

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no. 17/2004
27 July 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing 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

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,769,000 (USD 2,130,000 OR EUR 1,846,000) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 180,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS

(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

This Appeal is jointly prepared by Nepal Red Cross, the ICRC Delegation in Nepal and the Federation Office in Nepal.

The situation

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

As of 26 July over 740,000 people in 24 of Nepal's 75 districts were affected. The reported death toll has reached 174 and a further 35 persons are missing.

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Several districts in the southern Terai region were submerged by water for several days forcing people to flee to safer areas. In the hilly region several landslides have occurred and houses have been swept away resulting in casualties. Assessments confirm that large areas of paddy fields with newly planted rice and other agricultural land have been washed out. There has also been massive destruction of infrastructure. Sixty-nine bridges have been severely damaged, affecting accessibility.



Distribution of relief materials by the Nepal Red Cross in Dhanusa district

Over 18,000 houses have been completely destroyed and more than 43,000 have been partially damaged. Over 31,000 families have been displaced. Incidents of diarrhoea have increased and several deaths have been reported. Snake bites are also being reported, resulting in some deaths.

Some of the most affected districts are among the least developed in the country (Siraha, Ramechhap and Sarlahi). In the Human Development report 2003, Nepal ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world both in economic terms as well as social parameters. The GDP per capita is estimated at only USD 230. More than 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line, 48 percent of children under five are under-weight and 19 percent of the total population is undernourished.

Assessments have been carried out by district teams in accordance with the Relief Guidelines of the Nepal Red Cross and additional guidelines issued by the Society's NHQ. In addition, two NHQ teams with trained Regional Disaster Response Team members have assessed the situation in the most affected districts.

There are communication difficulties with some remote districts due to lack of roads and limited telephone connections. Qualitative information from some remote areas is still expected.

It should be noted that a large part of the country is affected by the ongoing conflict situation, which hampers access to some areas. In many districts only the main town and surrounding area is accessible to the authorities. The Nepal Red Cross is one of the few organisations that is able to collect information and reach beneficiaries throughout the whole territory of most districts. There are no direct security threats, but access can in some areas take longer as all parties need to be informed about Red Cross activities. Security considerations will oblige the Nepal Red Cross to ensure that all parties agree with its operational modalities - an issue the Society has been dealing for some time in cooperation with the ICRC. In this environment, the Nepal Red Cross is one of the main organisations that is able to collect information and reach beneficiaries in all districts.

All figures regarding the floods in this Appeal are based on information collected by the Nepal Red Cross through their branch network and other sources. These are shared on a daily basis with local UN agencies, the government and local INGOs/NGOs and used by them.

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	District	Disaster	Dead	Displaced families	Affected families	Affected population	Partially damaged houses	Destroyed houses
1	Mahottari	Flood	18	15,000	75,000	450,000	12,000	3,000
2	Sarlahi	Flood	24	2,100	16,000	90,000	10,000	2,500
3	Saptari	Flood	6	1,750	8,288	41,174	1,334	1,750
4	Siraha	Flood	8	6,946	6,946	41,372	7,200	3,000
5	Dhanusa	Flood	8	1,593	6,024	36,144	6,198	3,072
6	Bara	Flood	3	174	3,231	21,460	3,057	174
7	Rautahat	Flood	18	500	2,087	14,756	1,178	1,983
8	Makwanpur	flood/landslide	24	1,112	1,874	11,125	1,300	1,112
9	Udayapur	flood/landslide	7	540	1,423	8,272	723	407
10	Khotang	landslide	3	200	932	5,416		9
11	Sindhuli	Flood	10	511	811	4,572	161	350
12	Kavre	landslide	3	100	711	4,156		256
13	Ramechhap	landslide	12	300	600	4,200		850
14	Sunsari	Flood		475	475	2,628		5
15	Okhaldhunga	landslide	20	157	416	2,388	200	61
16	Parsa	Flood		200	250	1,372	200	40
17	Dhading	landslide		29	207	1,117		3
18	Morang	Flood	2		115	678	3	10
19	Jhapa	Flood	3	45	113	607	46	93
20	Palpa	landslide		3	33	227		33
21	Pyuthan	landslide	3	18	18	188	16	2
22	Argakhanchi	landslide	2	1	1	6		1
23	Tehrathum	landslide		1	1	6		1
24	Achham	Heavy rain			1	7		
	Totals:		174	31,755	125,557	741,871	43,616	18,712

