January 2012, and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 21 April 2012).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

In the 24 hours following the earthquake, estimates of actual damage are still unclear. Current reports reveal that figures of dead and injured are still low, at eight dead and 89 injured with a structural damage to over 435 houses leaving over 2,500 people displaced and many more frightened to return to their damaged homes. Various infrastructure damage extends over 17 districts. However, telephone reports from district chapters are indicating greater needs than this and it is expected that the numbers will increase in the coming days as isolated areas are reached and rubble is cleared from towns and villages. Little information from Taplejung district, near the epicentre, has been received so far. There has been rain and some reports of landslides in the region which are affecting access.

Coordination and partnerships

The Government of Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) organized an emergency meeting at 10:00 am on 19 September at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and convened a meeting of the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) in the afternoon, of which NRCS is also a member and joined the meeting.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has been activated and the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) are convening meetings in affected district headquarters to ensure effective and coordinated response activities. The NRCS district chapters are represented in the DDRCs and will feed back information they have gathered as well as identify areas where there may be gaps in assistance needed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The NRCS district disaster response teams have been immediately engaged in responding to the search and rescue, and first aid needs of those affected. The same district chapters are now carrying out rapid assessments but will be further supported by national headquarters staff and NDRT members to complete these. This will provide NRCS with figures and data to provide to the DDRC for a coordinated response mechanism as well as for their own planning and response needs. At this stage, NRCS is ready to respond to meet the initial relief needs of at least 1,500 families.

This will provide families with goods with which to construct some temporary shelter and the replacement of necessary household items that are inaccessible due to the danger of returning to their homes or the complete destruction of household items due to collapsed houses. The ongoing monsoon rains make living outside extremely uncomfortable and hazardous to the health of vulnerable groups so this intervention is expected to be rapid.

NRCS national headquarters is closely coordinating with the IFRC country office in Nepal and Government of Nepal for further action. In-country partner national societies and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) have been involved in the updates on the disaster and planned response. Information on NRCS plans have been shared with UNOCHA and the UNOCHA situation reports are being received.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: Currently, NRCS is gathering information on increasing needs. At the time of the appeal, 1,500 families have been selected as being relevant to current data. These families will be those having severe damage to their houses and who require the replacement of their household items and shelter materials to provide some temporary protection from the elements. Currently, no detailed assessments have been collected by NRCS from their branch chapters. Figures being used are those that have been reported by the government, local media and verbal communications with district chapters. Longer-term needs will be determined through the planned assessment process, at which time the operation will be assessed to review whether the DREF needs to be expanded or whether an Emergency Appeal is required.

The proposed operation

Across the seven most affected districts identified by NEOC, there is a total estimated population of over 2 million people. Given the information collected so far, it is projected that approximately 0.5 per cent of the population estimated would be severely affected, thus NRCS have planned an initial NFI distribution to target 1,500 families (approximately 9,000 people), representing about 10 per cent of the total projected needs. This distribution will take place in the five worst affected districts in Eastern Nepal based on the results of their initial damage assessments.

Once further information is received from the assessment teams, NRCS will further refine these target numbers and potentially expand the operation to other areas. The assessments may also reveal needs beyond the distribution of NFIs which will also be integrated into a longer term response and recovery plan.

NRCS will be providing relief goods to targeted beneficiary families based on the gravity of their situation and the damage done to their domicile. It will be a targeted operation which aims to get the most necessary items to those displaced persons whose homes have been destroyed, as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The proposed operation is based on available information from the government and initial assessments carried out by the NRCS local unit, as well as based on the capacity of the national society. With support from IFRC's DREF allocation, immediate support can be given to 1,500 families. These NFIs include blankets, tarpaulins, cooking sets, water buckets, clothing materials and other locally purchased items, and are already pre-stocked in a number of warehouses across the country included in the regions affected.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Outcome: 1,500 displaced families (approximately 9,000 people) will benefit from the provision of non-food items to meet their immediate needs.</p> <p>1,500 families who have suffered most from the earthquake will receive materials to improve their living conditions in the form of shelter materials.</p>
<p>Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: Families received shelter materials and non-food items to better protect them from the elements while they are temporarily displaced, and other items to replace necessary household items lost in the earthquake.</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobilisation of EOC at national headquarters.• Mobilisation of staff and volunteers in districts.• Community assessments.• Beneficiary registration.• Dispatch and transportation by NRCS to the distribution sites.• Distribution of relief items, especially at unit level by trained staff and volunteers.• Monitoring and reporting of distributions.• Procurement and storage of NFIs, as replenishment of stocks distributed, according to IFRC standard procedures.• Ongoing monitoring by the national headquarters and IFRC.• Conduct lesson learnt workshop

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here](#)

1. **DREF budget and map** [below](#)
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How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (SPHERE) in delivering assistance 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 non-violence and peace.

