

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

11 September 2001

Appeal No. 29/01

Launched on 3 September 2001 for CHF 2,035,000 for 6 months

DREF Allocated: 0

Beneficiaries: 100,000

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 4 - 10 September 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 0.0%

Related Appeals: 01.41/2001 (Cambodia Annual Appeal)

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,035,000

Summary/Update: Infrastructure is already weak after last year's devastating floods and Cambodia is currently affected not only by further floods in 12 provinces but also by extensive drought in 12 provinces (often the same provinces but different districts). Food shortages are therefore experienced by both flood and drought victims. This Operation Update, along with three recently published web site stories from Cambodia, urges international donors to support this appeal so that the immediate needs of the vulnerable can be met through the timely procurement and distribution of relief items.

Operational Developments

The rainfall in the Mekong Delta since 15 August has resulted in increased water levels during this reporting period. 12 out of 24 provinces now report flooding along the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers. Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Kandal provinces remain the worst hit. The forecast for the upcoming five days estimates increased water levels in the upper stream resulting in prolonged flooding in some provinces in Cambodia. The table below shows the current water levels as of 10 September at the main measuring stations in Cambodia and the estimated forecast:

Province/ Municipality	Measuring station	Flood level	Alarm level	Observed	Forecasted water levels		
				water levels	11 Sept	12 Sept	13 Sept
				10 Sept			
Stung Treng	Stung Treng	12.00	10.50	9.70	10.22	10.58	10.56
Kratie	Kratie	23.00	22.00	20.51	20.87	21.36	21.73
Kompong Cham	Kompong Cham	16.20	15.20	14.65	14.82	15.06	15.37
Phnom Penh	Phnom Penh	12.00	10.50	10.42	10.43	10.51	10.62

	(Bassac)						
Phnom Penh	Phnom Penh Port		10.70	9.31	9.32	9.37	9.45
Kandal	Koh Khel (Bassac)			7.58	7.58	7.58	7.60
Prey Veng	Neak Luong			7.57	7.56	7.56	7.59
Kandal	Prek Kdam (Tonle Sap)			9.38	9.40	9.43	9.51

Source: Mekong River Commission (MRC) web side forecast (www.mrcmekong.org)

The number of affected people has reached 1.2 million (309,616 families) with 56 deaths, the majority of them children. Rising waters have forced an increasing number of families to leave their homes, more than 75,000 to date, according to the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM). Food and shelter remain the most important needs for the affected population at this time, with safe drinking water, sanitation and health a priority for the temporarily displaced camping in crowded safe areas. The following table summarizes the main population affected as of 5 September:

No.	Province [NCDM statistics]	Number of districts affected [NCDM statistics]	Number of people affected [NCDM statistics]	Number of families affected [NCDM statistics]	Number of evacuation sites [information from CRC statistics]	Number of evacuation sites equipped by RC with watsan facilities during 2000 floods	Number of families evacuated [NCDM statistics]
1	Stung Treng	5	41'242	7'517	?	-	2'718
2	Kratie	5	130'052	25'491	58	-	10'085
3	Kampong Cham	13	161'115	97'877	28	7	17'003
4	Kandal	8	291'444	56'115	7	8	20'204
5	Prey Veng	7	464'963	97'594	120	3	11'740
6	Svay Rieng	2	0	0	8	9	356
7	Kompong Thom	3	0	0	?	5	0
8	Siem Reap	1	0	0	?	-	0
9	Koh Kong	3	0	0	?	-	371
10	Phnom Penh	4	18'958	3'792	17	-	1'070
11	Preah Vihear	3	0	0	?	-	0
12	Takeo	8	95'995	21'230	?	-	11'583
	TOTAL	62	1'203'769	309'616	-	32	75'130

Source: NCDM statistics as of 5 September 2001; CRC statistics for evacuation sites as of 5 September 2001

Animals, children and adults occupy road sides, and the use of national roads therefore presents an increased risk to the already challenging road safety in Cambodia. This relative accessibility of animals on the roads has however allowed the Ministry of Agriculture to take the opportunity to vaccinate livestock.

Hundreds of temples (pagodas) and schools on higher grounds have been identified and used as safe areas in the affected provinces. The number of displaced families camping at each evacuation site varies from 2 to 501 families. Many safe areas do not have adequate facilities to accommodate hundreds of families, even for a short time, and therefore the need for safe drinking water and latrines becomes urgent in those safe areas. In crowded sites, hygiene conditions are rapidly deteriorating. 32 safe areas in Svay Rieng, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Kampong Thom are equipped with water and sanitation facilities from the flood 2000 emergency operation. Three Red Cross teams have assessed the present situation in these safe areas.

