

## ***CAMBODIA: FLOODS***

*27 October 2000*

*appeal no. 22/2000*

*situation report no. 4*

*period covered: 13 - 27 October 2000*

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*While the flood waters are receding in some areas, flash floods occurred recently in Kampong Speu, Kandal, Pursat and the Municipality of Phnom Penh. The Federation appeal has been fully funded and procurement of relief supplies is underway to continue distributions to the flood affected population. To date, the Cambodian Red Cross Society, supported by the Federation and other partners, has distributed 5,290 MT of rice and essential relief items to 149,918 vulnerable families. The focus is now on health, water and sanitation activities and damage assessments to be undertaken in order to review the scale of rehabilitation needs.*

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### ***The context***

Heavy rains and storms which hit Cambodia as well as the entire Mekong watershed area have caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) estimates the cost of repair and rehabilitation to be USD 97 million. Over 3.4 million Cambodians have been affected by flooding since July and 336 lives have been lost to date during the disaster. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) indicates in its preliminary reports that at least 500,000 primary and secondary school students have been affected. Some 500 schools have not yet opened for the new term due to high water levels or damage caused to school buildings by the floods. The MoEYS plans to conduct more detailed surveys in November when the water has subsided.

Over 100 health centres and referral hospitals are also flooded making it difficult for patients and health professionals to cope with the situation. The recovery phase therefore presents a real challenge for all those who have the ability to support the government's efforts to repair and rehabilitate infrastructure. Some preliminary damage assessments have already been carried out, but full damage assessments can take place only after the water has subsided.

## Latest events

### Water levels

While water levels in some provinces slowly subside, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Pursat and the Municipality of Phnom Penh were at the mercy of flash floods last week. The table below shows current water levels, as recorded at monitoring stations throughout the Mekong watershed in Cambodia. Two of the seven measuring stations still report that water is above warning levels.

*Water level information on 26 October 2000*

Provincial Monitoring Station	Warning Level (m)	Current Water Level	Compared to 25.10.00	Water level compared to this time 1999	Water level compared to this time 1998
Stung Treng - Mekong River	<b>10.70</b>	5.80	-0.32	+ 0.43	+0.56
Kratie - Mekong River	<b>22.00</b>	15.23	-0.39	+ 1.85	+ 2.31
Kampong Cham - Mekong River	<b>15.20</b>	11.81	-0.19	+ 1.93	+ 2.07
Phnom Penh - Bassac River	<b>10.50</b>	10.04	-0.04	+ 1.47	+ 1.44
Kandal - Mekong River (Neak Lung)	<b>7.50</b>	7.19	-0.03	+ 1.04	- 0.24
Kandal - Mekong River (Koh Khel)	<b>7.40</b>	7.41	-0.02	+ 0.65	+ 0.84
Tonle Sap - Prek Khdam	<b>9.50</b>	9.64	-0.02	+ 1.66	+ 2.16

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

### Affected population

Kampong Speu province became a flood affected area last week when over 14,000 families suffered from effects of flash floods in five districts. To date, 21 provinces/municipalities of a total of 24, report flooding in 131 districts. The worst affected provinces continue to be in the south-east region namely Kandal, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Takeo and Svey Rieng. Battambang, Pursat and Siem Reap have also suffered significantly during the floods. The number of people who have temporarily moved to higher ground since July has reached 84,700 families in 12 provinces/municipalities. People try to return to their homes as soon as water levels subside but the challenge for recovery and rehabilitation work at the family, community, provincial and national level is overwhelming.

Below is a breakdown of the affected areas and estimated families and individuals affected as of 27 October 2000.

**Summary of Affected Areas and People on 27 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	14	6,274
3. Kampong Cham	14(16)	131,435	657,175	81	3,157
4. Prey Veng	12(12)	140,330	544,725	63	17,281
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	21	
8. Koh Kong	5(8)	2,690	12,009	1	
9. Odtar Mean Chey	5(7)	2,382	7,857		40
10. Svay Rieng	7(7)	30,274	149,391	29	15,162
11. Kandal	11(11)	159,168	806,850	79	19,725
12. Kampot	6(8)	13,928	68,776	4	1,768
13. Preah Vihear	1(7)	300	1,647		
14. Phnom Penh	5(7)	24,086	124,149		4,885
15. Kampong Chhnang	5(8)	18,081	76,429	2	
16. Ratanakiri	5(9)	1,937	11,538	1	
17. Pursat	6(6)	36,460	145,840	8	
18. Battambang	4(12)	25,347	132,453	4	7,956
19. Banthey Mean Chey	4(8)	4,067	16,268	2	
20. Kampong Som	1(2)				
21. Kampong Speu	5(8)	19,007	96,576	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131(176)</b>	<b>750,618</b>	<b>3,448,629</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>84,717</b>

Source: National Committee for Disaster Management dated 27 October 2000

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

The RGC continues to lead the emergency response assistance to flood victims all over the country. The National Committee for Disaster Management reported on 27 October that 13,640 MT of rice and essential relief items have been delivered to 576,206 families by the RGC. In addition, Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRC) distributions include 5,290 MT of rice and essential relief items to 149,918 families. This figure includes the ongoing CRC distributions of WFP emergency rice, commenced in late September. Other organisations have reportedly assisted some 43,600 families. Emergency relief distributions continue and second round distributions have already commenced in some areas to those families who received only 20 kg of rice at the beginning of the disaster and are still in need of emergency food aid.

