

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

Appeal no: 22/2000
13 September 2000

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,627,172
IN CASH TO ASSIST 500,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 9
MONTHS***

Summary

Cambodia has been devastated by flooding following early heavy rainfall since July, as reported through an Alert and Information Bulletins 1 and 2 issued in July and August. Since then, Cambodia has been affected by monsoon thunderstorms, causing localised flooding and extensive, prolonged flooding of the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers as well as their tributaries. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) have exhausted their resource capacity to assist those most in need and respond to the increasing demands as the flooding continues, affecting tens of thousands of people. This Appeal seeks to assist some 500,000 of the most vulnerable through provision of household kits, repair of damaged homes and water sources, distribution of mosquito nets and the setting up of health education campaigns to reduce the potential risk of waterborne diseases.

The Disaster

Since early July, heavy rain storms have hit Cambodia as well as the entire Mekong watershed area that covers 795,000 square kilometres including Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, as well as Cambodia. Rainfall in the watershed area during July was twice the average and arrived more than 45 days earlier than usual seasonal flooding, with the result that most of the crops had not been harvested. In some places, the land was under 2-3 metres of water for weeks before the rains subsided and the land began to drain.

In some areas, fields and crops are still covered by water as a second heavy wave of rain and storms swept across Cambodia and the Mekong River watershed as of 31 August, causing more serious flooding.

The flooding has caused extensive damage to roads, bridges, dams and the elaborate systems of water retention and control used for crop production. River bank erosion along the Mekong has been calamitous as hundreds of metres of shoreline have been washed away, forcing the evacuation or movement of thousands of families. Damage to community and village infrastructure has not been fully assessed as many locations are completely isolated and are still under water. However, it is certain that wells and safe water sources have been destroyed or damaged, increasing the potential of outbreaks of waterborne disease.

Official Royal Government of Cambodia statistics supplied by its National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) as of 7 September estimate 78 deaths due to flooding, 942 homes destroyed, 4,547 homes damaged, 98,531 families (481,173 individuals) affected in 13 provinces made up of 253 communes and 732 villages.

To date, 13 provinces have been affected by localised flooding and the burst banks of the Mekong River: Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Takeo, Kompong Thom, Seam Reap, Koh Kong, Otdar Mean Chey, Svay Rieng, Kandal, Kompot and Preah Vihear. The Municipality of Phnom Penh has also been affected as marginalised families who moved into the city in an attempt to improve their economic conditions, have settled in hazardous river areas which are prone to flooding. 2,335 families or 12,920 individuals, have been relocated to safe areas and many will need to be permanently resettled.

The effect on crops and food production is not fully known at this time as much of the land is still covered by water or partially inaccessible. It is estimated by the NCDM that 136,940 hectares of crops are destroyed or damaged. Family food reserves are dwindling since families are selling rice for transport or medicines, and food security could become an issue in the future, contributing to the cycle of poverty.

The RGC's Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRM) holds to earlier predictions that the potential for further or prolonged flooding remains a significant threat as Cambodia is at the peak of the current monsoon flood season, and the saturated soil in the Upper Mekong River watershed area continues to drain into the Mekong Basin, flowing into the rivers of Cambodia.

The table below shows the water level in all 7 monitoring stations on 7 September 2000:

No.	Provincial Monitoring Station	Warning Level	Current Water Level	Compared to 6 September			Water level compared to last year (1999) at the same time	Water level compared to previous years at the same time
				Higher	Equal	Lower		
1	Mekong River- Stung Treng	10.70	10.92	0.10			+ 2.94	+ 2.26
2	Mekong River-Kratie	22.00	22.19			0.10	+ 4.35	+ 3.91
3	Mekong River-Kompong Cham	15.20	15.70			0.05	+ 3.18	+ 2.57
4	Bassac River-Chaktomuk (Phnom Penh)	10.50	10.74	0.07			+ 1.76	+ 1.69
5	Mekong River-Neak Lung (Kandal Province close to Vietnam/ Cambodia border)	7.50	7.76	0.06			+ 1.49	+ 0.58
6	Bassac River-Koh Khel (Kandal Province close to Vietnam/ Cambodia border)	7.40	7.63	0.03			+ 0.75	+ 0.80
7	Tonle Sap- Prek Khdam (30 Km north of Phnom Penh)	9.50	9.64	0.06			+ 1.77	+ 1.92