The immediate needs of evacuees in safe areas are being addressed by the Royal Government of Cambodia mainly through NCDM, the CRC and other NGOs. The NCDM continues its co-ordination efforts and weekly meetings are held with main aid agencies for information sharing and joint actions between the NCDM and its partners. This appeal aims to support the CRC relief operation addressing beneficiary needs among 100,000 people in relation to shelter, water and sanitation, health as well as co-ordination and management.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During this reporting period, relief distributions of rice, shelter, clothing materials and hygiene items (soap and washing powder) have continued in the worst hit provinces. The CRC distribution areas are being negotiated with the NCDM in order to avoid overlapping of relief aid. The table below articulates the facts and figures of CRC distributions to date (some information from distributions organized by provincial Red Cross branches may have not yet reached the national headquarters during the reporting time and they will be reported in the next operation update):

CRC distributions done:			
Date	Province	Number of beneficiary families received relief assistance	Remarks
23 Aug	Stung Treng	768	By CRC Branch
25 Aug	Kampong Cham	260	By CRC Branch
25 Aug	Kratie	488	By CRC Branch
27 Aug	Kampong Cham	1'724	By CRC NHQ; Federation present
01 Sept	Kandal and Prey Veng border	2'007	By CRC NHQ; Federation present
03 Sept	Prey Veng	1'200	By CRC NHQ
03 Sept	Kandal	819	By CRC NHQ
05 Sept	Kampong Cham	320	By CRC Branch
08 Sept	Phnom Penh	413	By CRC NHQ
09 Sept	Svay Rieng	867	By CRC NHQ
11 Sept	Prey Veng	951	By CRC NHQ
TOTAL	7 provinces		
CRC distributions planned:			
12 Sept	Phnom Penh	543	By CRC NHQ
13 Sept	Prey Veng	1'570	By CRC NHQ
13 Sept	Kandal	513	By CRC NHQ
23 Sept	Kampot	1'334	By CRC NHQ

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) has had a good response to their national appeal launched on 30 August with USD 161,670 in cash, 194 MT rice, 100 sarongs, 100 trousers, 50 cartons of noodles and 20 boxes of canned fish received to date. These funds are being used to procure urgently needed rice and essential relief items.

The United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) has responded positively to the CRC request for 500 MT of rice to top up their current resources for emergency needs. Negotiations are underway for signing an agreement and handing over the donation.

Relief distributions

Since the Federation funded relief items are not yet ready for distribution, the Federation Head of Delegation has taken part in and observed two major relief distributions organized by the CRC in the provinces of Kampong Cham and Prey Veng/Kandal border area on 27 August (1,724 families), 1 September (2,007 families) and by the NCDM in Kandal Province on 7 September (250 families). The Federation Regional Information Officer also accompanied the distribution team to the border on Kandal and Prey Veng Provinces on 1 September. All these distributions have taken place in safe areas.

Objective 1: 20,000 families have basic relief items

The Federation has initiated the procurement process of the relief items by submitting the Procurement Requisition (PR) to the Cambodian Red Cross. After receiving and accepting the comparative bid analysis (CBA), and as soon as there are sufficient funds available, the purchase order (PO) will be issued to the CRC.

A Belgian Red Cross bilateral Logistics delegate, working with CRC from 22 August to 15 November, will assist and support the work of the CRC procurement committee.

Shelter

Objective 1: 20,000 families in safe areas have adequate shelter

The procurement process of 20,000 plastic sheets has been initiated by issuing a procurement requisition (PR) to the CRC procurement committee. After receiving and accepting the comparative bid analysis (CBA), and as soon as there are sufficient funds available, the purchase order (PO) will be issued to the CRC.

Logistics / Communications

Access to many of the affected areas is very difficult and time consuming due to high water levels, lack of transport and lack or very limited communication means.

Objective 1: Communications network is established in flood affected areas

Insufficient funds available.

Water-sanitation

Objective 1: Permanent water and sanitation facilities are constructed in safe areas to minimize the risk of the wide-scale spread of infectious diseases, particularly diarrhoea and skin diseases.

Objective 2: Existing water supplies are functioning properly

Objective 3: Safe water and hygiene information in flood affected areas.

In addition to the assessment missions by the Federation and the CRC to safe areas, the Federation Regional Water and Sanitation Officer was mobilized for four days to assist the delegation and the CRC in technical assessments in new safe areas and to prepare a plan of action for this operation. The Plan of Action is well underway, requiring only final details to be completed. The Ministry of Rural Development, provincial authorities and other relevant agencies have been contacted for co-operation and informed of this planned action. Oxfam (GB) has expressed their interest to support this sector and negotiations for co-operation are underway. The plan will be implemented as soon as funds are available.

Health

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has actively participated in the co-ordination forum at the NCDM stating they are in regular contact with the Provincial Health Departments monitoring the situation. In the NCDM chaired Working Group (WG) meeting on 7 September the MoH stated that no major health problems were reported to date from affected provinces except a slight increase of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and scabies (skin disease) in Prey Veng and Kampong Cham, the two worst hit provinces.

Objective 1: 20,000 families receiving health education information

Insufficient funds available.

Objective 2: 26 safe areas have been assessed

Some 35 safe areas have been assessed by the Federation and CRC. 16 of the safe areas were occupied by approximately 1,736 families (10,068 people). Other safe areas are in provinces where flood waters have yet to reach critical levels.

Preliminary reports from the CRC and Federation assessment teams indicate that the facilities in safe areas are well used, but more water and sanitation facilities are needed to cater for the increasing number of people coming into the safe areas. Minor diarrhoea and fever cases have been reported in some of the safe areas.

