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DREF operation update Nepal Extreme Cold

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRNP006
GLIDE n° CW-2011-000203-NPL
Update n°1
22 February 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (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. DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

A total of CHF 69,134 was allocated from IFRC DREF to support the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) to conduct rapid assessment and deliver immediate assistance to 5,000 families across nine districts (Ilam, Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Khotang, Terhathum, Bhojpur and Solukhumbu) who were made vulnerable by the extreme cold following the onset of winter after their homes had been severely damaged or destroyed by the earthquake in the eastern Nepal in September 2011.

This includes the distribution of 10,000 blankets, support for volunteer mobilization and transport costs to enable relief teams and goods to reach people affected in very remote areas. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) country office in Nepal has made an in-kind contribution of 2,000 blankets, meanwhile the remaining procurement of 8,000 blankets will be covered under this DREF.



A Red Cross volunteer handing out blanket to a lady at Dhankuta district, one of nine targeted districts, which will prepare her and her family to combat against the extreme cold weather. **Photo:** NRCS.

The major donors and partners of this DREF are the Australian government, the American government, the Belgian government, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European commission humanitarian aid (ECHO), the Irish government, the Italian government, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

This DREF-supported operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 13 April 2012. A final report will be issued three months after the end of the operation, i.e. by 13 July 2012.

The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to this DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.

The situation

Since the last week of December, the temperature in most of the areas affected by last September's earthquake had significantly dropped to close to freezing at night as well as intense snowfall in many parts of the districts. Of the total 7,746 families displaced by the earthquake across 12 districts, some 5,000 families were suffering from extreme cold in nine districts of Ilam, Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Khotang, Terhathum, Bhojpur and Solukhumbu.

In the recent weeks, although the snowfall has ceased, the temperature in mountainous village development committees (VDCs) is still low. Continued rainfall on 8 and 9 February further contributed to lowering the temperature. Most of the displaced families are still taking shelter under tarpaulin provided by NRCS. However, no adverse health effects have been observed in the area.

NRCS district chapters have commenced distribution of additional blankets (two pieces of blankets for a family) targeting 5,000 families in the nine affected district. During this reporting period, 1,154 families have received additional blankets. The district chapters are intensifying the distribution activities.

Table 1: Distribution of blankets based on families unit

SN	District	No. of families targeted	No. of families reached	Remarks
1	Ilam	1,089	235	
2	Taplejung	1,000	359	
3	Sankhuwasava	300	200	
4	Panchthar	1,075	175	
5	Dhankuta	541	-	Distribution data yet to receive from district*
6	Khotang	85	5	
7	Terhathum	530	150	
8	Bhojpur	300	30	
9	Solukhumbu	80	-	Distribution data yet to receive from district*
Total		5,000	1,154	

**District chapters have sent blankets to sub-chapters for distribution and sub-chapters are distributing the blankets in their areas. Due to remoteness and lack of effective communication and transportation facilities from sub-chapters to district chapters, the collection of data and report is being delayed.*

Coordination and partnerships

The District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) has been coordinating the overall response operation in each district to minimize overlapping of activities and to maximize the number of targeted people are reached. NRCS district chapters have been actively and regularly attending DDRC meetings and sharing their relief updates (distribution update) with the DDRC members in the operation districts.

The United Nations cluster system is also actively taking part in collecting information and rendering services. Some members of the education clusters, such as Save the Children, UNICEF and Mercy Corps, are distributing shelter kits and are planning to carry out recovery works of school buildings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcome

Outcome: 5,000 displaced families (approximately 30,000 people) who have been suffering from extreme cold in earthquake affected areas will benefit from the provision of blankets to meet their immediate needs.	
Outputs (expected results): Families receive blankets to better protect them from the cold environment and adverse health conditions.	
Activities planned	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and storage of, as replenishment of 8,000 blankets, according to IFRC/NRCS standard 	Procurement of 8,000 blankets is on process as per NRCS procurement policy and procedure. So far, the tender for procurement has been made and blanket samples from some

procedures (2,000 blankets have been donated by ICRC).	<p>selected/competitive suppliers have been sent to Nepal Bureau of Standard and Metrology for quality checking.</p> <p>Upon receiving the quality test report, NRCS will select the appropriate supplier for the blanket procurement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of staff and volunteers in nine districts for assessment and distribution. 	NRCS has commenced mobilization of trained staff and volunteers for assessment and distribution of blankets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispatch and transport of 10,000 blankets from NRCS warehouses in national headquarters and Biratnagar to the distribution sites. 	A total of 8,000 blankets (from NRCS existing stock, which will be replenished by this DREF) were dispatched from central warehouse at national headquarters to regional warehouse at Biratnagar. Meanwhile the regional warehouse also received 2,000 blankets from ICRC. The regional warehouse has dispatched the blankets to the nine districts respectively based on the needs assessment reports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of blankets (two per family) at unit level by trained staff and volunteers. 	District chapters have commenced the distribution of blankets to the families affected by extreme cold in the nine districts. More than 1,154 families have received blankets during this reporting period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting of distributions. 	<p>District chapters have been documenting the distribution data and reporting to national headquarters regularly. District chapter and sub-chapter governance volunteers have been monitoring the situation and blanket distribution regularly.</p> <p>A joint field visit has been planned in three districts of Ilam Taplejung and Panchthar from 26 February to 3 March 2012. Representative from ICRC, and deputy director and senior officer of disaster management department of NRCS will be involving in the field visit.</p>

Table 2: Distribution of blankets based on provision unit

SN	District	No. of blanket needed	No. of blanket distributed	No. of blanket yet to be distributed	Remarks
1	Ilam	2,178	469	1709	
2	Taplejung	2,000	718	1,282	District chapter has planned to dispatch remaining stock to sub-chapters for distribution within seven days.
3	Sankhuwasava	600	400	200	District chapter has planned to complete distribution within seven days.
4	Panchthar	2,150	350	1,800	
5	Dhankuta	1,082	-	1,082	Distribution data is yet to receive from district chapter.
6	Khotang	170	10	160	District chapter has a plan to complete distribution within 15 days.
7	Terhathum	1,060	300	760	District chapter has a plan to complete distribution within ten to 15 days.
8	Bhojpur	600	60	540	District chapter has a plan to complete distribution within 15 days.
9	Solukhumbu	160	-	160	Distribution data is yet to receive from district chapter.
Total		10,000	2,307	7,693	

Challenges/constraints

NRCS had sent blanket samples from some competitive suppliers to Nepal Bureau of Standard and Metrology for their quality checking on 6 February 2012. The quality test report is expected to receive by 25 February. Only then the purchase order will be placed to the supplier if the sample is in line with NRCS specification. Hence, the procurement may not be completed within the operating timeframe (13 April 2012) and NRCS may need a no-cost extension for the procurement.

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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

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-

and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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