Source: MoWRM - Cambodia: Water level on 7 September 2000

The full magnitude of the disaster is not fully known at this time as there are still many areas which are inaccessible for assessment purposes. The damage to local water control infrastructure is so severe that the residual waters may remain over thousands of hectares for many weeks as the flood waters are trapped because of damaged or destroyed drainage systems.

The Response so far

Government Action

The RGC through the NCDM has co-ordinated relief activities with the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) to avoid duplication. To date, 10 provinces have been provided with 208 metric tons of rice, 1,700

units of plastic sheeting and 3,200 articles of clothing to assist 9,917 families. The government has also provided the local authorities with 41,500 sand bags and 53,500 litres of fuel for the transport of evacuees and supplies.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted a working seminar between 28 and 30 August 2000. The primary focus was health-related issues during a disaster. Participants included provincial health officials, international organisations, NGOs and agencies active in preparedness and response in the areas of health and hygiene.

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) is continuously appealing for support from the international and local community in the country and OCHA Situation Report no. 3, published on 6 September, encouraged the donor community to channel their support to the RGC through the NCDM.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

Since the onset of the flooding, the Cambodian Red Cross Society assisted by the International Federation, has worked closely with the RGC through the NCDM to co-ordinate response in favour of the disaster victims. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in August between the NCDM and the CRC for the duration of the crisis, specifying roles and responsibilities of both parties, together with the geographic division of areas of assistance.

Based on the joint assessments and reports from other agencies, through its Red Cross volunteers, CRC initially distributed emergency assistance in the form of food, clothing, soap, housing materials and emergency household kits. Response to the CRC's emergency appeal launched locally in July, has been positive and the CRC has, to date, been able to assist over 20,000 families with its own resources.

Cambodian Red Cross Emergency Relief Assistance to Flood Victims 21 July - 6 September 2000

No.	Province	No. of district	No. of Families	Individuals
1	Stung Treng	2	800	4,336
2	Kratie	6	2,941	14,730
3	Kompong Cham	8	6,719	32,694
4	Phnom Penh	3	2,087	10,378
5	Kandal	4	4,824	23,979
6	Prey Veng	2	2,344	12,338
7	Kompong Thom	2	1,335	6,543
8	Koh Kong	4	1,867	8,864
	Total	31	22,917	113,862

Food: 427.6 metric tons of rice, 1,148 rations of dried food
Clothing: 55,456 individual items
Shoes: 17,265 pairs
Shelter: 1,100 plastic sheets
Soap (Dettol): 18,848 pieces
Household kits: 655

Further distributions are planned and include extensive provision of emergency household kits to assist the most affected to replace lost household items, initiate home repairs and to facilitate renewed agricultural production. Additionally, antiseptic soap has been included in the emergency distributions in order prevent the spread of skin diseases and diarrhoea. The remaining 2,345 household kits, of a total of

3,000 purchased earlier this year by the CRC/International Federation with European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) funding as a preparedness initiative, are being distributed to those families suffering from the greatest hardship. In addition, the CRC purchased 500 household kits in August with funds donated by the American Embassy through the American Red Cross. These kits consist of 21 essential items to assist in family recovery: impregnated mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats, clothes, tools, cooking utensils, home repair items, soap and water containers. Action Against Hunger (AAH) supplied kits, consisting of 10 essential relief items, which were pre-positioned at the Kompong Cham CRC office and which are also being distributed to assist the most vulnerable.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has asked CRC to assume responsibility for relief activity in 6 of the worst affected provinces, as well as to assist the evacuees in 3 of the districts within Phnom Penh. There will be further adjustments to geographic areas of responsibilities once the detailed reports have been analysed.