The Cambodian Red Cross Society, in partnership with the World Food Programme, is currently distributing 5,000 MT of "free food" this month based on joint assessments to identify the current needs of beneficiaries. The criteria for a further 5,000 MT of "food for repair" in November/December, was discussed at the last food security and infrastructure sub-group meeting chaired by the Ministry of Rural Development on 17 October. Individual families will have access to this food while they carry out repairs to their homes and land. An additional 5,000 MT of "food-for-work" in January-March will benefit communities through repair and rehabilitation work done at the community level.

The National Committee for Disaster Management reported on 27 October that the RGC has made 2,970 MT of rice seeds available to be distributed to farmers. The total estimated need for rice seeds is 4,300 MT. Some NGOs are planning or have commenced rice seed projects in communities in which they are active.

### ***Health sector***

Following discussions with the Ministry of Health (MoH), arrangements for mobile preventative health activities have now been agreed. Training of Trainers (ToT) for the national mobile teams was carried out by the Ministry of Health and the Cambodian Red Cross, with Federation support, from 24 to 26 October. One group of teams will focus on Vitamin A and ORS distribution to families in safe areas. A second group of teams will concentrate on the distribution of alum and chloramine tablets to areas where population density is high, water points have been destroyed and/or where there is an increase in diarrhoea. The total requirement for chloramine tablets for water purification is estimated to be 50 million tablets to cover the emergency and mid-term needs of the affected population.

It was intended that a measles vaccination campaign would also be carried out by the mobile teams, but the Ministry is confident that its routine immunisation activities are sufficient to provide adequate coverage to the affected population.

The health data collected by the emergency section of the department of preventative health requires further work to make it more sound from an epidemiological point of view. As the flood waters recede, further outbreaks of disease can be anticipated.

The Ministry of Health estimates that at least 132 health centres and referral hospitals in 20 districts of 11 provinces will require repairs as a result of damage caused by the floods.

The Ministry of Agriculture has already used up its small stock of animal vaccines for the emergency, and urgently requires more vaccines, fodder and shelter for animals. These animals are essential for food security. Reports and a discussion in relation to the nutritional status of animals, animal stress and diseases due to displacement, inadequate nutrition and shelter will be on agenda at the MEDICAM meeting scheduled for 27 October.

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

In conjunction with the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), provincial implementation plans have been developed and agreed for a co-operative approach to the rehabilitation of community wells once the flood waters start to recede in three provinces in the south east. This co-operative approach will bring together the technical expertise of Provincial Departments of Rural Development, the authorities responsible for rural community water supplies and the resources of Provincial Red Cross branches, enabling the broadening of the response capacity through vital funding support and human resource mobilisation. This approach is being expanded to support community well rehabilitation in 8 provinces, particularly targeting areas where there is minimal support for water and sanitation activities by other aid agencies.

Information continues to be received on other agency operations. In the northern Mekong River provinces, water point rehabilitation works commenced as flood waters in these provinces receded. Other agencies are sharing their plans for implementation as conditions and funding permits.

### ***Co-ordination efforts***

The core group, proposed by the Federation in the emergency response group (ERG) meeting on 5 October, met for the first time on 12 October prior to the ERG meeting scheduled for the same day. The Royal Government of Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) agreed to the proposed structure of the core group as follows: the NCDM, Cambodian Red Cross, the Federation and the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UN-DMT). The first discussion of the core group concentrated on the still unmet emergency assistance needs of some of the affected

population and action planned, the need for planning of joint damage assessments led by the RGC and the establishment of a disaster data management team to consolidate and analyse all available data on the ongoing crises.

The ERG weekly meeting continues to serve as a focal point for the exchange of information for all interested parties at the national level. Four sub-groups, led by the relevant Ministries, continue to meet regularly with the support of relevant international and non-governmental organisations. Extraordinary health emergency meetings are held at MEDICAM to discuss the major challenges and actions taken.

The UN-DMT was strengthened by the arrival of the OCHA Co-ordinator on 17 October. He will support the UN Resident Co-ordinator for UN flood assistance co-ordination. Briefings, co-ordination and information sharing are maintained between the Red Cross and the UN.

