

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

NEPAL: MONSOON FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES

19 September 2002

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 23/2002

Launched on 12 August 2002 for CHF 2,472,000 (USD 1.64m/ EUR 1.68m) for six months for 130,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 150,000

Operations Update No. 1

Period covered: 12 August - 12 September 2002 ;

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 76% (recent soft pledges yet to be recorded should soon cover appeal)

Related Appeals: South Asia regional programme (01.24/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 576,604

Summary: Donor support has been strong and several pledges have been received that should take coverage over 100 percent. This support has enabled international assistance to be channelled to support the National Societies efforts on behalf of those most in need. The Nepal Red Cross' capacity to respond well to crisis is being demonstrated on a daily basis.

Operational Developments w

The heavy monsoon rains from 21-24 July were the highest recorded in the past three decades in Nepal. The monsoon caused major suffering and destruction in the eastern, central and some parts of western Nepal. The death toll reached well over 440 with 173 people still reported missing. An aerial assessment indicated massive destruction, particularly in the hilly regions. More than 301,058 of people in 49 of the county's 75 districts have been severely affected. Around 32,000 people have been made homeless as their homes were buried under tonnes of debris, mainly mud and boulders that tumbled downhill at high velocity or rushing waters swallowing all that came its way. These people have been forced to look for temporary shelters in nearby school buildings, with their relatives or hosting families. There are still some people who are living in the open air using plastic sheeting provided by the Nepal Red Cross as an emergency shelter.

On 21 August, fresh landslides occurred in the central region of Nepal killing 41 persons. Similarly, on 22 August, on the Prithibhni highway, sudden landslides caused a road accident when a bus full of passengers was

hit by a rock. Total death toll reached 46 and 45 people have been reported missing. In an another accident caused by poor visibility at Pokhara airport, a small passenger aeroplane crashed causing death to 18 people.



Despite continuous monsoon rain, some of the damaged highways have been partially reopened enabling road transport of relief materials to the affected areas.

According to the initial reports from the field, many of the affected districts are now faced by a potential outbreak of waterborne and mosquito borne diseases such as encephalitis, typhoid, dysentery and diarrhoea. The most affected are districts of Morang, Sunsari, Mohattari, Saptari, Siraha, Jhapa, Chitawan and Nawalparasi. There is a growing need to take necessary measures for disease control and appropriate treatment of affected population.

The monsoon is expected to remain active throughout the country until the end of September. The plight of victims affected by flooding and landslides continues. It is important to mention, that even if the overall flood and landslides situation continues to improve it would take at least until the end of the year before these families would be able to go back to their damaged homes or build new ones. Therefore, it is essential that these families are given minimum humanitarian assistance which includes three month food ration and a family kit with basic household utensils to get back to some normality.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The Nepal Red Cross immediately responded to the humanitarian needs caused by the disaster. Since the beginning of the relief operation the following activities have been carried out by the national society staff and volunteers:

- Immediate search and rescue, evacuation of affected people and establishment of temporary shelter. Majority of SAR activities were carried out by the volunteers in the central-eastern districts of Nepal: Makawandpur, Chitwan, Dhanusha and Nawalparasi.



- The NRCS also provided basic first aid assistance providing basic medicines and treatment to sick and injured people.

In addition to First Aid, Search and Rescue services and evacuation of affected families, Nepal RC dispatched their own disaster preparedness stocks from four central and regional/zonal warehouses and mobilised local fund-raising. Within two days, approx. 1000 NRCS volunteers managed to reach the most affected areas and complete the first distribution of emergency relief. They have distributed relief items-family packages : more than 10 MT of food items (i.e.: rice, salt, sugar, oil) to 9,419 families (approx.47,095 beneficiaries) : 44 districts in both the eastern central-easter and western regions of the country.