Provincial Red Cross staff and Red Cross volunteers are providing direct assistance to communities and individual families on a daily basis as the waters continue to rise. Red Cross volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and first aid are also included amongst the victims and evacuees. They are providing invaluable assistance, especially to pregnant women, children and the elderly, providing emergency first aid and acting as links with the most vulnerable.

Joint assessment teams from Provincial Red Cross (PRC) branches and the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM) have completed evaluations of the damage caused by the initial flooding and have begun another series of field trips to assess the renewed flooding. Currently, assessment teams are in 6 provinces conducting detailed village level damage reports and needs assessments.

Other Agencies' Action w

The American Embassy donated US\$ 25,000 in August through the American Red Cross to CRC for the purchase of emergency household kits.

The United Nations Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) sent a Regional Advisor to Cambodia in the first week of August to assess the situation and consult with the Federation, NCDM, WFP, UNDP and other organisations. OCHA allocated \$25,000 through UNDP to flow through WFP for CRC to purchase much needed shelter material (plastic sheeting).

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is working in close co-operation and co-ordination with CRC, the International Federation, NCDM and other agencies to monitor the changing situation. The WFP has provided food assistance to evacuees and is prepared to respond as the needs develop and are analysed.

Co-ordination w

The International Federation is supporting the close co-operation of CRC with the NCDM, international organisations and all relevant NGOs and agencies by holding regular meetings of the Emergency Response Group (ERG). ERG Meetings have been held on 28 July, 17 August and another is scheduled for 13 September. There is ongoing dialogue between the major participants and almost daily consultations between NCDM, CRC and the International Federation.

The International Federation has developed a joint response strategy with organisations such as ECHO, USAID, MSF, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, AAH, SAWAC and OXFAM UK.

The International Federation's Flood Alert in July and Flood Information Bulletins no. 1 and 2 in July and August have been widely circulated for information. The Federation web site (www.ifrc.org) published an article on floods in Cambodia on 10 August. Photographs of the floods in Cambodia were shared with many National Societies through the Federation Secretariat.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

Based on the most recent events, an assessment is currently taking place at village and community level in all affected provinces. The CRC and International Federation will focus on the provinces and areas which are most affected by the continuing flooding. Joint teams from CRC and NCDM including Red Cross volunteers, are identifying immediate emergency needs and have completed preliminary assessments in 13 provinces: Stung Treng, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Prey Veng, Takeo, Pursat, Kompong Thom and the Municipality of Phnom Penh.

Health needs have been assessed based on previous experiences of flooding in Cambodia and are those resulting from waterborne diseases, changes in vector loads and cycles, deteriorating food security and increased susceptibility to infectious diseases.

Immediate Needs •

- { The most immediate needs are food and shelter necessitating replacement or repair of destroyed and damaged homes, household items, sanitation facilities and prevention of the spread of water borne diseases.
- { Public health facilities are a priority in those communities displaced by the floods or whose personal or community resources have been affected by the flood waters. The most immediate health needs are for 1,000 displaced families in the 17 safe areas, and include clean water and sanitation, mosquito nets, immunisation against measles, Vitamin A, oral rehydration salts (ORS) and health education.
- { Establishment of water and sanitation facilities is essential in *key safe areas* in each province to benefit the community now and to assist in the preparedness for the future. There are 17 safe areas in the flood affected provinces, mostly in schools and pagodas. Provision of or the upgrading of facilities at these locations will also provide an ongoing benefit to the community on a day to day basis and provide a resource for the communities displaced from areas which are subject to regular flooding.

Anticipated Later Needs •

- { A full assessment of damage to community infrastructure focusing on safe water and sanitation needs of the worst-affected communities
- { Effective monitoring and assessment of the incidence of disease caused by contaminated water supplies.
- { Follow-up of community health and disaster preparedness education.