Red Cross response

The Nepal Red Cross was one of the first organisations to respond at the onset of the disaster. It utilized its high level of preparedness at district and NHQ level including pre-positioned relief stock at strategic points. In the early stage of the flooding the Nepal Red Cross focused on immediate response with supply of food items purchased locally and water purification liquid. Districts mobilized local resources, reaching over 3,500 families with food items during the first few days of the disaster while arranging distribution for family packages according to assessments undertaken by volunteers.

Through 25 July 15,425 family packages, consisting of tarpaulin, kitchen set and clothing had been distributed and a further 3,000 packages dispatched to districts by truck, and in the case of one hilly district, by plane. Prior to the monsoon period the National Society had stocks of 35,000 family packages in its central and regional warehouses and pre-positioned in depots and district offices.

The Society has also supported 800 families in the central and eastern region with plastic roofing sheeting.

Thousands of volunteers from the Community Based First Aid and Disaster Preparedness programmes, and Junior and Youth Red Cross circles have been mobilized for rescue, first aid and relief distribution activities.



*Nepal Red Cross distribution point –
Dhanusa district*

While the past week has seen the rains ease, allowing some previously inaccessible areas to be reached, it is still early in the monsoon season.

August and early September usually bring heavy monsoon rains and further flooding and landslides can be expected. The National Society is therefore working hard to deliver relief materials as soon as possible. It is also

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essential to replenish stocks so that the Nepal Red Cross can maintain a high level of preparedness for new emergency situations. As all district chapters are not equally effective in responding to the flooding, NHQ is focusing on further capacity building of relatively weak branches in the area of response.

The needs

Immediate needs:

The following needs have been identified by the assessment teams in branches and confirmed by the NHQ assessment. The findings are similar to that of a UN interagency assessment team.

Food:

The most affected families need basic food items as their stocks and other resources have been destroyed. The most vulnerable families without material resources and few social links will be dependent on food aid for some weeks until villages and towns start functioning normally again. Red Cross branches have already started to raise local funds to purchase basic food for needy families. However, in some severely affected districts the needs are bigger than available local resources and Red Cross capacity, therefore support from the NHQ will be required.

Non-food items: basic household equipment

The most vulnerable households have witnessed floods sweep away or destroy belongings, including basic household equipment needed on a daily basis. The family packages distributed by Nepal Red Cross provides for basic items, such as a family kitchen set, basic clothing, blanket and tarpaulin.

Shelter

While people have taken shelter in community buildings such as schools and temples, many families are building temporary shelters as close as possible to their homes. The Nepal Red Cross has been distributing tarpaulins and plastic sheets and will require further stocks of these.

Health/Water/Sanitation:

Wells and ponds contaminated by flood water increase the incidence of water borne conditions, such as diarrhoea and typhoid. Malaria, Japanese encephalitis and other diseases spread by mosquitoes will most likely increase. Spraying against mosquitoes and provision of water purification tablets and bleaching powder will reduce these risks.

Preparedness for further flooding:

It is a very likely that further flooding and landslides will occur during the coming two months of this monsoon period. The Nepal Red Cross will need to replenish their relief stock to be prepared for new disaster situations with the number of people affected by the flooding likely to increase.

Longer-term needs

Livelihood: seeds:

Large areas of arable land have been flooded and crops destroyed. Once families are able to return to their land they will need to re-establish cultivation for income and their own food supply. While the most vulnerable families are farmers with small landholdings or laborers without land, most families rely on a vegetable garden for supplementary food and cash income. Valuable assistance would be provided through the provision of a variety of vegetable seeds that can be used during the coming planting season.

