

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 AND LANDSLIDES

19 October 2001

Information Bulletin N° 2

- This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any further or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time*

The Situation

The annual monsoon rains hit Nepal from the middle of June onwards and have caused floods and landslides in many areas of the country.

This year, the monsoon caused extensive damage: landslides affected many districts in hilly regions and floods affected further districts in the terai (flat) region. Since mid-June, 144 people have been killed and 3,787 families (21,019 people) are affected, according to Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) district chapters.

Key highways that link different districts to Kathmandu remained blocked for some days and many cultivated acres of land were washed away by floods in terai regions. The details of the affected districts during this period are as follows :

S.N	Districts	Zone/ Anchal	Type of disaster	Affected		Dead	Remarks
				Families	Population		
Eastern Development Region							
1.	Sankhuwasabha	Koshi	Landslide	9	46	4	Hilly region
Central Development Region							
2.	Sindhupalchowk	Bagmati	Landslide	350	1,754	9	Hilly region
3.	Raamechaap	Janakpur	Landslide	190	952		Hilly region
4.	Dolakha	Janakpur	Landslide	143	713		Hilly region
5.	Kavrepalanchowk	Bagmati	Landslide	300	2,100	2	Hilly region
6.	Bhaktapur	Bagmati	Landslide	60	295		Hilly region
7.	Lalitpur	Bagmati	Landslide	40	282		Hilly region
8.	Sindhuli	Janakpur	Landslide/Flood	20	122		Hilly region
9.	Nuwakot	Bagmati	Landslide/Flood	75	405		Hilly region
Western Development Region							
10.	Tanahun	Gandaki	Landslide	7	43		Hilly region

11.	Gulmi	Lumbini	Landslide	231	1,384	12	Hilly region
12.	Palpa	Lumbini	Landslide	38	192		Hilly region
13.	Syangja	Gandaki	Landslide	39	197		Hilly region
14.	Arghakhanchi	Lumbini	Flood	400	2,406	13	Terai region
15.	Nawalparasi	Lumbini	Flood	304	1,826		Terai region
Far-Western Development Region							
16.	Baitadi	Mahakali	Landslide	27	136		Hilly region
17.	Darchula	Mahakali	Landslide	35	217	5	Hilly region
Total				2,268	13,070	45	

Recently, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in the Sankhuwasabha district chapter reported that three villages had been swept away by a massive landslide. At least nine people were killed and hundreds of families were affected due to loss of cultivated land and harvest.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The NRCS has been working actively in the affected areas. The districts mobilised volunteers and staff for rescue and relief operations, visited the disaster affected areas to prepare a detailed survey report, coordinating with local organisations as well as governmental bodies.

Following this the NRCS district chapters prepared detailed situation reports. Most of the chapters mobilised their staff and volunteers to collect resources locally. Upon the request of district chapters, the NRCS headquarters and warehouses provided relief materials to chapters on the basis of the survey report and the available stock of relief materials in the districts.

The Red Cross district chapter of Nawalparasi provided 128 family packages of relief materials such as tarpaulin items, clothing, kitchen utensils and water buckets. In addition, ready-made foods such as sugar and beaten rice were distributed in this district and 82 families were rehabilitated into safe places, in coordination with the Government and local bodies.

The Sindhupalchowk and Arghakhanchi district chapters distributed 200 family packages and 250 relief materials, as above. Gulmi, Raamechaap, Dolakha and Kavrepalanchowk district chapters distributed 116, 70, 75 and 169 family packages of relief materials respectively. Besides this, other district chapters also distributed relief materials.

To date, the Nepal Red Cross Society has distributed more than 1,292 family packages of relief materials. Likewise about 1,000 family packages of relief materials were provided to NRCS district chapters from different warehouses. One family package of relief materials consists of one tarpaulin, blanket and ladies saree, one set of kitchen utensils and 16 metres of assorted clothing materials.

The distribution of relief materials is still in process and detailed distribution reports from district chapters are awaited.

Government Action

The Ministry of Home Affairs provided cash assistance to the disaster victims. As landslides occurred in the highway areas causing blockage of key highways for some days, the Government mobilised personnel to remove the debris that was lying on the highways. The NRCS volunteers and staff conducted rescue activities jointly with the army and police.

Present Situation of the National Society

The NRCS has nine warehouses and 18 local depots in different strategic points. The capacity of NRCS warehouses is 21,000 family packages of relief materials. Most available resources have been utilised. The monsoon has not finished and some districts still face problems. District chapters have been requesting headquarters and warehouses to provide relief materials and demand has increased.

Presently, the NRCS has about 3,700 family packages of relief materials in its warehouses. The stock of relief materials consists of tarpaulins (4,200), blankets (3,750), kitchen utensils (3,700 sets), women's saree (3,400) and three types of clothing material (56,126 metres).

Coordination

The NRCS coordinates with GOs, NGOs, and INGOs, the Federation and other sister societies. In Nepal, there is a Disaster Management Committee under the chairmanship of ministry of Home Affairs at the central level. Similar committees are formed in each of the 75 districts under the chairmanship of chief district officer. The Nepal Red Cross Society is nominated as an active member in both committees. A network of organisations that are involved in disaster as well as development activities has been formed, which is known as "DP-Net". NRCS is the secretariat of that network. Likewise, other organisations and different embassies have been extending their cooperation.

Outstanding Needs

If the demand for relief materials increases, the NRCS will need assistance from external sources and is trying to collect resources to replenish limited stocks.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

Charles Eldred-Evans, Phone 41 22 7304320; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email eldred@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head, a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Head
Asia Pacific