Each family package consists of: a plastic tarpaulin, a woollen blanket, a female saree, kitchen utensils, male dhoti, plain clothes (6 m), printed cloths (5 m) and jeans clothes (5 m). The relief materials were despatched from: the NRCSs central warehouse in Kathmandu (1,710 family packages, 50 tarpaulins), eastern regional warehouse Birgunj (2,175 family packages, 650 tarpaulins, 307 utensils and 825 blankets, regional warehouse Biratnagar (2,430 family packages and 195 tarpaulins) and zonal warehouse Pokhara/Bhairahawa (510 family packages and 40 tarpaulins). The total cost of the materials distributed is approx. CHF 420,000

The NRCS continues to maintain close contacts with its affected Chapters/Units. Disrupted road communication, lack of telephone connection and disrupted air-flights transportation have made it almost impossible for the NRCS NHQ to maintain regular contact with far remote Districts of Ramechhaph, Khotang and Taplejung. At the NRCS headquarters, an effective co-ordination with the Federation's regional delegation, the ICRC, sister National Societies, IO/NGOs, the Ministry of Home Affairs has continued. NRCS has also continued its active role as a member of the Disaster Management Committee chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs at central level in Kathmandu.

The release of CHF 150,000 (the Federation's Disaster Response Emergency Fund-DREF), in addition to a very fast and generous contributions from a wide range of national, regional and international donors including the ICRC and many sister National Societies, enabled immediate and initial deployment of 600 NRCS volunteers to carry out field surveys in six different chapters/units of the country and initiate the local

procurement process of relief items. All items were procured at district level under the guidance of the NRCS Chapter's procurement committees and overall supervision of the national headquarters in accordance to NRCS's procurement rules and regulation.

During the reporting period, several assessment missions were jointly carried out by Regional Disaster Response Delegate and NRCS in order to get as much as possible up to date information about the affected areas and needs accordingly. The findings of the NRCS/Federation teams will be used in the process of beneficiary selection and for the allocation of aid.

In addition to the support provided by the South Asia Regional Delegation in Delhi, an experienced Federation Relief Delegate has been deployed and arrived in Kathmandu on 4 September and will provide further support to the National Society ensuring day-to-day smooth implementation of the relief operation.

Objectives, activities and results w

Operation objective: *To meet the urgent needs of 20,000 unassisted and displaced families affected by floods, flash floods and landslides for the period of three months through provision of family kits, food items, clean water and building materials; and to maintain the response capacity of the national society in view of possible drought relief and population movements in the context of the current fluid political situation in Nepal.*

As the donor mobilised rapid response to the Appeal, the NRCS commenced the procurement process of relief items. Simultaneously, the continuation of the beneficiary selection process has been carried out and detailed distribution plans are prepared accordingly. With the immediate utilisation of existing DP stocks, and with the assistance of DREF and a generous response from all donors, 50% of the distribution of non-food items has been completed while the purchase of food items is well under way. The remaining 50% of the distribution of the non-food items will be carried out based on the new beneficiary selection list, currently under preparation.

It is important to mention that, if the political situation in the country deteriorates, some delays in implementation of relief operation could be expected. Currently the situation remains tense in districts targeted under this appeal; Chitwan District which is the major entry point to Kathmandu Valley and in Makawanpur District with has non-stop curfew. Many road communications get blocked suddenly and some cases of looting have been reported. These facts might affect the transportation of relief goods, especially when the air transportation is not available and many roads remain inaccessible due to damages caused by floods and landslides.

Search and Rescue w

Objective 1: *Support existing and future activities of volunteers*

Expected Result: Search and Rescue (SAR) of flood victims finalised in affected villages and three hundred volunteers better equipped for assessment and to assist in evacuation of vulnerable communities.

500 NRCS volunteers in 20 district chapters have been conducting search and rescue operations since the onset of disaster. Each chapter has active local volunteers. Currently, all chapters have been instructed by the national headquarters to select sufficient number (in average 20-50 active volunteers as per identified need of the district) of volunteers within their districts who would be able to access villages and/or obtain the information concerning SAR needs and provide possible help for the future. A total of 300 volunteers are in the process of being provided with better equipment for assessment and to assist in evacuation of vulnerable communities in case of new disasters. The process of local procurement of 300 backpacks, first aid kits, headlamps, T-shirts and raincoats is underway.

