

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: FLOODS

18 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 17/2004; Operations Update No 4; Period covered: 18 August to 2 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 63%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,767,360 (USD 2,193,457 or EUR 1,802,246) for six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries.

Outstanding needs : CHF 1,024,044 (USD 813,074 or EUR 667,961)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Annual Appeal 01.58/2004

Operational Summary: The Nepal Red Cross has to date distributed more than 28,000 family packages out of the 30,000 planned. More relief items are constantly being transported to districts and regional warehouses. Relief material supplies are being delivered to the central and regional warehouses. Food has also been distributed to needy families.

In their contact with the Red Cross, many beneficiaries have requested support for rehabilitation. Their outmost concern is how to re-start their lives without having any extra resources and having lost their homes. The appeal response to date is however not enough to cover rehabilitation activities included in the plan of action. More funding is therefore required. The response so far makes it possible to cover the immediate relief needs. The in-country resource mobilisation is continuing. There has been quite a good response from local missions and local international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in addition to the international contributions.

The current political situation in Nepal is not stable. However, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to implement the operation without any major problems up to date.

The Federation and Nepal Red Cross have used a cash transfer system for many years and pledge based reporting will therefore be provided directly by the national society.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Nepal Red Cross Society, Kathmandu, Badri Khanal, Executive Director, badri@nrcc.org, phone: 977 1 42 70 650 fax: 977 1 42 71 915.
- Federation Office, Kathmandu, Karin Hakansson-Furga, Federation Representative, ifrcnp01@ifrc.org, phone: 977 1 42 85 843, fax: 977 1 42 86 048.
- ICRC Delegation, Kathmandu: Nicolas Bachman, Communication Delegate, Kathmandu.kat@icrc.org, phone 977 1 44 82 285, fax: 977 1 448 29 37.
- For regional overview, contact Bob McKerrow, Head of Regional Delegation, South Asia, New Delhi. Phone +91 11 2685

8671, mobile +91 98 1000 1534, email – ifrcin02@ifrc.org

- In Geneva: Suzana Jekic, Asia-Pacific Department; email: suzana.jekic@ifrc.org ; phone: +41 22 730 4353 and Ewa Eriksson, email ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org , phone +41 22 730 4252.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Heavy rains which began in early July resulted in widespread flooding and landslides, causing suffering to thousands of people in eastern and central regions of the country.

As of 10 August a total of 800,000 people had been affected in 25 of Nepal's 75 districts. The official death toll remains at 185.

Many families were forced to evacuate with parts of southern Nepal submerged for over two weeks. There have been numerous landslides in the hilly region, sweeping houses away and forcing families to flee. More than 37,000 families are now displaced in the affected areas. Large areas of cultivated land and newly planted rice has been washed away. Up to 68,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged and many schools have been damaged. Infrastructure has been severely affected with bridges swept away and roads destroyed or damaged.

Water levels are receding but that threat is now being replaced by illness, with cases of waterborne diseases and diarrhoea on the rise. There is a need for caution despite the improvement in the weather over the past 10 days with the monsoon season forecast to last into next month. Nepal remains vulnerable to further flooding and landslides.

Operational developments

The review meeting of the relief operation was held at the end of August with the Nepal Red Cross chairman, secretary general, regional DR manager and presidents of affected districts. The relief operation so far was reviewed and experiences shared. One important issue discussed was the coordination with other organisations. From the meeting it became clear that districts had managed well, working in conflict-affected areas and being accepted by both parties of the conflict. The review meeting also discussed the possibilities of setting up rehabilitation centres and establishing more effective communication systems. The needs for rehabilitation activities were also confirmed.

More than 28,000 family packages have now been distributed, with food items being purchased and distributed. In the districts volunteers and staff are working with the continuous distribution and supporting families to return to a normal life. Coordination with other organisations has become essential since the Red Cross is seen as the lead organisation with an outreaching network.

The national society is continuing to produce regular reports on the number of affected people based on information from branches. With Red Cross volunteers able to access most of the affected communities, the national society has a reasonably clear picture of the current situation. There is regular contact with UN agencies, the Home Ministry and other organisations active in the DP Net.

The blockade on Kathmandu valley from 18 – 24 August did not affect the operation. Deliveries of supplies were made directly to the warehouses in the southern part of the country or directly to affected districts.

