

# **CAMBODIA: FOOD SHORTAGE**

2 May 1996

*appeal no. 11/95*

*situation report no. 02/96*

*period covered: February 1, 1995 - April 10, 1996*

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*The first of two scheduled rice distributions was completed in mid-February and the second at the end of April, thus bringing the relief operation to a close. The distributions reached almost 163,000 beneficiaries in four provinces.*

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## ***The context***

The operation was launched to assist people in four provinces affected by serious food shortages after severe floods and then drought conditions led to disastrous rice harvests in a large part of the country. The number of beneficiaries, initially 70,000, was increased to a possible 120,000 after a further needs survey late last year

## ***Latest events***

Despite continued reports of good harvests which will result in Cambodia having an overall rice surplus in 1996, there have been no significant changes in the situation of beneficiaries in the four target provinces since the Appeal was launched. They will still face severe food shortages this year and are not being assisted by any NGO and/or governmental bodies.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

Following the receipt of contributions pledged after the revised budget was drawn up in November 1995, a second revised budget was prepared in early January, to include an additional 700 MT of rice.

### ***First distribution*** (According the first revised budget - November 1995)

Distributions of imported Vietnamese rice started on 30th January in Prey Veng Province and were followed by distributions in the Provinces of Kompong Speu and Takeo. The operation was finally completed on 21st February in Kompong Chhnang Province. Details of these first distributions were as follows:

<b><u>Province</u></b>	<b><u>Families</u></b>	<b><u>Persons</u></b>	<b><u>Metric Tons</u></b>
Prey Veng	5,673	30,729	460.935
Kompong Speu	3,747	17,250	258.820

Kompong Chhnang	6,985	34,579	518.710
Takeo	6,171	33,792	507.050
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,576</b>	<b>116,350</b>	<b>1,745.515</b>

Beneficiaries included : Farmers : 96 %, Lumberjacks : 2%, Fishermen : 1 %, and earth-carrying labourers : 1 %. All of the targeted areas were affected by flooding (1994) and drought (1995). Some villages were located in areas where the Khmer Rouge may be present.

The Federation Relief Co-ordinator reported that no specific problems arose during the distribution, and the operation was efficiently and effectively carried out by the CRC mobile teams and Red Cross volunteers (RCVs). It should be noted that the National Society has extensive experience in food distribution (particularly in co-operation with WFP) within Cambodia.

***Second distribution*** (According to the second revised budget - January 1996)

A further complementary needs assessment was carried out in February/March by the two CRC mobile health teams, assisted by RCVs. Specific groups of handicapped people were targeted.

Following a standard tender procedure at the end of February, the first delivery of Cambodian rice (readily available and cheaper at this time of the year) was made on 20th March. Quality control was carried out by an internationally recognised laboratory in Thailand. Details of the second rice distribution were as follows:

<u>Province</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Metric Tons</u>
Kompong Speu	2,448	13,307	199.605 + 145 kilos to local monks
Kompong Chhnang	2,765	13,301	199.515 + 85 kilos to local monks
Takeo	3,854	20,000	300.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,067</b>	<b>46,608</b>	<b>699.350</b>

Altogether, during the two rice distributions, a total of **2,444.865 MT** of rice was distributed to **162,958 beneficiaries** in the four target Provinces from January to April 1996.

There remains 67 MT of rice in the CRC warehouse which will be used as an Emergency Stock for distribution to vulnerable groups affected by natural disasters. This stock will be jointly managed by the CRC/Federation.

At each rice distribution, RC dissemination was undertaken with the beneficiaries, including information on the role of the Federation and activities of the CRC. Before receipt of the rice, all beneficiaries agreed to participate in a programme of 'food for work' which required them to work in their own villages on the improvement of fencing, road repair, sanitation, dam gate repair and the preparation of compost. Initial follow up has indicated that the results of these 'food for work' programmes have been very positive.

## ***External relations***

Media coverage was good. All local Cambodian TV channels and newspapers regularly covered the operation.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

Despite some difficulties in the procurement of rice (during the first part of the operation), this operation was successfully concluded without any major problems. The rice was efficiently distributed to the identified beneficiaries in the four target Provinces with no reported losses or robberies. A final report will be issued shortly.

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