Water and Sanitation w

Objective 1: Distribution of water purification tablets

Expected Result: 12,000 people will have been enabled to disinfect their drinking water.

In the initial stage of the operation, NRCS received a donation of 1,326 bottles of commonly used water purification medicine (Piyush-liquid medicine- each bottle 60 ml) from a local NGO - Environment and Public Health Organisation Nepal (ENPHO).

All received medicine has been immediately sent to most affected district for further distribution to beneficiaries. Accordingly, districts of Parsa (510), Morang (408), Chitwan (102), Makwanpur (102), Kavre (102) and Bara (102) have received water purification medicine and completed distribution among most the affected population.

As water purification tablets are not easily available at this time of the year in the local market, and in view of the new priorities dictated by the situation on the ground, it has been decided to procure approx. 12,200 bottles of water purification medicine (Piyush) which is commonly used throughout the country and would not require addition training for its use among the beneficiaries. Each bottle will be sufficient for a month supply of drinking water per family (3 drops of Piyush would be enough for purification of 1 liter of water).

Procurement of 7,000 Pieces of ORS (treatment for diarrhoea) is also underway.

Relief Distribution - food and basic non-food items w

Objective 1: Distribution of household kits

Expected Result: 20,000 families will have received a family kit within one month after the beginning of this operation. The Disaster Preparedness stock of the NRCS will be replenished and increased by 50% (from 10,000 to 15,000 kits).

The final beneficiaries lists for the remaining 50% of the beneficiaries are to be completed shortly. The process of procurement of family kits (in accordance with NRCS/Federation procurement procedures) is also underway and it is being done in parallel with procurement of plastic sheeting as a plastic sheeting is to be included in each of family kits. Tender notice has been published in the newspapers and selection of potential supplier is to be completed shortly.

Please find below the distribution record of family kits and shelter material that NRCS distributed (using their own available buffers stocks) during the last four weeks:

Supplied from Central Warehouse Kathmandu			
No.	Districts	Family Kits	Tarpulins
1.	Kavre	683	760
2.	Dolakha	80	130
3.	Sindhupalchowk	60	60
4.	Dhading	50	50
5.	Bhojpur	40	40
6.	Ramechhap	200	200
7.	Nuwakot	100	100
8.	Taplejung	72	---
9.	Syanja	---	40
10.	Lalitpur	100	100
11.	Rasuwa	50	50
Tota		1,435	1,530
Supplied from Eastern Warehouse(Biratnagar)			
12.	Sunsari	50	50
13.	Udaypur	100	--
14.	Sankhuwasabha	100	50
Tota		250	100
Supplied from Middle Warehouse (Birgunj)			

15	Sindkhuli	125	125
16.	Sarlahi	250	250
17.	Rautahat	--	275
18.	Makwanpur	100	100
19.	Dhanusha	250	250
Total		725	1,000
Sub- Total		2,410	2,630
DP stock distributed from the onset of disaster (15 Jul-12 Aug)		7,009	895
Total distribution		9,4	3,525

This brings the total of distributed household kits up to approx. 47% of the targeted 20, 000. In view of the urgency and awaiting the availability of more financial resources, plastics sheets are prioritised and distributed ahead of the other components of the house hold kit.

Objective 2: Distribution of food items

Expected Result: 4,000 families will be provided with supplementary food items for three months.

Since the beginning of the relief operation, many of NRCS District Branches, through local fund-raising (in kind donations) have successfully collected significant quantity of food relief items which were immediately distributed to the most affected population.