The Nepal Red Cross has decided to participate in an action learning exercise regarding the flood operation coordinated by the regional delegation. Terms of references and a team has been selected. The action learning will be done during the last two weeks of September and at the end of October.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Operation goal: To meet urgent needs of 180,000 beneficiaries of 30,000 vulnerable displaced and flood-affected families through the provision of food and family packages as well as to assist 15,000 families in the rehabilitation phase with seeds and 400 families with construction material.

Emergency relief

Objective: To assist 1,000 flood-affected families with food items for one month, to be distributed before the end of August.

Many of the affected districts are raising funds and in-kind food for distribution to the most vulnerable in their region. However, this not possible in some of the poorer districts which have limited Red Cross capacity. This food assistance will therefore be directed to the neediest families in districts lacking resources. The targeted beneficiaries will receive the full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organisations.

Each beneficiary family will receive a monthly ration of 73.8 kg rice, 10.8 kg pulse, 4.5 kg vegetable oil, 3.6 kg sugar and 1.35 kg salt.

Progress/Achievements

The districts that will receive support through the international appeal for food distribution have been identified and funds have been transferred. The selection is based on the need assessments and the capacity of districts to raise funds and in-kind food. The Nepal Red Cross has distributed food packages to 8,046 families through own fundraising in country. The support to an additional 1,000 families will be divided in the following way:

S.N.	Name of District Chapter	No. of families
1	Dhanusha	200
2	Mahottari	150
3	Sarlahi	200
4	Udayapur	40
5	Khotang	117
6	Siraha	123
7	Okhaldhunga	50
8	Raamechhap	120
	Total	1000

To avoid logistic challenges, food procurement has been decentralised to district chapters. They will follow the Nepal Red Cross procurement policy for food items. Notice for procurement has been published by the districts. Food will be purchased according to the SPHERE standards above and will maintain uniformity with food packages distributed by other organisations at field level.

An earlier assessment by the World Food Programme confirmed the strategy of the Nepal Red Cross to only target few and well-selected families.

Impact:

The food assistance provided by the district branches of Nepal Red Cross directly after the floods and landslides was of great value to the beneficiaries. It clearly shows the need for local preparedness and response capacity. The additional support through this and other internationally funded actions can only be supplementary to what is done on local level.

Constraints:

N/A

Objective: To assist 30, 000 flood-affected families with family relief packages during the first month of the operation, including replenishment of already distributed family packages. From within these targeted beneficiaries, 15,000 families will also be provided with additional plastic sheeting for protection of goods, food and clothing.

Each family package contains a kitchen set, a plastic bucket and jug, female sari, male dhoti, printed cloth, blanket and tarpaulin. In addition to the material worth of these packages they also have a high psychological value, reinforcing to beneficiaries that they have not been forgotten and that the Red Cross cares for their welfare.

Progress/Achievements

To date, Nepal Red Cross has distributed a total of 28,590 relief packages out of a planned 30,000.

Suppliers have been transporting relief materials to central and regional Nepal Red Cross warehouses. To date, the warehouses have received 8,700 pieces of tarpaulin, 7,000 set of kitchen utensils, 11,250 saris, 15,000 male dhoti, 7,500 blanket and almost 80,000 of meters of clothing materials as per order placed to suppliers.

Care/Nepal has donated 5,950 relief packages and UNICEF has decided to donate 1,400 family packages. An agreement between the society and UNICEF has been signed. Earlier in the operation, several other NGOs have also donated family packages.

Impact:

Nepal Red Cross will soon reach the target of distributing 30,000 family packages. These packs have given displaced families the ability to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs have also been met. To receive a relief package is also important recognition of the suffering and needs a family have. It shows that the Red Cross cares for people that have been forced from their homes and lost their belongings.

Constraints:

Even if there has been some delay in delivering all supplies needed for the family packages, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to mobilise support from other organisations to finance and donate family packages in-kind. Using direct delivery to regional or local warehouses, transportation of relief goods continued during the week of the Kathmandu blockade. However, the current political situation might influence the access and the speed of delivery from suppliers.

Objective: To deliver water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation. To mobilise volunteers for cleaning up and sanitation activities.

The Nepal Red Cross has not yet built up capacity in the area of emergency health. The society will distribute water purification liquid to ensure that people can use safe drinking water. It will also mobilise youth, community-based first aid and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in.

Progress/Achievements

The warehouses have been gradually receiving water purification liquid (Piyus) from suppliers. To date, the central warehouse has received 7,500 bottle of water purification, including the 2,500 bottles received before the third update. Sarlahi, Mahottari and Dhanusha districts have already distributed 1,000, 700 and 800 bottles of water purification respectively to beneficiaries that had already been transported to the districts. Furthermore, central warehouse has provided 1,200 bottles of water purification to Rautahat, with reports from Rautahat yet to be received.

