

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 & LANDSLIDES

Appeal No. MDRNP001
Operation Update no. 01
Glide no. FF-2007-000117-NPL
Date : 18 September 2007

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 over 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 29 August to September 10, 2007, Appeal target: CHF 2,006,481 (USD 1,667,898 or EUR 1,220,487); Appeal coverage: 74%, Outstanding needs: CHF525,613 (USD 436,919 or EUR 319,716).

Appeal history:

- Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) released on 2 August 2007 for CHF 250,000 to replenish the Nepal Red Cross Society's (NRCS) disaster response stock.
- Preliminary Appeal launched on 8 August 2007 for CHF 2.32 million (USD 1.93 million or EUR 1.4 million) to assist more than 20,000 families affected by landslides and extensive flooding in different parts of Nepal for 6 months.
- Emergency Appeal launched on 29th August 2007 for revised amount of CHF 2.06 million (USD 1.6 million or EUR 1.2 million) to deliver assistance to more than 25,000 flood and landslide affected families for one year.

[Click here to go directly to the attached donor response list, also available on the website.](#)

Operational Summary:

Torrential monsoon rains started on 10 July and lasted for three weeks, causing floods in different parts of the plain areas and landslides in the hilly areas of Nepal. Out of Nepal's 75 districts, 50 were affected, resulting in increased vulnerability for thousands of people in almost two-thirds of the country. 176 people are known to have died so far, and flash floods and water logging has resulted in the damage of thousands of houses both in rural and urban areas, unlike previous year's flooding where urban areas were less affected.

Since the appeal was launched on the 29 August, there has been more rain, resulting in new cases of flooding and landslides in a number of districts, both current and new. The total number of the affected population has now reached 616,444.



In Banke district, in mid-western Nepal, a woman receives tarpaulins and other essential items to help cope with effects of the flooding.

The impact of floods and landslides received national attention. The Nepalese government gave the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) the primary responsibility for the distribution of relief items, in close coordination with the government, United Nations (UN) and other humanitarian actors. At the request of the government of Nepal, World Food Programme (WFP) has supported food items to the most affected population. Other UN organizations like United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have supported in water, health and sanitation.

In spite of communication and transportation difficulties due to the severity of the rain, NRCS initiated immediate assessment, rescue and relief action in all the affected districts through its network of volunteers and staff. At present, more than 2,000 NRCS volunteers are actively carrying out relief work in the affected districts. Thirteen trained disaster management staff from the NRCS headquarters were deployed to carry out in-depth assessments and to support relief distributions in some of the most affected districts.

Communications, technical and financial support from the Federation and from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have greatly facilitated the operation, with good coordination between NRCS, ICRC and the Federation. The NRCS has also received bilateral donations from different institutions and individuals from within and outside the country for disaster response. So far the NRCS has received approximately CHF 328,364 (USD 272,954 or EUR 199,735) in cash as donation from such sources.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Torrential monsoon rainfall beginning from 10 July 2007 caused floods in the southern plains of Nepal and landslides in the hilly region. As the heavy rainfall continued for over three weeks in the southern plains, the number of affected and displaced families increased dramatically. Water logging was the major problem in the southern parts of the country. The scale of the disaster was quite unprecedented, sustained and in large scale, which meant rescue and relief were highly difficult at the initial period. Moreover, there were cases of re-flooding which caused hindrances to the otherwise efficient and timely response.

However, the volunteers continued assessment, rescue and relief operations and reached the most affected people. As of 10 September, assessment reports show that 616,444 individuals from 101,923 families in 50 districts have been affected, with 25,949 families displaced and 75,743 houses completely or partially damaged.



A youth observing his collapsed house in Dhanusa district, eastern Nepal.

Operational developments

The government of Nepal gave NRCS the primary responsibility of relief distributions, and appealed to international organizations and individuals at the national level to support the relief operation. Thus, several UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations have provided support to the NRCS in the form of cash or in-kind donations.

As soon as the disaster began, the country-wide NRCS network started its operation, distributing ready-to-eat food collected and procured locally and supported by the government, as well as non-food relief items from its own stocks. As of 10 September, the NRCS has provided ready-to-eat food items to 26,996 families and non-food relief items to 11,872 families. NRCS has now started to plan for the early recovery of the affected population.

The WFP has committed and supplied food rations for the affected people in western and central Terai. Based on the request made by the government, the WFP's initial plan is to distribute food for three months for 10,000 families. However, as the number of affected people increased and with limited resources, WFP has decided to support households assessed as "partially affected" for 15 days and those assessed as being "fully affected" for 30 days in the western Terai. The agreement with WFP for central Terai was signed on 13 September, and distributions will continue from now and into next month for that region.

District chapters have been mobilized for the assessment, selection and planning of this distribution. Considering the current political tension in central and eastern Terai, NRCS has nominated a focal person in each district to ensure coordination in the relief and recovery process.

The relief operation has been disturbed by general strikes and road blockade at times. Similarly, district chapters have also been facing political pressure in finalizing the assessment data of the affected families.

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

Phase 1 – Emergency relief

Objective 1a: For the coming three months, 25,000 families are supported through the provision non-food relief items (NFI) in the form of family packages and tarpaulins, and 20,000 families are supported through the provision of food, clean water and hygiene articles.

