

## ***CAMBODIA: FLOODS***

*12 October 2000*

*appeal no. 22/2000*

*situation report no. 3*

*period covered: 28 September - 11 October 2000*

---

*While the emergency response effort has been increased by the Royal Cambodian Government (RGC) in co-operation with the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) and other partners, the needs of the victims have only been partially met to date. Monsoon rains continue in most of the country, and additional storms and typhoons may still hit the region in the coming weeks, causing further prolonged flooding in the region and throughout Cambodia. After the emergency phase is over, the country also faces a very challenging recovery and rehabilitation period. The CRC, supported by the Federation, is committed to effectively continuing its humanitarian assistance. Disaster Preparedness activities prior to the floods and a timely response by donors to the Federation emergency appeal as well as the CRC's local emergency appeal has enabled a quick and effective delivery of assistance to the flood victims.*

---

### ***The context***

The number of people affected by the floods continues to increase in Cambodia as a result of incessant heavy rainfall since July. To date, over 2.7 million Cambodians are affected by floods according to the estimates published by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). Although all 7 measuring stations report that water levels are falling slowly, four stations confirm that the water remains near or above warning levels. The annual reversal of the Tonle Sap River, which normally takes place in November, has already occurred, adding to the widespread flooding of the area surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake in central Cambodia. As the monsoon season continues, rainfall in the Mekong River catchment area is expected to exacerbate the flooding. Furthermore, it is forecast that tropical storm 28W will bring heavy rainfall in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia over the next few days. Rain has continued in the country during the last 48 hours without any significant break.

On 13 September, the Federation launched an emergency appeal to assist 500,000 beneficiaries for 9 months. On 20 September, a first situation report was issued, with a revised budget of CHF 4,049,830. Response to the appeal has been encouraging and a major part of the total budget has been covered enabling the relief operation to continue effectively.

## *Latest events*

### *Water levels*

Monsoon rains continue and the following table illustrates the water levels, as recorded at the monitoring stations throughout the Mekong watershed in Cambodia.

*Water level information at 11 October 2000*

Provincial Monitoring Station	Warning Level	Current Water Level	Compared to 10 October	Water level compared to this time 1999	Water level compared to this time 1998
Stung Treng - Mekong River	<b>10.70</b>	6.54	0.08	- 0.05	- 0.03
Kratie - Mekong River	<b>22.00</b>	16.48	0.17	+ 0.33	+ 0.95
Kampong Cham - Mekong River	<b>15.20</b>	12.36	-0.03	+ 0.31	+ 0.79
Phnom Penh - Bassac River	<b>10.50</b>	10.30	-	+ 0.62	+ 0.68
Kandal - Mekong River (Neak Lung)	<b>7.50</b>	7.34	-0.01	+ 0.46	- 0.68
Kandal - Mekong River (Koh Khel)	<b>7.40</b>	7.49	0.01	+ 0.44	+ 0.47
Tonle Sap - Prek Khdam	<b>9.50</b>	9.76	0.01	+ 1.05	+ 1.65

Source: Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Hydrology and River Works Department

### *Affected population and other estimated damages*

Twenty provinces/municipalities of the total 24, and 118 districts of the total 165, now report flooding. The worst affected provinces are in the south-east region, namely Kandal, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Takeo and Svey Rieng. The number of people moving to higher ground still continues to increase and 57,146 families from 12 affected provinces/municipalities have moved temporarily, with their livestock, to over 100 safe areas, such as pagodas, schools and road sides. Reports indicate that some 988 schools have not yet opened for the new term due to damage caused by flooding. Some schools are still under water, some are so badly damaged that major repairs or renovation work is required before students can recommence their studies. Some 121 hospitals, as well as many district centres, clinics and health centres continue to be flooded or are damaged and need repairs before they can once again become functional. The government currently reports that 700 km of national road, 1,500 km of rural roads and 102 irrigation projects are damaged. The RGC estimates that, to date, the flooding has resulted in US\$ 79 million of damage. A full damage assessment of roads, dams, dykes, houses, clinics, schools, health centres, hospitals and other buildings can be carried out only once the water has subsided. Given the current water levels, this may still be many weeks away in the worst affected provinces.

Below is a breakdown of the affected areas, together with estimated numbers of families and individuals as of 10 October 2000.