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DREF OPERATION

20-09-11

MDRNP005 Nepal : Earthquake

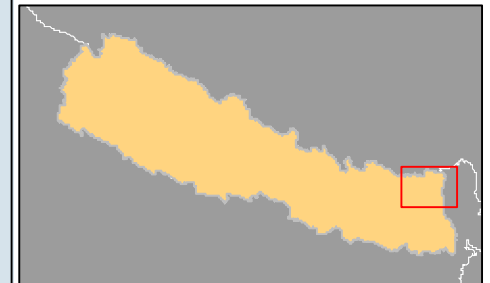
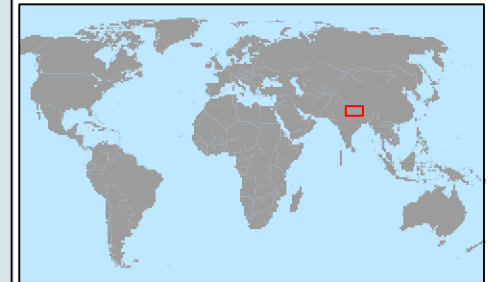
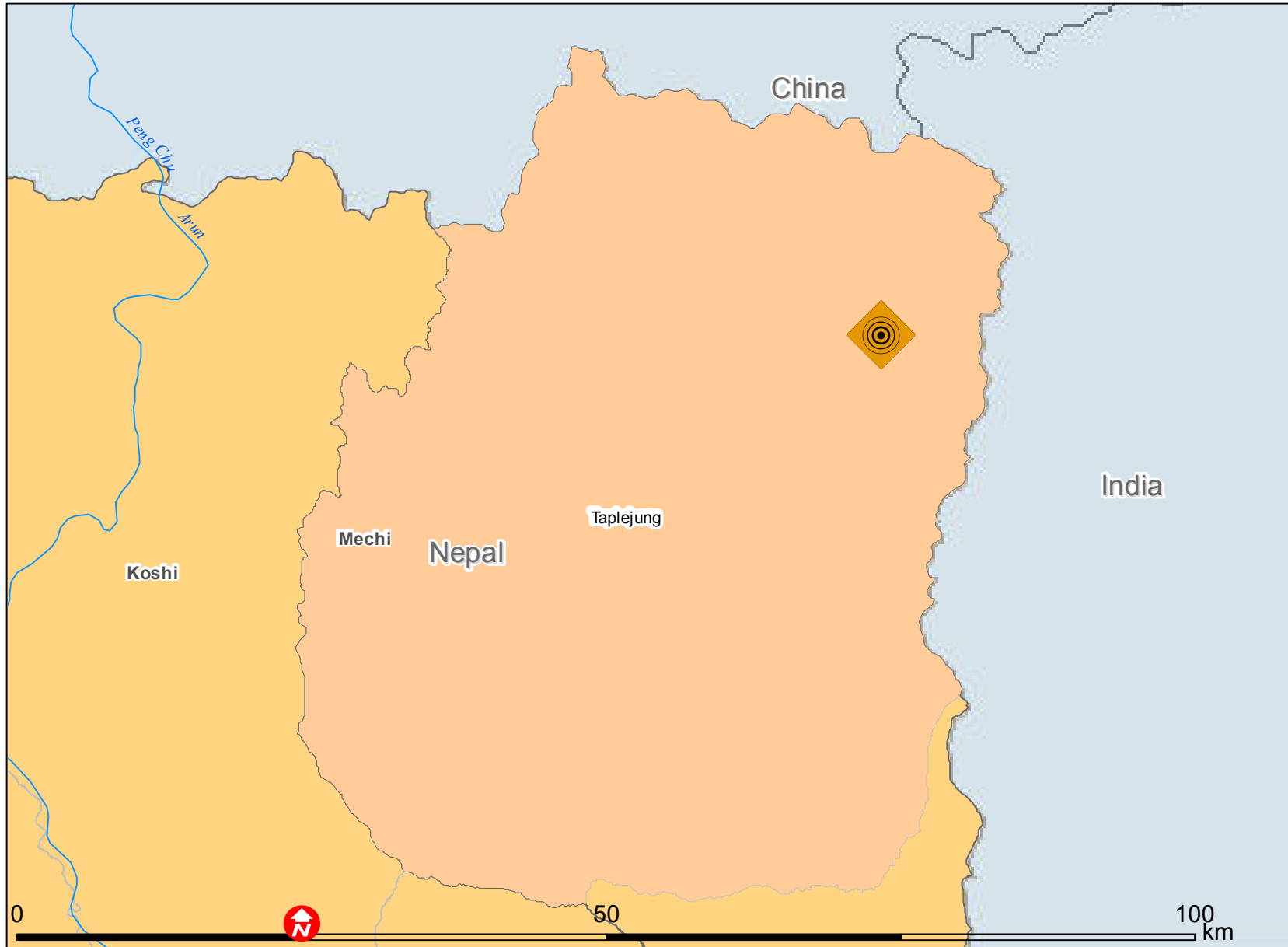
Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	41,965
Clothing & Textiles	54,948
Utensils & Tools	13,036
Other Supplies & Services	3,036
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	112,985
Computer & Telecom Equipment	1,310
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	1,310
Distribution & Monitoring	2,381
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,441
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,822
National Society Staff	5,786
Volunteers	8,572
Total PERSONNEL	14,357
Workshops & Training	4,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,000
Travel	9,567
Information & Public Relations	1,426
Office Costs	2,381
Communications	1,191
Other General Expenses	4,857
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	19,421
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	10,523
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,523
TOTAL BUDGET	172,417




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

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 Affected district