A detailed water supply assessment will be undertaken once the flood waters recede, in order to ascertain the greater extent of the flood damage or contamination of existing water points. The emphasis will be on the repair and rehabilitation of existing water points, with the possibility to replace a number water points which are not suitable for repair. In addition, assistance in community education will be provided, together with the setting up of committees responsible for the management of wells.

As the flood waters settle, the 98,531 affected families will require clean water, malaria and dengue prevention activities, cleanup campaigns, health and hygiene education, vitamin A for children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, deworming for children, distribution of ORS, mosquito nets and soap for the most vulnerable. Red Cross volunteers and leaders, and Red Cross youth need to be trained or refreshed on specific campaign methods according to the needs.

Red Cross Objectives •

- { Continue to provide immediate assistance to flood victims with further distributions of emergency food, clothing, soap, corrugated-iron sheeting, ORS and some 5,000 household kits.
- { Minimise the risk of the wide-scale spread of infectious diseases, particularly diarrhoeal and vector borne disease, by giving health education, soap, ORS and improving hygiene and sanitation facilities in safe areas for both short and long term benefits.
- { Strengthen or establish networks of Red Cross volunteer leaders and Red Cross volunteers in the affected areas by training a total of 200 new volunteers in four provinces (Koh Kong, Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Svay Rieng), and by giving refresher training to 2,000 existing volunteers and MoH field workers in hygiene and use of ORS, and to disseminate health, hygiene and preparedness information.
- { Strengthen or establish a network of Red Cross youth in four affected provinces by training 52 new Red Cross youth advisors and 1,200 Red Cross youth members in 24 schools in four provinces (Odtar Mean Chey, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, Koh Kong) to disseminate health, hygiene and preparedness information.
- { Improve the CRC's implementation and monitoring capacity through the recruitment of a water and sanitation Delegate, a health-in-emergency (HIE) monitoring officer and other essential staff.
- { Provide assistance with the provision of clean water, and in co-operation with the MoH, through the Red Cross volunteer and Red Cross youth network, provide mosquito nets and insecticide, vitamin A, deworming tablets and health education.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: *September - November 2000 •*

- { Distribution of household kits and emergency supplies currently in stock will continue.
- { Procurement of additional stocks and other emergency operation items will commence and further distributions carried out as supplies are received and areas become accessible.
- { Distribution of Vitamin A, ORS, deworming tablets and soap to safe areas and undertaking of measles vaccination campaigns in close co-operation with the health authorities.
- { Health education on hygiene, water and sanitation, hand washing and use of ORS through TV spots, radio, Red Cross volunteer and Red Cross youth networks in close co-operation with the MoH.
- { Recruitment of Water and Sanitation Delegate for a minimum of 6 months (November 2000-April 2001).
- { Recruitment and training of health-in-emergency monitoring officer and four development officers and establishment of monitoring system.
- { Undertaking of health education campaigns on hygiene, water and sanitation, ORS, malaria, dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever.
- { Rehabilitation and construction of latrines and water points in safe areas which will include education in hygiene.

Beneficiary selection criteria will follow standard procedures. The most vulnerable populations will be determined by prioritising the handicapped, sick, elderly, female heads of households, those suffering severe economic hardship due to loss of income and loss of personal property as a result of the floods.

Phase Two: November 2000 - June 2001 •

- { Distribution of vitamin A tablets to children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers in affected families in co-operation with the health authorities.
- { Distribution of mosquito nets and/or insecticide for impregnation of existing bednets in close co-operation with the MoH/National Malaria Centre (NMC).
- { Training of new Red Cross volunteers and leaders, Red Cross youth, Red Cross youth advisors in CBFA, provision of refresher training in hygiene education and use of ORS.
- { Distribution of larvacide (Abate) and training of beneficiaries as to how to use Abate.
- { Setting up of health education campaigns on hygiene, water and sanitation, ORS, malaria/dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever.
- { Rehabilitating/constructing latrines and water points, together with provision of hygiene education.

