

NEPAL:FLOODS

appeal no: 28/98
18 September 1998

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 525,000
IN CASH AND KIND
TO ASSIST 10,000 FAMILIES FOR 6 MONTHS***

Summary

Exceptionally heavy monsoon rains have brought flooding and landslides to Nepal, affecting tens of thousands of already vulnerable people in 73 of the country's 75 districts . The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), which traditionally focuses on disaster preparedness in this highly disaster prone country, has been providing emergency relief aid for several weeks. Its relief stocks are now almost exhausted and need to be rapidly replenished to complete the distribution of aid to all those in need and to replace stocks already used.

The Disaster

The incessant rains of this year's monsoon season have not only caused havoc in large countries of Asia, such as China and India, but have brought devastation in the form of flooding and landslides to the landlocked Himalayan kingdom of Nepal. Currently 73 out of 75 districts are affected.

Government sources and independent Red Cross information indicate that some 10,000 families have been made homeless after the destruction of their homes; the death toll is put at 256.

The extent of the disaster became apparent only gradually as information trickled in from remote and often difficult to access districts. In the highlands and Himalayan foothills continuing rains and run-off from the Tibetan plateau have caused flash floods and massive land and mud slides. The worst of these landslides destroyed an entire village in Syangia District in western Nepal with an estimated loss of 55 lives. Flash floods and landslides in another village in the same district destroyed an estimated 150 houses and public buildings, and buried 16 people under the rubble. Virtually all the *Terai* lowland districts are flooded due to the heavy rains and to the slower than usual run-off of flood waters in Bangladesh and Northern India, the normal drainage areas for Nepal floodwaters.

A total of 28,000 hectares of arable land are estimated to be either inundated or destroyed by landslides, pointing to harvest shortfalls and long-term rehabilitation needs. At least 2 bridges along

the Siddhartha highway, the country's lifeline, have been destroyed. Many power lines have also been brought down.

The Response so far

Government Action •

Home Ministry officials are co-ordinating with the Nepal Red Cross and the UNDP in surveys and assessments. Local government authorities and high level delegations from the central government have toured most of the affected districts. Funds have been released from the Government's National Disaster Emergency Fund to a number of districts.

Nepal Red Cross Society Action •

From July onwards, NRCS has responded to the rapidly increasing needs by releasing non-food items, such as clothing, cooking utensils, tarpaulins from its central and regional warehouses as well as from strategically placed emergency preparedness stocks -- which enabled the Society to act, despite the difficult transport conditions. These supplies have been distributed through the NRCS network of district chapters. Staff from these units continue to monitor the situation while distributing the relief items.

To date, NRCS has distributed over 8,400 family relief packages, including some or all of the following items, in 69 districts (preliminary, incomplete figures) :

ITEMS	UNITS
tarpaulin	3,695 pieces
cooking utensils	2,305 sets
blankets	4,610 pieces
ladies sarees	2,721 pieces
male dhoti	900 pieces
printed and plain poplin cloth	63,812 metres
heavy cloth	31,460 metres
readymade clothing	2,388 pieces
oral rehydration salts	500 doses

Once distributions have been made to all 10,000 families, the National Society's stocks will be virtually exhausted.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

The assessment of needs has been under way for several weeks. Senior staff from the NRCS headquarters, as well as local NRCS staff and volunteers trained in disaster management, have travelled in the stricken areas, determining needs and developing beneficiary lists.

Immediate Needs •

According to the needs assessments, the most vulnerable urgently need tarpaulins, utensils, poplin cloth, ladies sarees, and blankets. CHF 50,000 has been released from DREF to begin procurement.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Stocks in the NRCS network of relief warehouses must be replaced.

Red Cross Objectives •

- Assist up to 10,000 families by supplying essential relief items.
- Maintain NRCS capacity to respond to future disasters by replacing the stocks used in this relief operation.
- Incorporate lessons learned into community based training, in order to maximise coping mechanisms.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: September - October 1998 •

Complete the distribution, already under way, of essential relief items to 10,000 families.

Phase Two: November- December 1998 •

Carry out the procurement of replacement stocks and position them in warehouses throughout the country. Start planning community training (see below).

Phase Three: early 1999 •

"Lessons Learned" phase: community workshops to enhance disaster management skills and coping mechanisms. Further efforts to increase local resiliency to disasters by providing community-based training initiatives in flood and fire-fighting emergencies will be incorporated in the Federation's Emergency Appeal 1999.

Procurement •

All procurement will be done locally by the NRCS using its own established procedures and those of the Federation. However, contributions in kind are welcome.

Reporting •

Reporting will be provided monthly by the NRCS and within 30 days of the conclusion of the operation.

Evaluation •

At the conclusion of this operation, the NRCS and South Asia Regional Delegation will jointly conduct an evaluation of the operation. It will include the impact of past training initiatives in responding to such a large scale disaster, as well as the efficacy of this response. Lessons learned will be incorporated into future training sessions and operations.

Capacity of the National Society •

The NRCS has extensive experience in disaster management and preparedness and possesses the human resources, technical skills, and infrastructure to meet this operation's objectives.

Present Capacity of the Federation in South Asia •

The South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) has worked closely with the NRCS on the preparation of this appeal. It will provide financial management support from the Federation's Regional Finance Unit in New Delhi, as well as technical support in disaster management and information as needed.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Although it has been going on for nearly two months, the flood and landslide disaster in Nepal has not received the same international attention as those in other parts of Asia. However, the human tragedy and suffering are just as acute. The relatively small amount of money sought in this appeal will make a significant effect on reducing the disaster's impact on the most vulnerable in Nepal. At the same time, by replenishing relief stocks, it will also ensure that the National Society will be ready to act immediately when the next disaster strikes.

For additional information please contact Kris Hurlburt, Desk Officer for Nepal 41.22.730.42.69 or hurlburt@ifrc.org

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BUDGET SUMMARY
NEPAL FLOODS

APPEAL No. 28/98
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES

Non Food items

Tarpaulins (9,500 x CHF 14.6)	138,700.00
Blankets (2,000 pieces x CHF 5.2)	10,400.00
Kitchen utensils (10,500 sets x CHF 9.4)	98,700.00
Cloth for clothing (120,000 metres x CHF 1.08)	129,600.00
Sarees (3000 x CHF 4.2)	12,600.00
Miscellaneous	4,200.00

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS 394,200.00

NEEDS IN CASH

Transport, storage & vehicle costs	10,500.00
Travel & communications	13,000.00
Information	5,000.00
Training	40,000.00
Administrative, office & general expenses	14,000.00
Regional support - monitoring and evaluation	39,000.00
Secretariat operational support	9,300.00

TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH 130,800.00

TOTAL APPEAL NEEDS 525,000.00

LESS CASH ON HAND 0.00

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND 525,000.00

NB: All procurement can be made locally but in-kind will be considered