Record of the various food items collected and distributed in the severely affected District Chapters of Makawanpur, Chitwan, Nawalparsi, Mohottari, Dhanusha, Siraha up to date:

No.	Items	Quantity in KG
1.	Rice	34,150 kg
2.	Beaten rice	24,219 kg
3.	Sugar	1,510 kg
4.	Salt	1,331 kg
5.	Noodles	300 packs
6.	Potato	709 kg.
7.	Biscuit	4 cartoons
8.	Pulse	525 kg.
9.	Egg	875 pieces.
10.	Oil	189 litres
11.	Maize	1016 kg.
12.	Miscellaneous/ Bhuja	440 kg.

As planned, local procurement of food items (240 MT. of rice, 48 MT. dal and 12,000 litres of cooking oil) is to commence at the end of the second week of September. All food items will be procured at district level under the guidance of NRCS Chapter's procurement committees and overall supervision of the national headquarters.

Identification of the 4,000 most vulnerable affected families is in its final stage. During the process of identification, the NRCS has taken into consideration gender, disability, family size and socio-economic situation including case.

Transportation (hiring local trucks) and distribution of procured food items is expected to commence at the end of September. Prior to distribution, each beneficiary would receive a ration card clearly indicating date, time and place of distribution.

Shelter w

Objective 1: Distribution of plastic sheeting

Expected result: 20,000 families will have received one piece of reinforced plastic sheeting within one month after the beginning of this operation.

This activity is directly related to the above objective concerning the procurement and distribution of family kits. The continuation of the beneficiary selection process is ongoing and it is expected that the remaining lists, completed by the districts will be verified in the coming week.

It is important to mention those families who have already received plastic sheeting as a priority item at an earlier phase will receive a kits without plastic sheeting.

(see above table regarding distribution of plastic materials up to date)

Rehabilitation w

Objective 1: Assist 200 of the most vulnerable families to rebuild their houses in mountainous districts within six months.

Expected Result: 200 houses will have been provided to the most vulnerable (to reinforce the NRCS in its advocacy role it is important that this work begins before plots for resettlement are allocated by the District government).

At district level, the process of identification of the 200 most vulnerable beneficiaries is completed. Tentative lists have been provided to the NRCS Disaster Management Department and are currently under review. The NRCS HQ has formed five team to verify the findings and identify together with the beneficiaries and local government officials safe areas for reconstruction. Initial discussions already indicate the willingness of the government to co-operate in this project.

A meeting with the government representatives has been scheduled for 1 October to finalise the allotment of plots. This coincides with the end of the monsoon season, after which weather is expected to allow for construction.

Advocacy and Protection w

Objective 1: To advocate with the district authorities for the resettlement of vulnerable communities in safer areas.

Expected Result: In the future the Government will play an increasingly active role in resettling people affected by disaster.

- A participatory meeting with the government authorities and the decision makers is being planned for October 2002. The main purpose of the meeting is to look into possibilities for the most vulnerable and landless of the flood-affected population for their resettlement in safe areas.
- The opinion of the affected people will be collected while visiting the field for assessment in the coming weeks.
- A story produced for publication on 'ifrc.org' by the SARD information delegate, highlighted the problems and issues associated with the impact of river erosion amongst communities living in the Terai region.

Objective 2: To publicise the impact of disasters, such as this, on vulnerable people.

Expected Result: It is ensured that, while operations are implemented reflecting the prevailing situation of conflict in Nepal, the ICRC assumes its responsibility to enhance the values of the fundamental principles of

neutrality, independence and impartiality, whose respect and implementation are of the highest importance to guarantee safe operations of the Nepal Red Cross Society and its partners.

- The SARD information delegate and the SARD information officer spent over three weeks in Nepal to support the NRCS information section and to liaise with the international media and the ICRC communications officer.
- Five stories linked to the disaster and the ongoing RC response have been written and published on 'ifrc.org' as well as the NRCS web site. Some of these stories were produced by the NRCS information team and some by the SARD information team.
- There has been consistent, almost daily coverage of Nepal RC relief activities in the Nepalese print media.
- On two occasions the NRCS information team have accompanied representatives of the national media including Nepal TV on press tours to visit NRCS relief activities in the field.
- The NRCS Info. department has issued on average, one press release each month. These press releases have reflected the ongoing response of the NRCS to the disaster and have been published widely in the print media and broadcast via the electronic media.
- Further media field visits are planned for September/October.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives w

Expected Result: Staff and volunteers of the NRCS will have been enabled to conduct this and future operations in accordance with the principles of the Federation's Better Programmes Initiative (BPI) and the ICRC's Conflict Preparedness program.