Capacity of the National Society •

The Cambodian Red Cross Society is recognised by the government as an auxiliary in humanitarian services to relieve the suffering of the most vulnerable. One of the 15 member institutions of the National Committee for Disaster management (NCDM), the CRC assists the government in disaster response and in implementing disaster preparedness programmes funded by international organisations or NGOs. With Federation assistance, as of 1 September, it provides capacity building support to NCDM in order to develop further its ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters in Cambodia. CRC also co-operates closely with the Ministries of Health and Education, Youth and Sports.

The CRC Headquarters are in Phnom Penh and there are currently 24 Red Cross branch offices in all provinces and municipalities, however, many remain weak in governance and management. The CRC employs a total of 469 people. In addition a Red Cross volunteer network of over 5,000 volunteers are in place in 16 provinces at the commune level, and some 3,900 Red Cross youth members in 78 schools throughout 14 provinces can be mobilised for health education and campaigning.

The capacity of the National Society has been enhanced recently by the appointment of the heads of the Health and Social Welfare and Development sub-departments. However, lack of appropriately skilled and sufficient numbers of personnel at headquarters will oblige the CRC to work with or through the relevant Ministries or other NGOs for some activities in order to reduce the work load.

The CRC is currently implementing several developmental programmes in co-operation with its international and local partners in the following sectors: institutional and resource development, humanitarian values, disaster preparedness, and health and care in the community and is the lead agency, in partnership with the RGC, in emergency response.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Cambodia •

The Delegation of the International Federation was established in Cambodia in 1992 to support the NS in development and emergency response. The focus of Federation assistance during the past few years has been on institutional and resource development, together with emergency response in times of disaster.

The Delegation currently consists 7 Delegates. The Delegation has launched and successfully implemented, in partnership with the CRC, three emergency operations in 1998-2000 namely: Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever 1998, Repatriation 1999, and Floods [1999].

Evaluation •

The International Federation will closely monitor the implementation of this operation through the procurement of relief items, participation in relief distributions and training, visiting and interviewing the beneficiaries. Regular situation reports will be issued and widely circulated inside and outside the country. Information about possible expansion of activities will be provided in regular situation reports. Web site stories, including photos for visibility, will be published on the Federation web site (<http://www.ifrc.org>). A monitoring system for health and water and sanitation activities will be set up, and participatory evaluation which will include community and key stakeholders, will be carried out when implementation has been completed.

A final evaluation of the operation will take place and a final report will be published.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

This appeal provides a summary of major activities conducted to date, together with initiatives planned for the future. The assessment process is still underway while the flood levels are still at their peak. The full extent of damage and scope of needs may not be fully known for several weeks if there is continued flooding due to monsoon rains.

Crop damage and its long-term impact on the cycle of poverty will require more detailed assessment once all the fields are drained and accessible. This may also take some time due to severe infrastructure damage.

The disaster response of the CRC, with the in-country technical support of the Federation, will have the added value of helping to build the capacity of the CRC at all levels, and of strengthening the relationship between CRC and other actors.

Jean Ayoub
Acting Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	Appeal no. 22/2000	
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Shelter & constructions	219,400	
Clothing & textiles	373,550	
Utensils & tools	192,250	
Other relief supplies	445,750	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		1,230,950
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles	10,625	
Computers	7,650	
Telecom. equipment	10,200	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management (automatic calculation)	109,720	
Technical support (automatic calculation)	32,844	
Professional services (automatic calculation)	36,424	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	44,540	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	70,880	
National staff	19,448	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	2,550	
Information expenses	10,880	
Administrative & general expenses	11,560	
External workshops & seminars	28,900	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		396,222
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		1,627,172
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		
NET REQUEST		1,627,172