

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

16 April 2003

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

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 1.64 m/EUR 1.68 m) for six months for 130,000 beneficiaries. Operational period extended until 31 March 2002.

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

Operations Update No: 3

Period covered: 1 December 2002 to 31 March 2003

Last Update: 19 September 2002;

Next Update: 4 (Final report) expected before end of June 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 107%

Related Appeals: Nepal Annual Appeal 2003 (01.55/2003; South Asia regional programme (01.24/2002)

List of pledges: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/1-2-3%20-%20ap2302.pdf

Summary: All objectives of the appeal, to meet the urgent need of the 20,000 most vulnerable and unassisted families affected by the disaster were achieved. Some delays were experienced in the housing part of the rehabilitation programme due to extensive preparatory work including legal procedures. This necessitated an extension of the operation by one month up to 31 March 2003. At that date 225 families, i.e. 25 more than initially planned, were assessed and provided with support for the reconstruction of their houses in seven districts.

Three hundred volunteers, who will be mobilized for future search and rescue activities and other related relief works, were identified and equipped. The volunteers worked with

distributions of relief assistance to the victims of the disaster.

Two workshops contributing to capacity building were held during this period: One orientation seminar on the Implementation Process of the Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program 2002/2003 and a lessons learnt workshop. The main lessons are now evaluated and the outcome will be included in the final report. The remaining funds will be used based on the outcome of the evaluation.

Operational Developments w

Since the last operations update, the political situation has improved considerably in the country. A ceasefire agreement between the government forces and the armed opposition was established in January 2003 and preparations for peace talks have begun.



People in the affected communities have played a key role in the construction work by donating their labour on the project. They have also contributed with funds for acquiring land.

This has improved the overall freedom for the people and organizations including the Nepal Red Cross. Today people generally feel comfortable from a security point of view and internally displaced people and migrants are returning to their homes.

The operation objective as stated in the appeal for this operation is as follows: ‘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 political situation in Nepal’.

Progress against objectives:

The Search and Rescue (SAR) objective has been met as stated in the previous update.

Three hundred volunteers, who will be mobilized for future search and rescue (SAR) activities and other related relief works, were identified and equipped as described in the previous update and as per the objective in the appeal.

The distributions of 12,200 bottles of water purification medicine, (locally called Piyush) and 7,000 pieces of oral rehydration salt (ORS, used for the treatment of diarrhoea locally called Jeevanjal) are completed as stated in the previous update, meeting the appeal objective. As no tablets were available at the local market were available, purification liquid was purchased. The equivalent of the tablets was purchased, distributed and stored as per expected result. A total of 20,303 household/family kits (compared with the objective of targeting 20,000 families) were distributed to the victims and altogether 121,818 people benefited from this support.

A total of 20,303 pieces (same as for household/family kits, they were mostly jointly distributed) of plastic sheeting/tarpaulin were distributed to the affected families compared with the expected result of 20,000. This benefits altogether 121,818 people in 20,303 families.

The distribution of household/family kits was to be finalised within the first month of operation but there was some delay due to the constraints specified under the section for Relief distribution-food and non-food items.

The distribution of food is completed, as mentioned in the previous update. A slightly higher number of families than indicated in the appeal were covered. In one particular district, Makawanpur, the number of affected families increased from the initial target. In view of local available resources and in coordination with the local government it was decided to provide food for one and a half months to a larger group of beneficiaries.

The food distributions were expected to be finalized at the end of January, covering the harsh winter months. Due to the prioritization of non-food items and a rigid beneficiary selection procedure to avoid overlap with local donations the distributions started one month later than planned. It was finalized at the end of February (as above, please refer to the constraints specified under the section for relief distribution-food and non-food items).

There has been a significant increase of media coverage on the impact of the disaster in local newspapers thanks to the continued work of the Nepal Red Cross information officers and Federation regional delegation’s information officer.

With all food and non-food items having been distributed and the housing programme still ongoing it was decided to close the operation on 31 March 2003. The housing programme provides affected people with earthquake resistant and locally acceptable housing in locations

less affected by floods. Affected communities played a key role in construction by donating labour/ working on the project as well as funds for purchasing land.