- A Better Programme Initiative (BPI) workshop is planned for November 2002. The workshop will enable the staff and volunteer to conduct operations in accordance with the Federation's Better Programme Initiative and the ICRC's Conflict Preparedness program.

Media/Public Information Plan w

Objective 1: *To publicise donor support to NRCS relief activities*

Expected Result: Good press coverage of the disaster and NRCS activities in relation to this, will have enhanced the image of the NRCS and advocated messages will have been disseminated by the media.

- The SARD information team secured fifteen interviews with various international media including BBC World TV and Radio, CNN International, RFI, VOA, AFP, Reuters and Deutsche Welle. Interviews were given over a two week period following the launch of the Appeal by the HoRD, the Secretary General of the NRCS and the regional Information delegate.
- Media correspondents at national and district levels have given extensive coverage of the NRCS relief activities in disaster response.
- NRCS and Federation Information officers visited the affected areas with local and national media correspondents to facilitate coverage of NRCS relief activities
- NRCS information department has been providing regular information briefings /press releases/ and a supply of photographs to national media representatives and organisations.
- NRCS web site has been regularly updated to give the latest information on NRCS relief activities.

The NRCS continues to follow the line of communication as stated in the co-ordination agreement between ICRC, Federation and NRCS. External communications is being co-ordinated between the ICRC communication co-ordinators, Federation information manager and the Information officer of the NRCS.

Co-ordination w

The NRCS and the Federation continue to maintain close co-ordination activities with ICRC, sister National Societies, the Government departments, UN agencies and IO/NGOs at both national and district level. In some districts, the Government, depending on the extensive NRCS network for reaching the affected population in remote areas with rescue, relief and first aid, has given the NRCS a co-ordinating function for distributing relief.

The Ambassadors and Country Directors of more than 25 selected diplomatic missions and NGOs in Nepal continue to receive updated situation reports from the NRCS Disaster Management Department.

Outstanding needs w

To date, the response to the Appeal has been very good. There is a very positive donor indication for the outstanding amount to be covered very shortly.

For further details please contact:

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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 web site.

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

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Nepal floods and landslides						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 23/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			18.09.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'472'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 76.6%
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100'000	AUD	81'130	27.08.2002	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		98'040	GBP	225'119	23.08.2002	
BRITISH - RC		16'508	GBP	37'906	23.08.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT		148'500	CAD	142'560	22.08.2002	
DANISH - RC		92'500	DKK	18'306	21.08.2002	
DANISH EMBASSY				60'000		BILATERAL
FINNISH - RC		60'000	EUR	88'188	14.08.2002	
FINNISH - RC		7'450	EUR	10'911	27.08.2002	PROG. MGT (PMN 0209058)
ICRC				100'000		BILATERAL
JAPANESE - RC		82'700	USD	123'967	20.08.2002	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	21'969		
NETHERLANDS MISSION DELHI		50'000	EUR	72'500		
SPAIN - RC				9'080		BILATERAL
SWEDISH - GOVT		800'000	SEK	127'840	14.08.2002	RELIEF ITEMS, INCL. TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION COSTS
SWISS - GOVT/SDC				400'000	30.08.2002	
SWISS - RC				80'000	14.08.2002	BILATERAL
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				1'000	12.09.2002	
USAID KATHMANDU		50'000	USD	73'695		BILATERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'674'171	CHF	67.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN - GOVT		149'000	EUR	218'225	27.08.2002	4'400 FAMILY KITS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				218'225	CHF	8.8%