*Summary of Affected Areas and People on 10 October 2000*

Affected Areas		Affected People			
Province	Districts affected/Total no. of districts	Families	Persons	Deaths	Evacuated Families
1. Stung Treng	5(5)	4,719	29,129	3	544
2. Kratie	4(5)	16,535	83,970	13	6,274

3. Kampong Cham	14(16)	97,288	620,673	74	3,157
4. Prey Veng	12(12)	84,166	417,547	26	3,253
5. Takeo	9(10)	50,075	250,095	21	7,276
6. Kampong Thom	8(8)	32,536	97,608		649
7. Siem Reap	9(12)	37,261	136,144	13	
8. Koh Kong	5(8)	2,690	12,009	1	
9. Odtar Mean Chey	3(4)	706	3,250		40
10. Svay Rieng	7(7)	30,274	149,391	21	15,162
11. Kandal	11(11)	139,378	712,101	79	17,132
12. Kampot	6(8)	13,928	68,776	4	1,768
13. Preah Vihear	1(7)	300	1,647		
14. Phnom Penh	4(7)	17,046	68,681		1,199
15. Kampong Chhnang	5(8)	18,081	76,429	2	
16. Ratanakiri	3(9)	925	6,138		
17. Pursat	4(6)	4,385	17,650	5	
18. Battambang	4(12)	7,430	27,044		692
19. Banthey Mean Chey	4(8)	4,067	16,268	2	
20. Kampong Som	1(2)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119(165)</b>	<b>561,790</b>	<b>2,794,550</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>57,146</b>

Source: National Committee for Disaster Management dated 10 October 2000

### ***Further appeals and assessments***

The United Nations has launched an inter-agency appeal for emergency assistance and initial rehabilitation on 2 October following the OCHA/UNDAC assessment. The UN agencies making up the UN Disaster Management Team (UN-DMT), namely UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO and WHO, are appealing for US\$ 10,712,754, largely to cover 15,315 MT of food and food distribution. The remainder covers shelter and other relief items, rice and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, health interventions, water and sanitation, infrastructure repairs and co-ordination/disaster management support costs.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assessment team visited Cambodia from 3 to 8 October and the President of the ADB is scheduled to visit the country from 12 October for a 4-day mission. It is then expected that the final results of the ADB assessment will be announced, together with the ADB response. An OFDA/USAID assessment mission is being conducted from 6 to 11 October. The Minister of Economic and Development Co-operation from the Federal Republic of Germany visited Cambodia from 7 to 9 October to mark 10 years of co-operation between the two countries and also addressed the problem of the flood victims by donating 3,300 water containers to the Red Cross. It has been announced that a World Bank assessment mission will commence on 13 October.

### ***Emergency relief assistance and food security***

Short and medium term emergency relief assistance efforts continue by the RGC, Red Cross and other agencies, mobilising most of the available resources in the country. According to the daily distribution reports issued by the NCDM, some 400,000 affected families of a total of 561,790 in urgent need of aid, have been assisted by the Government, the Royal Palace, the Red Cross and other agencies with food, shelter, clothing and essential relief supplies. Many organisations such as World Vision, CARE, Concern Worldwide and GTZ are providing emergency relief assistance to flood victims in provinces where they are presently active. A total of 7,672 MT of food has reportedly been distributed to the flood victims among other essential emergency relief items.

Many beneficiaries will continue to need this short and medium term assistance as long as water levels remain high. "Food-for-repair" or "food-for-work" activities cannot be carried out as yet. As part of the UN inter-agency appeal, the WFP announced a 3-step food assistance programme including 15,000 MT of rice. The first 5,000 MT is free food and will be distributed to flood victims during October in partnership with the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC). The second 5,000 MT is earmarked for

“food-for-repair” activities in November-December and the remaining 5’000 MT is earmarked for “food-for-work” activities from January to March next year.

The Ministry of Agriculture keeps 2,000 MT of rice seed in stock for victims of floods and drought. Due to the flooding this year, the Ministry has already distributed 1,290 MT of its stock to flood victims. A further 6,000 MT of seed has been requested from the Asia Development Bank to restock supplies in preparation for next year’s wet season. The FAO has included 1,257 MT of rice seed in the UN appeal for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Prime Minister has approved the procurement of 10,000 MT of seed from the private sector.