Environment friendly components have been used and environmental health taken into account, and water & sanitation facilities have been included in the planning for follow up.

The housing programme was delayed due to extensive preparatory work as well as necessary but lengthy formal legal procedures. At the end of the operation, 225 families (compared to the objective of 200) had been assessed and provided with support for the reconstruction of their houses in seven districts. In all places construction work has been on going in recent months. The reasons for some delay are due to the constraints mentioned under the rehabilitation section.

Coordination w

The Nepal Red Cross and the Federation continued to maintain close coordination activities with ICRC, sister societies, the Government departments, UN agencies, International NGOs (INGOs) and NGOs at both national and district level. The following is a result of the coordination:

- Save the Children Fund (SCF) of United Kingdom provided approximately 30,000 CHF to the Siraha district chapter for the immediate supply of household kits and other relief materials;
- UNDP Nepal office provided approximately 6,000 CHF for the transportation of relief materials;
- Peregrine International Trekkers, Nepal office provided approx.12,080 CHF for the reconstruction of seven houses in Taplejung district (one of the remote hilly districts);
- An MoU was signed between the Nepal Red Cross and the government's department of Construction and Physical planning for the design of 200 cost-effective houses to be constructed in different affected areas. They have started working jointly on the further implementation of the project. Discussion with government officials at central and district level aiming for the acquisition of lands in different districts and reconstruction of houses has resulted in adequate number of plots for 207 houses.
- Discussion with government officials in the central and district level, for the acquisition of lands in different districts, for reconstruction of houses has been ongoing.
- Guidelines and policies in the field of relief and rehabilitation have been prepared and shared with district chapters and field level stakeholders. Efforts have been made in every district to mobilize local resources.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

In August 2002 the Central Executive Committee annual review focused on the need to become more relevant in a conflict sensitive environment. The main steps are to develop a 5 Year Strategic Plan for 2003-2007 for the Society and to increase external relations with other appropriate institutions to develop more effective services. District Chapters have also recognized the demarcation of governance and management and this has been supplemented by training in management skills (outside this appeal) that have resulted in better services at community levels. For example, nearly all District chapters have now developed annual plans and disaster plans. Some subchapters have also developed their own disaster plans. The effectiveness of relief services has been felt, with relief having been given to flood victims within 24 hours. The support has been provided through the national and regional warehouses being activated immediately to supply family kits and tarpaulins to affected areas (which

received appreciative feedback from the local Swiss Government's SDC office in Kathmandu among others).

New policies in "Volunteer management", "Human Resource Development", and "Training", complemented by the Training Needs Analysis conducted nationally, have provided a better framework to enable staff and volunteers to develop their capacities and skills to deliver more effective services at all levels (again outside this appeal). For example project proposal writing and fund-raising trainings have been conducted for volunteers in four chapters of the Remote and Developing Chapters programme. The enhanced capacity has resulted in the chapters submitting proposals for new services on water provision to vulnerable communities to a more diversified range of potential partners and INGOs. More Chapter level training have also taken place, and ten training courses have been in the new regional training centre in four months, earning the centre 400,000 rupees of extra income to become self-sustaining from recharging for its services.

Please also refer to the following capacity building efforts described in this report: the orientation workshop on the implementation process of the Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Programme 2002/2003 and the lessons learnt workshop. The outcome is currently being evaluated and will be disseminated together with the final report.

Objectives, activities and results

Search and Rescue w

Objective 1: Support existing and future activities of volunteers

Please refer to the previous update. Objective met and activities completed.

Water and sanitation w

Objective 1: Distribution of water purification tablets.

Please refer to the previous update. Objective met and activities completed.

Relief distribution-food and non-food items w

Objective 1: Distribution of household/family kits

A total of 20,303 household/family kits (compared with the objective of targeting 20,000 families) were distributed to the victims and altogether 121,818 people have benefited. Each set of household/family kits consists of a tarpaulin/plastic sheet, a woollen blanket, a ladies sari, one set kitchen utensil, a male dhoti, i.e. mail clothing (only in Terai, i.e. plain areas), six meters of plain cloth, five meters of printed cloth and 5 meter jeans cloth.