Housing:

Over 18,000 houses have been totally destroyed. The households that are particularly vulnerable are those without support from extended families, and large female headed families with limited coping mechanisms. To help prevent the break-up of these poorest and most vulnerable families, it will be essential that assistance is made available to rebuild their homes.

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Coordination

The Nepal Red Cross is an ex-officio member of the National Disaster Relief Committee chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs. Red Cross representatives are ex-officio members of similar committees at district level headed by the Chief District Officers. These committees are tasked with coordinating the response among local authorities, local organisations and the Red Cross. However, only the Red Cross has a local network of sub-chapters, youth circles and trained volunteers in all districts. The committees on national and local level are meeting regularly, with Nepal Red Cross participation.

In addition to the formal coordination mechanism the Nepal Red Cross NHQ is continuously coordinating and sharing information with the Home Ministry, UNDP, WHO, USAID and through DP-net, a network of 24 organisations and agencies chaired by the Nepal Red Cross. These continuous contacts help avoid duplication and increase the reach to affected communities.

The Government has distributed dry foods in certain areas. The Ministry of Home Affairs has released NRs. 3 million (CHF 50,000) to assist those affected. An inter-agency UN team assessed the situation in the most affected districts and based on its findings held discussions with the Nepal Red Cross. It has requested the Society to take a lead role in the continued response and is considering various interventions in close coordination with the Nepal Red Cross.

UNDP has pledged support to the Red Cross transportation costs during the first days of the operation. There are also several examples where INGOs and NGOs have contributed with funds or in-kind food to various districts or directly through the NHQ. Save the Children, CARE Nepal, Rotary and ASMA have for example assisted Red Cross branches in the most affected districts with funds for food aid. The Regional DP-Net in the mid-western region has supplied relief packages to 250 families and funding. These are good examples of how DP-Net has functioned as a support network for the flood response. There are also examples where the district representative of the government, the Chief District Officer has channeled assistance through the Red Cross. Other local donors are now being approached and requested to support replenishment of disaster stock.

As indicated earlier the Nepal Red Cross is considered to be the leading organisation in disaster response in the country and other organisations and the UN agencies are therefore providing much of their support through the Society. The current situation is further emphasizing the key role played by the Nepal Red Cross.

The ICRC is the lead agency of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Nepal due to the current internal armed conflict between the Governments's Security Forces and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M). The delegation consists of 37 delegates who regularly visit all districts. The ICRC delegation is focusing on protection (visits to detainees, monitoring of the conduct of hostilities and reestablishment of family links) and assistance (health, relief and water) as well as ensuring safer access and acceptability of the Movement by all parties of the conflict. Close coordination is taking place between the Nepal Red Cross, the ICRC Delegation and the Federation Office regarding all programmes. During recent visits to some flood affected districts, ICRC delegates witnessed the immediate and efficient response that the Nepal Red Cross branches were providing. The decision to launch this Emergency Appeal has been taken jointly by the three institutions and further developments during implementation will be coordinated during meetings between the Nepal Red Cross, ICRC and the Federation.

In the current conflict situation it is essential that Red Cross branches and volunteers are acting according to the fundamental principles and are perceived as neutral and independent. In addition to the code of conduct issued earlier by the National Society, additional guidelines have been sent to the districts regarding this operation. For the Red Cross it is imperative to have good coordination with all other actors in the flood response, while implementing its own operation independently.

The proposed operation

Objectives and activities planned

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.

Immediate rescue and relief assistance has been given by Red Cross branches as outlined above. This has been possible due to the network of Nepal Red Cross warehouses and depots used for pre-positioning of relief goods, established systems and people trained within the Disaster Preparedness programme.

The operation proposed in this appeal will cover mid-term relief assistance needed during the first month as well as more long-term rehabilitation to a smaller but well targeted group. To maintain levels of high preparedness, replenishment of relief stock is also requested. A contribution of CHF 50,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has been already released, and tendering procedures have been initiated.

Beneficiaries to be targeted for immediate response are selected according to criteria drawn up under the Nepal Red Cross Relief Guidelines, based on Federation standards. However, for the selection of beneficiaries for housing support, an in-depth assessment will be conducted. Coordination with key stakeholders will be maintained. The most affected communities in the least developed districts will be targeted, also taking into consideration land area affected and duration of the flood. An average family is considered to consist of six members.