Information on the nutritional and health status of animals in safe areas is not available, although reports on vaccine campaigns for livestock have been received from some provinces.

### ***Health***

The Ministry of Health (MoH) held a second co-ordination meeting on 4 October where WHO reported on the launch of the UN inter-agency appeal and agencies had the opportunity to brief on current activities. Measles immunisation and Vit-A supplements were discussed and the MoH co-ordination committee agreed that measles vaccination should be carried out in the safe areas. However, there are difficulties in accessing the measles vaccine from the EPI programme, since it was planned that this activity should be carried out in November. This issue was discussed between the Secretary of state for the Ministry of Health and the CRC Red Cross on 11 October.

The Department of Epidemic Control has agreed to expand its weekly reporting system for acute diarrhoea, flaccid paralysis and dengue fever to include other diseases such as measles and malaria. The CRC has offered to facilitate communications between the provincial health authorities and the central Ministry.

A second health sector NGO meeting called by MEDICAM, and supported by the Federation, was held on 6 October. This provided a forum for the key Ministries of Health, Rural Development and Agriculture to brief agencies.

Severe diarrhoea kits have been sent to the worst affected provinces for the use by health authorities and organisations involved in health and related activities. To date, a total of 59 kits have been distributed to provincial health departments as follows: Stung Treng 8 kits, Kratie 4 kits, Kampong Cham 5 kits, Prey Veng 17 kits, Kandal 15 kits, Phnom Penh 5 kits, Takeo 5 kits. The kits contain pain killers, antibiotics and dressings.

### ***Water and Sanitation***

Several meetings have been held with the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) and key agencies involved in water and sanitation including the WHO, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, Partners for Development, Oxfam and UNICEF. An agreement has been reached on guidelines for the rehabilitation of water points and development of community information on the use of alum. The group is currently developing a consolidated education poster depicting health messages relating to water and sanitation in times of flood disasters. Information is now being translated for wider distribution across the water and sanitation sector. TV-spots on the correct use of the water purification tablets are being broadcast this week to the public.

An agency activity matrix to identify areas of agency action by province, with a view to highlighting gaps in response is being developed in conjunction with the MRD to ensure the most effective targeting of resources.

Implementation is progressing following agreement at the national level for CRC provincial branches to work in partnership with the provincial departments of Rural Development (PDRD). The

implementation model will commence in Kandal province. An proposal has been developed with Kandal Branch and the detailed implementation plan is now being drawn up with the PDRD.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

Since late July, when the flooding first commenced, the Cambodian Red Cross Society has assisted 45,277 families (approximately 217,986 individuals) with emergency relief supplies such as food, shelter, clothing, mosquito nets, household and hygiene materials. Additional assistance to the most vulnerable includes the ongoing distribution of 3,000 emergency household kits containing 21 essential family items purchased as a preparatory measure through funding from the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), as well as 10 item kits purchased and pre-positioned through funds provided by Action Against Hunger (AAH). 500 household kits, provided by USAID funding, are being distributed to the most needy families. The procurement process, packing and distribution of a further 10,000 DFID/USAID funded household kits to the most needy, together with additional relief items such as alum, soap and washing powder for 100,000 families, is ongoing.

### **Emergency Relief Assistance to Flood Victims 21 July - 10 October 2000**

<b>No. of provinces</b>	<b>No. of districts</b>	<b>No. of families</b>	<b>No. of individuals</b>
13	49	45,277	217,986

- **Food:** 869.74 metric tons of rice, 1,191 cartons of dried food
- **Clothing:** 28,809 individual items and 7 bales
- **Shoes:** 33,594 pairs
- **Shelter:** 1,407 plastic sheets
- **Soap (Dettol):** 102,338 pieces
- **Mat:** 1,315
- **Hammock:** 100
- **Sarong:** 38,565
- **Krama:** 38,524
- **Household kits:** 2,276

The next major challenge for the CRC will be the planning and distribution of the first 5,000 MT consignment of rice provided by the WFP in October. Joint planning with the WFP commenced immediately following the launch of the UN appeal and distribution of this food aid is already taking place in some provinces. The current plan is that the CRC will continue to provide 20 kg of rice to each beneficiary family in addition to the aid package provided by the WFP of 30 kg of rice, cooking oil, canned fish and iodised salt. This will minimise the need for second round emergency food aid distributions in the future, provided that the floods do not continue beyond 50 days. Flood victims will receive additional food aid through “food-for-repair” activities in November-December 2000 and “food-for-work” activities in January-March 2001.