The distributions covered all 49 affected districts out of the 75 districts of the country. The distribution data under the Appeal mainly covers 45 most affected districts (affected people in the remaining districts were provided with relief materials by Red Cross District Chapters' local collection). See distribution table under the relief section. The distribution record is presented in the table below:

No.	District	Quantity distributed (In family size)	No.	District	Quantity distributed (In family size)
1.	Sarlahi	910	24.	Parsa	230
2.	Siraha	430	25.	Sindhupalchowk	102
3.	Morang	744	26.	Rasuwa	150
4.	Mahottari	1,620	27.	Nuwakot	200
5.	Rautahat	675	28.	Sunsari	100
6.	Makwanpur	1,854	29.	Myagdi	25
7.	Chitwan	1,575	30.	Ramechhap	350
8.	Kavre	4,060	31.	Dailekh	137
9.	Dhanusha	1,540	32.	Nawalparasi	624
10.	Saptari	350	33.	Taplejung	337
11.	Sindhuli	156	34.	Ilam	233
12.	Lalitpur	355	35.	Okhaldhunga	176
13.	Lamjung	177	36.	Humla	126
14.	Tanahu	151	37.	Solukhumbu	100
15.	Syangja	384	38.	Kathmandu	127
16.	Tehrathum	127	39.	Khotang	225
17.	Jhapa	500	40.	Bhojpur	132
18.	Gulmi	24	41.	Dhankuta	50
19.	Dhading	233	42.	Baglung	170
20.	Dolakha	200	43.	Panchthar	50
21.	Kaski	17	44.	Parvat	85
22.	Bhaktapur	200	45.	Jajarkot	95
23.	Udayapur	200			
Grand Total: 20,303 sets					

As per request *and as part of this appeal* the German Red Cross provided bilateral support in the form of 4,400 family kits (included in table above). These German Red Cross distributions, clearly marked as donated by German Government, were finalised in November 2002.

Constraints: The main constraints faced regarding the non-food (and food) distributions were the following:

1. The verification of beneficiary lists were time consuming due to remoteness of some of the districts, the large number of districts and stretched human resources at HQ level.
2. Not all districts were able to return distribution reports in time due to limitations in communication.
3. Local needs as well as donations differed between the districts and were taken into account at district level for allocation. This gave in one district (Makwanpur) a different size family ration.

Objective 2: Distribution of food items

14 districts were identified for distribution of food items to the most needy disaster affected people. Initially the number of districts was expected to be sixteen. Considering the available resources and assessing the actual needs, 14 districts and number of families were selected for distribution of food items. The food distribution work in these 14 districts has been completed.

Initially it was planned to provide food relief to 4,000 severely affected families for their sustenance. But while undergoing the distribution, more families were found in starvation and were provided with the food relief. Altogether, 4,476 families benefited from the distribution or around 26,856 persons. The Red Cross district data of the food distribution is presented in the table below:

	District	Beneficiary Family Nos.	Frequency of distribution
1.	Nawalparasi	66	3
2.	Chitwan	250	3
3.	Makwanpur	1,210	1
4.	Parsa	118	3
5.	Sarlahi	284	2
6.	Mahottari	250	3
7.	Dhanusha	759	2
8.	Siraha	503	3
9.	Saptari	206	3
10.	Morang	400	3
11.	Taplejung	180	3
12.	Bhojpur	100	3
13.	Khotang	50	2
14.	Ramechhap	100	3

Constraints: As per the non-food distribution above.

Shelter w

Objective 1: Distribution of plastic sheeting



Prior to the construction of houses, the most vulnerable families received shelters consisting of plastic sheeting. This picture is from the Sarikhet village.

As mentioned in the household/family kits distribution table, a total of 20,303 pieces of plastic sheeting/tarpaulin have been distributed to the affected families. This benefits 121,818 people in 20,303 families.

Constraints:

Plastic sheeting normally is a part of the family kit. In view of the urgency to provide shelter this principle was in some cases abandoned. However those beneficiaries were registered and did not receive plastic sheets when the rest of the family kit arrived at a later time.