As further flooding may occur and some assessments still need to be finalized, the Nepal Red Cross and the Federation would encourage partners to allow flexibility to ensure effective and efficient relief response.

Procurement will be conducted according to Nepal Red Cross Procurement Regulations; copies can be obtained on request.

For logistics and transport, Nepal Red Cross warehouses and vehicles will be used in accordance with the National Society's Relief Guidelines.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting of this operation is the responsibility of Nepal Red Cross, closely assisted by Federation Office in Nepal and the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD). The Federation assistance to Nepal Red Cross is based on a cash transfer system.

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 2100 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.

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Activities planned to reach this objective:

- In-country procurement and packing of the food items
- Training session with volunteers to carry out distribution
- Transport by the Nepal Red Cross and distribute above items to the selected beneficiaries with the help of volunteers
- Monitoring, reporting and technical advice by Red Cross district branches, national headquarters and the Federation

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.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- In-country procurement and packing of the relief material
- Storage in Nepal Red Cross warehouses and dispatched according to need.
- Training session with volunteers to conduct distribution
- Transport by the Nepal Red Cross and distribute above items to the selected beneficiaries with the help of volunteers
- Monitoring, reporting and technical advice by Red Cross district branches, national headquarters and the Federation

Objective: To deliver water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation. To mobilize 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 mobilize Youth, Community Based First Aid and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in.

The sanitation and clean-up activities will include the removal of debris, eliminating standing water, informing the population about health hazards and referring serious health problems to health facilities where required services are available. This will be done in close coordination with the district health officers and local health posts. The Nepal Red Cross is at the national level coordinating closely with WHO and UNICEF.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- In-country procurement of water purification liquid.
- Training session with volunteers to conduct distribution and their involvement in sanitation activities
- Transport by the Nepal Red Cross and distribute above items to the selected beneficiaries with the help of volunteers
- Sanitation and clean up activities by volunteers
- Monitoring, reporting and technical advice by Red Cross district branches, national headquarters and the Federation

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, chilli and other local vegetables. This intervention draws on positive experiences of kitchen garden programmes in the Nepal Red Cross operation for Bhutanese refugees.

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Activities planned to reach this objective:

- In-country procurement and packing of seeds
- Training session with volunteers to do distribution
- Transport by the Nepal Red Cross and distribute above items to the selected beneficiaries with the help of volunteers
- Monitoring, reporting and technical advice by Red Cross district branches, NHQ and the Federation

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 mobilized to assist with the construction, which is a tradition in many of the villages in Nepal.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Recruitment of three local construction experts
- In-country procurement of local building materials.
- Distribution of construction material, construction and supervision
- Monitoring, reporting and technical advice by Red Cross district branches, national headquarters and the Federation

Capacity Building

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

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Information from monitoring and from the final evaluation will be used to enhance both the disaster response mechanism and the Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme.
- A final evaluation meeting will be held in each flood affected district with volunteers, staff and partners engaged in the operation.
- One workshop gathering representatives from each district and NHQ level to evaluate the operation will be organised. Main stakeholders and cooperation partners will also be involved in these meetings.
- All lessons learned will be documented and actions points will be drawn up by the disaster management department.
- One planning meeting will be held to incorporate learning in the community based disaster preparedness programme and the disaster response activities, including drawing up contingency plans for headquarters and districts

Follow-up lessons learnt and linkages

The lessons learned will in be integrated into ongoing and new Community Based Disaster Preparedness programmes. Completed mitigation work and other preparedness activities, such as revolving funds will be evaluated and lessons learned will be used for future initiatives.

Mapping of disaster affected areas will assist in the selection of disaster-prone communities for new project areas. Higher risk awareness, early warning systems and relocation of risky settlements might be required. Better cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders, for example the DP-Net members, in vulnerability and capacity assessments as well as in the implementation phase needs to be ensured.