Federation Delegation

The Federation delegation has identified a *Federation flood operation core group* from the current international and national staff by reallocating duties for planning and co-ordination, finance, relief supplies, health, watsan and media management. Given the current scope of the floods, the delegation will be able to cope up with the situation for the time being with back-up support from the regional delegation on water and sanitation, media management, reporting and fund-raising. Media, marketing and donor contacts are also supported by relevant departments in the Geneva based Secretariat.

Coordination and Management

The RGC’s National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) has continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to its lead role in co-ordinating this disaster. This initiative is fully supported by the Federation, Cambodian Red Cross, United Nation - Disaster Management Team and others participating in these meetings. The following co-ordination structure was discussed and agreed during a co-ordination meeting chaired by the NCDM on 7 September:

Lead Role for Co-ordination: RGC’s National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)			
National level:			
WHAT	WHEN	WHO	WHERE
Core Group Meeting	Every Monday morning at 8:30 am	NCDM, CRC, UN-DMT, IFRC (the Federation); chaired by NCDM	NCDM Secretariat
Working Group Meeting	Every Friday morning at 8:30 am	All relevant and interested relief/recovery/ Rehabilitation/ donor organizations and aid agencies; chaired by NCDM	NCDM Secretariat
Sectoral Sub-Groups: 1. Emergency Relief 2. Food Security 3. Health 4. Water and sanitation	To be determined by each line ministry responsible for chairing the meeting in co-operation with relevant UN-DMT agency for support	Emergency relief: NCDM supported by CRC/IFRC and others Food security: Ministry of Agriculture supported by WFP and FAO Health: Ministry of Health supported by WHO, UNICEF and others; animal health by Ministry of Agriculture Water and sanitation: Ministry of Health (emergency watsan) and Ministry of Rural Development (recovery/ Rehabilitation) with support from UNICEF and others	NCDM and/or at the each line Ministry.

PROVINCIAL LEVEL:			
WHAT	WHEN	WHO	WHERE
Provincial Working Group	To be determined by	Provincial Committee for	Each PCDM to determine

	provincial authorities and PCDM; preferably every Wednesday so that information can be compiled and sent in time to the NCDM for the Friday morning Core Group Meeting	Disaster Management (PCDM) to chair and to be supported by the provincial Red Cross branch, all relevant aid agencies to participate	
Sub-groups for technical areas	To be determined according to needs at the provincial level	Provincial departments of relevant line ministries	To be determined by provincial authorities

Overall co-operation has been good during this reporting period between the NCDM, CRC, UN-DMT and the Federation at the national level. Several meetings have been held individually and collectively between the main aid agencies. The Federation and UN-DMT Co-chair (WFP) have communicated on a daily basis and participated jointly in the NCDM food and relief distribution for 250 families in Kandal province on 7 September. Provincial level co-ordination works well in some provinces but others still need encouragement and assistance in organizing themselves and sharing information. Disaster information gathering, including information on who is doing what and where, remains a challenge for the current co-ordination mechanism. There is no consolidated information available on assistance given so far by various agencies. This needs addressing urgently in order to be able to monitor the changing needs of the affected population and to continue to target the most vulnerable.

The Federation has finalized the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Disaster Management Consultant to be based at the NCDM for co-ordination and disaster management information support. The anticipated start date for the DM Consultant is 24 September. The UN-DMT have made a commitment to identify UN funds to allow the same Consultant to continue for another 10 months to support the NCDM.

Three UN-DMT members, namely WFP, UNICEF and WHO have nominated members for sectoral assessment teams in affected provinces. PCDM is currently forming assessment teams with interested agencies. The CRC have advised their provincial Red Cross branches to co-operate closely with these assessment teams. The Federation will concentrate on assessing the changing needs in safe areas.

A tripartite agreement for emergency stocks was signed this week by the CRC, Belgian Red Cross and the Federation. Through this agreement, the Belgian Red Cross with its funding support from the Belgian Government will assist the CRC to purchase 6,000 emergency household kits and 6'000 units of additional relief items, such as plastic sheets, mosquito nets and hygiene commodities. A procurement requisition (PR) for these items has been submitted to CRC and the comparative bid analysis (CBA) process awaited. Negotiations are underway between the CRC and the American Red Cross for relief item support (plastic sheets and mosquito nets) for USD 25'000 (USAID funding). The Federation has shared all relevant information with the French Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross in-country colleagues.

Outstanding needs

While to date there have been *no* hard pledges received from donors, the following have indicated that support may be forthcoming: Korean Red Cross (CHF 20,000); Swedish Red Cross (SEK 1 million), and Canadian Red Cross and CIDA (CAD 100,000). A funding proposal has been submitted to the Norwegian Red Cross, and there are also indications of interest from other participating National Societies. Negotiations are currently underway between National Societies and their respective governments. Based on the lessons learned of last year's flood operation, the delegation encourages donors to avoid - if possible - any specific implementation or reporting requirements within this operation.

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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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

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Cambodia - Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 29/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				11.09.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'034'955		TOTAL COVERAGE 0.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				0	CHF	0.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						