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

### ***Emergency Relief***

The Cambodian Red Cross Society commenced its assistance to the affected flood victims in July and has continued distributions since that time. To date, 149,918 families have received emergency assistance through Red Cross distributions in 18 provinces.

### ***Health***

The Federation health co-ordinator has actively supported the Cambodian Red Cross Society in planning for emergency and mid-term health activities in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and other agencies. The Federation funded training of trainers (ToT) sessions for national mobile teams which took place from 24 to 26 October at the Japanese Red Cross Society/CRC supported Chamcar Mon Health Centre where 40 MoH national mobile team members were trained on the use of oral re-hydration salts (ORS), Vit-A, aluminium sulphate and chloramine tablets.

The Federation has ordered 15 million chloramine tablets and the procurement process for one million malaria treatment tables is ongoing to assist Ministry of Health and its partners to fight against water borne diseases. The first three million chloramine tablets are scheduled to arrive in Cambodia on 5 November.

An emergency health delegate has been identified and is scheduled to arrive in Cambodia in mid-November for a three month mission. In the meantime, the Federation is looking for an emergency health professional to be recruited locally to assist the health co-ordinator.

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

Distribution of drinking water has commenced in safe areas and roadside communities in provincial areas around Phnom Penh. Up to 2,400 people are provided with water at 20 x 3,000 litre static water tanks placed in strategic positions along national roads. Further assessments will continue in the newly affected flood areas. Work is commencing on improving sanitation in these areas. Furthermore, a water and sanitation delegate is scheduled to arrive on 2 November.

### ***The role of Red Cross volunteers***

From the beginning of the disaster, the network of some 5,000 Red Cross volunteers has played an important role in community organisation, assessments, data gathering, identification of safe areas, evacuation of people, as well as in preparation of and participation in relief distributions. They have actively participated in the disaster committees at village and/or commune level and assisted in first aid in their respective communities. Volunteers also play an important role in disseminating basic health

messages including hygiene education. Since the national mobile teams have been trained on distribution of aluminium sulphate and chloramine tablets, ORS and Vit-A, the Red Cross volunteers will increasingly participate in health activities by supporting the national mobile teams and health authorities in their efforts to fight against water borne diseases. They will also participate in hygiene education and in building latrines with other members of their communities.

## ***Outstanding needs***

While the Federation appeal is fully covered, the need for technical professionals for the operation still remains unmet in the area of health and water and sanitation. These needs will be largely fulfilled in the near future following the arrival of the water and sanitation delegate at the beginning of November.

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

Through the co-ordination mechanism established in October, it has been possible to share information and co-ordinate actions satisfactorily during this crisis despite the lack of a disaster information centre. The establishment of such a centre will be a long term development task in co-operation with the National Committee for Disaster Management for which process the International Federation has committed itself, in association with the Cambodian Red Cross and other partners. In the meantime, the establishment of a data management team is ongoing and it is hoped that more comprehensive, consolidated indicative data on the total affected population and assistance provided will be available for the next emergency response group meeting scheduled for 2 November.

Publicity, visibility and media coverage for Red Cross action is being maintained through local mass media. Hand-outs on Red Cross action are being issued during every emergency response group meeting and the Federation has compiled and circulated minutes of each meeting to over 100 participants and recipients. Federation situation reports are being circulated in all core meetings and distributed to the authorities of the country, all Embassies, UN agencies, relevant international and national organisations and agencies.

The Federation and the Cambodian Red Cross have played a major role in supporting information sharing and co-ordination efforts. In addition to issuing regular situation reports, press releases and special bulletins, a briefing package summarising indicative data and statistics is shared with briefing notes at each in-country emergency response group meeting. The Red Cross has supported and promoted the establishment of the flood disaster core group (NCDM, CRC, UN-DMT, the Federation) which meets for the second time on 27 October. Close co-operation is maintained with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Rural Development.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The fully covered Federation appeal and positive response to the Cambodian Red Cross local emergency appeal in July 2000 have enabled the Red Cross flood relief operation to continue

effectively and smoothly. Procurement of essential relief items, as indicated in the emergency appeal, is now almost complete and distribution of emergency relief items to the most vulnerable flood victims continues, together with the provision of food assistance provided by the Red Cross and its partners. The emphasis of Red Cross action is increasingly placed on preventative health measures and water and sanitation activities. The next challenge, while emergency relief assistance continues among the affected population, is to plan for the damage assessments led by the Royal Government of Cambodia so that all partners which have potential resources may participate from the beginning of the process.

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

Cambodia floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 22/2000						PLEDGES RECEIVED
						10/27/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>4,049,830</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 117.7%</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
BRITISH GOVT/RC DFID		294,118	GBP	735,295	17.10.00	WTER SANITATION, HEALTH
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
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	51,391	28.09.00	
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	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		50,000	NZD	37,345	04.10.00	
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>				4,754,274	CHF	117.4%
<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>				11,717	CHF	0.3%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PKH517,						