District volunteers continue have been engaged in clean-up activities in various districts. They have also mobilised the communities for sanitation activities.

Impact:

Water purification liquid has been essential for people to have access to clear water since it has taken some time to clean up wells and other water sources.

Constraints: N/A

Rehabilitation

Objective: To assist 30,000 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income.

Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chilli and other local vegetables. This intervention draws on positive experiences of kitchen garden programmes in the Nepal Red Cross operation for Bhutanese refugees.

Progress/Achievements

No progress can be reported since funding is not sufficient to start this part of the plan of action. However, this activity would be highly needed to assist beneficiaries.

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Objective: To assist 400 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses.

Targeted families are those who have lost their homes to floods. They are regarded as especially vulnerable due factors such as the lack of an extended family network and a large number of households are headed by women.

Each family will receive construction material and a Red Cross employed expert will give advice regarding the construction under the supervision of the NHQ construction engineer. Communities will be mobilised to assist with the construction, which is a tradition in many of the villages in Nepal.

Progress/Achievements

No progress can be reported since funding is not sufficient to start this part of the plan of action. However, this rehabilitation of houses would be highly needed to assist beneficiaries.

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Capacity Building

Objective: Disaster response capacity and disaster preparedness programmes will be further enhanced and developed based on lessons learned from this flood operation.

Progress/Achievements :

N/A

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

N/A

Federation Coordination

The Nepal Red Cross was the only humanitarian organisation appointed to the government task force assessing the flood damage. The task force decided to not launch an appeal on behalf of the government. The government has adopted the statistical figures of the Nepal Red Cross regarding the damages of the floods.

In coordination with the Federation, the national society is continuing to liaise with other organisations and UN agencies. Many local organisations are channelling their assistance through the Nepal Red Cross.

The appeal has been shared with all major embassies and local agencies. Three embassies have made direct contributions while others have informed their governments. Representatives from the Nepal Red Cross and the Federation are continuing to follow up these contacts. The Nepal Red Cross has requested major enterprises within the country to contribute to the flood operation.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in coordination with Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) has planned to distribute food in two districts. The LWF team is now at field developing the relation with Red Cross branches. This food distribution will not be in same area where NRCS is doing food assistance. The two organisations are also developing a concept paper for a health campaign. Using Red Cross volunteers, the aim will be to create awareness regarding health problems related to flooding.

National Society Capacity Building

Branches in all affected districts have mobilised their volunteers and members to participate in the flood response. Youth, community first aid and disaster trained volunteers have been especially active. District committees and secretaries have coordinated the operations with the district level disaster committees and kept in close contact with the authorities and other organisations.

The society has two 3.5-tonne trucks and a number of other vehicles. These trucks are being used to deliver the supplies in various locations. More than 27 warehouses/depots in different strategic locations have also been essential in the current operation. Well defined procurement procedures, relief operation guidelines and experienced, motivated staff as well as the society's own relief fund are strengths of the society.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes in 13 of the 25 currently affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. In Dhanusha district the community distributed its relief stock and used the revolving fund set up under the CBDP programme to provide further assistance to affected community members. Trained volunteers from this community also assisted in distributions made in neighbouring villages. Community-based first aid programmes have been implemented in five of the branches. The first aid volunteers have also participated in the response to the flooding, such as raising local resources for food aid. These volunteers have been involved in their own districts during the initial phase of the operation and will continue to be active throughout the various phases.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The communication department organised a field visit for journalists. Two journalists, from the English daily *The Rising Nepal*, and from *Space Time*, a Nepali daily, were taken to Dhanusha and Mahottari districts. They observed the relief distribution and visited beneficiaries and affected people there, resulting in five stories in their newspapers. Stories from the field have also been pasted on the NRCS website.

The Nepal Red Cross is constantly gathering information from the field via its extensive branch network to access all necessary information regarding the appeal and the operation updates.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

31/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,769,000		63.0%
AUSTRIAN - RC		35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04	
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		98,040	GBP	224,119	29.07.04	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - RC		25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04	
DANISH - GOVT				9,539	17.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC		100,000	EUR	152,900	10.08.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC				30,000	27.07.04	
JAPANESE - RC		106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,157,497	NOK	393,743	11.08.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
SWISS - RC				53,476	06.08.04	
UNITED STATES - EMBASSY		50,000	USD	63,225	30.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,598,206	CHF	57.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146,750	CHF	5.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

31/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	