The disaster response capacity of the Nepal Red Cross will be strengthened based on lessons learnt from the monitoring and evaluation of this flood operation. Areas that will be considered essential include assessment and information systems, warehouse network and management, logistic systems, and the need for trained human

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resources. Contingency plans for NHQ and districts will also be drawn up. Both the Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme and the Disaster Response programme are funded through the Federation Annual Appeal and bilateral donors.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Nepal Red Cross will focus on ensuring visibility of the operation in consultation with the ICRC as lead agency. Communication/information will focus on the Society's activities as well as impact on beneficiaries. The objective is to achieve clear visibility of the relief operation. Neutrality, independence and impartiality will be highlighted.

This opportunity will also be used for advocacy towards policy makers regarding better preparedness for response to natural disasters. Under the needs component, the need for timely preparedness, mitigation, local capacities and prevention will be emphasised.

Journalists' field visit for better coverage in national media will be organised. Press releases will be regularly issued. The ongoing Red Cross radio programme, the Nepal Red Cross website (www.nrcs.org) as well as Nepali and English bulletins will also be utilised.

A professional photographer will be hired for two four-day periods during the operation to ensure the capture of quality images for national and international distribution. An extra bulletin will be published at the end of the operation which will feature articles as well as a summary of activities. These information opportunities as well as the planned workshops will be used for advocacy.

The regional Communications Unit at SARD will provide support to promote the activities of the Nepal Red Cross relief operation.

Capacity of the National Society

The Nepal Red Cross has 106,410 adult members and 768,082 Junior/Youth members . The National Society has branches in all 75 districts of Nepal. Each branch has a district executive committee of volunteers, a branch secretary, and an office and in some cases, programme staff. Sub-chapters with volunteer committees working closely with communities can be found in most flood-affected districts. Junior and Youth Red Cross circles with trained and highly motivated members provide the bulk of the volunteers.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) programmes in 13 of the 24 currently affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilized 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. If more first aid volunteers are needed in some areas these can be mobilized from other districts. With training in first aid and basic health issues they will carry out social mobilization, health prevention and counselling activities.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation Office in Nepal consists of one Federation Representative with the role of assisting the National Society in programme management and monitoring, as well as coordination. In addition a Regional Disaster Response manager working for the South Asia Regional Delegation is based at the Federation office, with the role of strengthening the regional response. During this operation these two personnel will provide assistance to the Nepal Red Cross especially in the areas of monitoring, reporting and coordination with international partners.

Monitoring and evaluation

The ongoing daily monitoring will be the responsibility of the district branches and will be carried out according to the Nepal Red Cross Relief Guidelines. Two to four monitoring teams consisting of NHQ staff, Regional Disaster Response Team members and the Federation Regional Disaster Response manager will be established to assist the districts in monitoring as well as conducting regular field visits.

The monitoring will focus on the adherence to beneficiary criteria according to the Relief Guidelines, the satisfactory maintenance of beneficiary lists, and ensuring relief assistance reaches beneficiaries targeted through household visits and family interviews.

In addition, final evaluation meetings will be held for all involved district branches to draw up lessons learnt for strengthening future flood response as well as improving ongoing community based disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes. Issues that will be assessed will be the pre-positioning of goods, the effectiveness of reaching the most vulnerable, the content of family packages and the availability of trained staff and volunteers. Meetings will be held in communities with Community Based Disaster Preparedness programmes and Community Based First Aid programmes, to evaluate the response and to agree on common key learning points

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 17/2004

Nepal - floods**RELIEF NEEDS**

IN CHF

Shelter & constructions	1,048,000
Clothing & textiles	867,000
Food & seeds	92,000
Medical & first aid	30,000
Utensils & tools	327,000

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS

2,364,000

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme support (6.5% of total)	180,000
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TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS

Warehouse & distribution	45,000
Transport & vehicle costs	7,000

PERSONNEL

Expatriate staff	3,000
National staff	13,000
Workshops & training	36,000

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES

Travel & related expenses	10,000
Administrative & general expenses	111,000

TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS

405,000

TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES

2,769,000

LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)

0

NET REQUEST

2,769,000