The CRC leadership, including Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, the Honorary President of the CRC, Luk Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen, the President of the CRC, both vice-presidents and many of the central committee members actively participate in relief distributions.

While the network of Red Cross volunteers continues to play an important role in flood assessments, the strategies to expand their involvement with the provincial health departments and provincial departments of rural development are now taking shape. Considerable concern has been expressed about the speed of the co-ordinated response and a reassessment of the situation this week will determine the realignment of the immediate short term response. The CRC participated in the national malaria centre’s distribution of mosquito nets for flood victims on 6 October in Kampot province.

## ***Outstanding needs***

If the soft pledges currently recorded develop into hard donations, the emergency appeal needs and budget will be fully covered. As the situation develops and further assessments are carried out, however, appeal needs may be increased together with a corresponding revision of the appeal budget. Below is a preliminary indication of potential needs identified over the past few days.

- ***Emergency relief items***

As the number of evacuated families continues to rise, there is a need for additional shelter material and mosquito nets. The quantity of such relief supplies will be increased and one plastic sheet and one mosquito net will be added to the aid package for each family assisted by the CRC. Special assessments by CRC mobile teams will be carried out among displaced persons taking refuge along national and rural roads and these additional materials will be distributed to those most in need.

- ***Health, water and sanitation***

Needs in the health sector are increasing as time passes and flooding is prolonged. While the CRC and the Federation have successfully participated in the co-ordination of efforts for flood response in the health sector, the delegation has insufficient human resources. An emergency health delegate is required for a three month period to support the delegation's continued emergency and medium term efforts in the area of health. The arrival of a water and sanitation delegate for a six-month mission is expected within two weeks.

- ***Joint sector damage assessments***

Longer term needs are still awaiting full sector damage assessments, which can only be carried out once the flood waters have receded. This assessment process will be led by the RGC and further advice on this process will be sought from the RGC through the NCDM in the first core group meeting planned for 11 October. The Federation is strongly encouraging further joint damage assessments and has expressed interest in participating.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

A core group made up of the National Committee for Disaster Management, the Cambodian Red Cross, the Delegation and the United Nations Disaster Management Team, for planning and co-ordination was proposed in the last ERG meeting held on 5 October. This proposed Core Group will meet initially on 11 October prior to the next ERG meeting scheduled for the same day and thereafter regularly as needed. It will plan for continued effective general flood response co-ordination and information sharing, joint sector damage assessments and for the future Disaster Information Centre (DIC).

The Cambodian Red Cross supported by the Federation, continues close co-ordination and co-operation with the Royal Government of Cambodia's NCDM. Within the past few days the government has stepped up its relief activities and are dedicating more resources, through the Council of Ministers, focusing on the desperate situation of those who have suffered the greatest loss and endured the affects of flooding and its associated hardships. The RGC and CRC are in daily communication on future emergency response planning through the use of joint assessment teams, sharing of information and geographical co-ordination of activities to ensure there is no major duplication or needs are not addressed.

Close co-ordination has also been developed and continues with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Rural Development in developing strategies to deal with the enormous health threats facing these communities as they continue to crowd in safe areas and as they move back to what remains of their homes and communities. As well as support to the Ministries, there is excellent co-ordination enjoyed with all other organisations and agencies. Much effort will be channelled into ensuring this situation continues. Co-ordination and information sharing at the provincial level still remains a problem in some

provinces. Organisations and agencies hoping to join flood response activities, are encouraged to act proactively seeking advice and co-ordination from the provincial authorities and provincial Red Cross branches.

Discussion of the possible expansion of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Social Fund of the Kingdom of Cambodia (SFKC) and the International Federation for further funding of USD 500,000 - 1,000,000 for infrastructure rehabilitation activities took place on 5 October at the Federation office. Further steps required will be followed up by the two organisations.