Rehabilitation w

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

Undergoing the assessment of the needy family for the reconstruction of their houses, 225 families were assessed and provided with support for the reconstruction of their houses in seven districts. In all places, the reconstruction work was being carried out at the end of the operation.

The table below shows the distribution of houses in the seven selected districts.

No.	Districts	No. of houses	Clusters	Name of the cluster/place	Progress achieved to date
1.	Nawalparasi	35	One	Naya Belhani	30%
2.	Chitwan	40	One	Jagatpur	60%
3.	Makwanpur	40	One	Sarikhet	40%
4.	Mahottari	47	Two (22 +25)	Sundarpur	30%

5.	Dhanusha	35	One	Dhanushadham	30%
6.	Siraha	16	Two (8 + 8)	Lagdigidiyani	30%
7.	Taplejung	12	Two (7 + 5)	Hangdewa and Limkhim	40%
Total: 225 houses in seven districts					

Constraints:

1. Some of the original assigned sites were rejected because they were too prone to floods or landslides. Safer land is more expensive and often already owned. The Nepal Red Cross solved this problem through the purchasing of land with local donations. The transfer of ownership to the beneficiaries will be arranged at a later stage.
2. The use of hollow concrete blocks, reinforced with iron bars, was not everywhere applicable because of the social context, traditional building practices and accessibility of the community. The same design was however applied in the areas where stone or brick was used as main building material, including a chained foundation and an earthquake band below the roof. Where hollow blocks were introduced, they were appreciated as a cheap and safe building material.

Lessons learnt activities:

In February the Nepal Red Cross organized a two-day **Orientation Workshop on the Implementation Process of the Rehabilitation/Reconstruction (RR) Programme 2002/003** in Souraha, Chitwan.

The workshop attempted to show the connection between design and implementation and commitment for desirable result in the rehabilitation/reconstruction program within the planned time frame. The intensity of personal sharing, the depths of discussion and the joys of collective living and learning are some of the most treasured moments of the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share information about the R/R program among the staff members and volunteers;
- Discuss progress of the program;
- Provide information on technical and other aspects of the program;
- Increase participation of district chapter, sub-chapter and beneficiaries in the construction activities;
- Prepare time frame for the completion of houses.

Nepal Red Cross staffs from all levels including senior management as well as volunteers including policy makers participated as did representatives from the Federation.

As planned in the appeal, the Society also organized a two-day **Lesson Learnt Workshop** in Souraha, Chitwan, on 23-24 March 2003. The main aim of the workshop was to share the lessons learnt during the Flood and Landslides Relief Operation 2002/2003, among the districts and NHQs. The workshop also conducted a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) of the Nepal Red Cross districts and NHQs referring to the relief operation. Altogether 72 persons participated. These included representatives from 18 district chapters, Central Executive Committee and. Four members of the Federation's Regional Delegation, were also present as observers. In addition the Nepal Red Cross National Chairman, Secretary

General, Joint Secretary General, Central Disaster Management Committee President and some members were also present in the workshop.

Progress achieved during the relief operation, timeline, relief operation timeline, problems faced and corrective measures applied were presented from the participating district chapters in the workshop. Mainly the workshop shared the important lessons learnt in the Relief Operation 2002/003. (A separate report of the workshop will be submitted later)

Advocacy and protection w

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

A preliminary participatory meeting with the government authorities was organized in November. The objective was to look into possibilities for the resettlement into safe areas for the most vulnerable and landless of the flood affected population. After similar meetings had been taken place at district level, areas for plots were found taking risks for landslides and floods into account.

The views of the affected people on their rehabilitation have been collected while visiting the field for assessment.

Timely coordination meetings with local government sectors were conducted in all 7 programme-implementing districts. It has made the implementation easier since all sides' coordination and cooperation have been acquired. All 7 districts are planning to organize an advocacy workshop at district level inviting all sectors: GO/NGO/INGO, Local Leaders, Media, Civil Society and others in their districts with the view to raise awareness.