Red Cross continues to enjoy high publicity, visibility and media coverage through local mass media. Flood response activities are being disseminated through newspaper articles and TV/radio news on a daily basis. A number of interviews have taken place with the international media both inside and outside the country. All Federation reports issued on the flood situation are being shared with over 100 organisations and agencies including Government and Relevant Ministries, Diplomatic Missions, UN System, international organisations, and NGOs. A high number of regular personal contacts are being maintained by all delegates for ensuring effective co-ordination and information sharing.

### ***General co-ordination/Information sharing***

A fifth Emergency Response Group (ERG) meeting since July was held on 5 October at the Cambodian Red Cross headquarters on the request of the NCDM. Since the UN-DMT was reactivated on 14 September, the UN Inter-Agency Appeal was launched on 2 October and an International Disaster Management Consultant from OCHA is expected in near future, the Federation proposed the establishment of a Core Group for joint planning and co-ordination, comprising the major players namely NCDM, CRC, the Federation and UN-DMT. In addition, the formal establishment of four sub groups was also proposed to cover the four major sectors for flood response activities namely Emergency Relief Assistance (lead: NCDM/CRC), Food Security and Infrastructure (lead: Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture), Health (lead: Ministry of Health) and Water-Sanitation (lead: Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Health). ERG meetings will continue to serve as a practical focal point for information sharing for all concerned on a weekly or biweekly basis. Invitations and minutes of the meeting are now being shared with some 100 organisations, agencies and interested donors/partners for information, co-ordination and necessary action.

It is planned that the four sub-groups mentioned above will have their planning and co-ordination meetings separately and a representative from each sub-group will report on progress made in the weekly/bi-weekly ERG meeting. In order to maintain more accurate data for total assistance given, a recommendation was made that all organisations and agencies should report their action planned and conducted to the provincial authorities/Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM) who will in turn report to the NCDM. This could possibly minimise the “double booking” of assistance given if it is received at one central point, both at the provincial and national level. In future, the Disaster Information Centre (DIC) will serve this purpose but the establishment of such a centre is a longer term development task for the RGC and NCDM with their development partners.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

In addition to the Federation appeal (22/00), the Cambodian Red Cross continues to receive very positive in-kind and cash support to their local emergency appeal launched on 26 July. As of 10 October, US\$ 367,227.42 has been raised in cash and major in kind donation include 885 MT of rice, 3,050 pieces of scarfs, 200 cartons of clothing for adults and 200 cartons of clothing for children. The donated items are actively being distributed to the flood victims and cash is utilised to purchase the needy emergency relief items as agreed with each donor.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Director  
Asia & Pacific Department

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

<b>Cambodia floods</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 22/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				10/12/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>4,049,830</b>		<b>97.3%</b>
AMERICAN - GOVT		290,350	USD	497,224	22.09.00	5'000 HOUSEHOLD KITS, 5'000 PLASTIC SHEETS, 5'000 BUCKETS, PACKING & TRANSPORTATION,
AMERICAN - GOVT/BHR/OFDA		302,704	USD	518,381	21.09.00	PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION EMERGENCY HOUSEHOLD KITS
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250,000	AUD	249,600	16.09.00	
AUSTRIAN - RC		25,000	EUR	38,933	20.09.00	
BRITISH GOVT/RC DFID		245,098	GBP	634,803	15.09.00	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CAMBODIA - DAILY NEWSPAPER		833	USD	1,427	26.09.00	
CANADIAN - RC		5,000	CAD	5,767	14.09.00	SUPPORT RELIEF OPERATION
CANADIAN - GOVT		49,000	CAD	58,368	22.09.00	
DANISH - GOVT		2,850,000	DKK	595,080	28.09.00	
DANISH - GOVT		250,000	DKK	52,200	27.09.00	4'400 PLASTIC SHEETS
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		282,556	DEM	220,704	29.09.00	18'500 PLASTIC SHEETS
JAPANESE - RC				82,000	20.09.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
KOREA, REP. - RC				50,000	25.09.00	MEDICAL SERVICES
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		495,049	NLG	343,164	27.09.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC				25,000	27.09.00	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	NOK	192,647	27.09.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,500,000	SEK	280,650	26.09.00	RELIEF NEEDS & OPERATIONAL NEEDS
SWISS - RC				80,000	26.09.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>3,930,243</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>97.0%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN - GOVT		15,000	DEM	11,717	29.09.00	3'300 FOLDABLE PLASTIC WATER TANKS (10L.)
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>11,717</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PKH517,						