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

With the view to draw attention to the impact of the disaster on women, children, the elderly population and the handicapped, a team of four members including two journalists, the Nepal Red Cross Information officer and the Federation's regional information officer visited Makwanpur, one of the worst affected districts in November, 2002. This has resulted in increased media coverage on the impact of the disaster in local newspapers.

Following the above activity and with the same purpose a team, comprising four members including three journalists from the Kantipur National Daily, Samacharpatra National Daily and the Spacetime National Daily, joined the Nepal Red Cross Information Officer and visited Chitwan, one of the worst affected districts in February, 2003. The visit resulted in increased media coverage on the impact of the disaster in local newspapers. Similarly the Federation's SARD team comprising DR Delegate, DP Manager, Information Officer and Reporting Officer visited the rehabilitation/reconstruction sites in Makwanpur, Chitwan and Nawalparasi, the worst affected districts in 21-22 March, 2003. This visit, in addition to other objectives, will also result in a story for the Federation website. In addition the Nepal Red Cross Information Officer is also preparing a second story for the same web site.

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

As already mentioned in the previous update, the planned Better Programme Initiative (BPI) Training of Trainers workshop took place between 9-19 December in Kathmandu. This enabled the staff and volunteers to conduct operations in accordance with the Federation's Better Programme Initiative and the ICRC's Conflict Preparedness programme.

Media/Public Information Plan w

Objective 1: To publicize donor support to Nepal Red Cross relief activities

The Nepal Red Cross information team visited the villages of Sarikhet situated in the Makwanpur district and Jagatpur of the Chitwan district. As a result, a story was published on the Society's website (address www.nrccs.org) on the first week of March on the post disaster situation of those places and focusing on the importance of the rehabilitation program.

The disaster response carried out by the NRCS is being highlighted in the quarterly news bulletin of NRCS. The quarterly bulletin of December 2002 updated the disaster response to date. Again quarterly bulletin on March 2003 will update on the disaster response to date.

Logistics Management

Both food items and non food items were locally procured. For the non food items in the family kits, framework agreements were established by the Nepal Red Cross before the monsoon season as part of the disaster response strategy. The distribution of kits could start at an early stage from the regional and zonal warehouses as well as from the central warehouse in Kathmandu.

The replenishment of the warehouses through local purchasing were in some stage hampered by transport problems due to routes cut off by landslides and roadblocks set up by the Nepalese army, causing long traffic jams.

The food items were procured by the Nepal Red Cross district branches. To facilitate this, the NRCS HQ transferred cash after verification of the beneficiary lists. Long transport times for perishable goods were in this way avoided.

As already stated in the previous update, two Leyland trucks have been bought. One of the trucks is with full body and the other with container. These trucks have been used for the transportation of relief materials and will be used in future for the relief materials transportation. With the purchase of these trucks the transportation capacity of the Nepal Red Cross has increased. Now it is in general able to deliver relief service using its own transportation.

National Society Capacity Building w

In order to address the changing political situation, the Nepal Red Cross will continue to receive support to increase their capacity in the areas of communication, transportation and visibility while the disaster preparedness stocks will be increased. USAID has provided the Nepal Red with three more vehicles. The ICRC and Federation will jointly organize three trainings of five days in disaster response and relief operations in conflict areas. Please also refer to the Better Programming Initiative ToT that was held in the second week of December as part of the regional Disaster Management programme. BPI will be integrated in the coming training mentioned above.

Federation Delegation w

In September, a Federation relief delegate was appointed for six months to support this operation and capacity building of the Nepal Red Cross. Mr. Songsheng Cao completed his mission on last February.

Similarly the Federation's SARD team comprising DR Delegate, DP Manager, Information Manager and Reporting Officer visited Nepal Red Cross end of March, mainly to follow up on the implementation of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program.

Outstanding needs w

Donor support has been strong, covering over 100%. The remaining funds will be dedicated to support the housing program in the area of sanitation. A minimum of 25 houses per site will be constructed in four districts. To further assist the beneficiaries of these houses, latrines will be installed on each site.

For further details please contact:

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Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact Name, Email, and Phone no. in the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

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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