Progress/Achievements

Non-food items (NFI)

- During the reporting period, distribution of non-food family packages (comprising of tarpaulin, cooking utensils, blankets and clothing) has continued with 1,237 families receiving these essential items. This brings the total number of beneficiary families to 11,872.
- These items were distributed from existing NRCS stock and with the support of ICRC and other humanitarian agencies. A tender for additional non-food relief items has been published and procurement is underway, based on the NRCS procurement procedures.
- NRCS procured 7,000 NFI kits which have been delivered to the eastern regional warehouse.
- NRCS has started procuring an additional 15,000 NFI kits, the process which is estimated to be completed within a few days.



Food items being collected by people affected by the floods in Banke district.

Food items

- Ready-to-eat food items were provided to 1,546 families during the reporting period. Distribution of ready-to-eat food in the form of beaten rice, noodles, dry food, salt and sugar has been made to more than 26,996 families so far. This was supported by the government of Nepal and by non-government organizations. As the distribution of staple food has started, the distribution of ready-to-eat food has been stopped.
- Staple food provided by WFP has already been distributed to 18,110 people (2,925 families) in the districts of Kailali, Banke and Bardiya during the reporting period.
- NRCS, together with WFP, plans to distribute a one-month staple food requirement for around 20,000 affected families of eastern Terai districts namely, Bara, Parsa, Rauthaut, Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari, Sarlahi, and Dhanusa. Similarly, NRCS and WFP have also undergone discussions for assisting the districts of Kapilbastu, Nawalparasi and Rupendhai.

- NRCS has also concluded an agreement with UNICEF to secure an additional 3,500 hygiene kits, 1,200 blankets, 10,000 packets of oral re-hydration salt (ORS) and 10,800 bottles of water purification liquid for the affected families of eastern and western disaster affected districts.
- 2,116 packets of ORS were distributed in the reporting period, bringing the total to 9,092 packets of ORS distributed so far.
- There has no distribution of water purifying liquid in the reporting period as no specific need was identified.



Relief goods, some sourced from NRCS stocks, some provided by UNICEF, waiting to be distributed by NRCS volunteers.

Impact

The most urgent needs of a significant part of the affected people have been met and will continue to be met. People have started to move back and return to some semblance of normalcy with the relief support they have received. Detailed information on the short and longer-term impact of the operation will become clearer as the operation continues.

Objective 1b: More than 20,000 households are supported with the provision of tarpaulins to meet their immediate shelter needs.

Progress/Achievements

- 1,358 tarpaulins have been distributed in the reporting period, bringing the total distributed to 9,352 tarpaulins. These are in addition to the tarpaulins that are included in the non-food family kits
- NRCS has also concluded an agreement with UNICEF to secure additional 4,900 tarpaulins for the affected families of eastern and western disaster affected districts.

Impact

Families displaced due to damaged houses were supported in their urgent need for shelter by using tarpaulins as makeshift shelters. The same tarpaulins are now mostly being used as a temporary repair measure in their homes destroyed by the flood, using them to cover damaged roofs and cold floors. Those who were displaced and have returned home and are in need of NFI, have started to receive them as well.

Constraints for objective 1a & b

Rainfall has continued all over Nepal, and cases of flooding and re-flooding have occurred, hampering relief operations in some areas. Access to affected areas has been impeded by flooded road transportation networks, with some smaller roads in rural areas washed away. Temporary diversion roads are also not strong enough to bear the weight of loaded vehicles.

The ongoing political turmoil has also been a constraint, with road blocks and *bandhas* (strikes) declared by armed and non-armed groups of eastern and central Terai for their inclusion in the constituent assembly. The strikes are delaying relief operations.

Phase 2 – Early Recovery Activities

Objective 2: 15,000 affected families are supported in early recovery with materials and technical advice to re-establish their livelihoods

Project(s) will be conducted during the operation at a later stage.

Objective 3: 2,000 of the most affected families will be supported in early recovery with supplementary construction materials and technical advice to repair their damaged homes in a disaster resilient way.

Project(s) will be conducted during the operation at a later stage.

Objective 4: A potential outbreak of communicable diseases is prevented through restoration of community water sources and preventive health activities, such as raising awareness about water sanitation and hygiene.

Project(s) will be conducted during the operation at a later stage.

Objective 5: The communities' exposure to risks of disasters are reduced, and the capacity of the communities and the NRCS to respond to future disasters is enhanced

Early recovery measures for phase two of the operations are in the planning phase. To support objectives 3 to 5, a relief and recovery coordinator and three relief officers have been deployed to the field. A focal person from the volunteers in each district has also been identified to ensure coordination and quality operation, as well as to ensure full participation in the operation.

Assessments are being carried out, and an action plan for recovery measures is being developed at central and local levels, as well as a strategy for the procurement for this phase.

Work plans have been developed to implement the activities under objectives 3 to 5, which will be monitored by ongoing assessments. Groupings of village development committees will be identified under each objective, which will then serve as the basis for targeting of recovery activities.

Under objective 5, the affected districts have already been divided into groups. Those affected in eastern and central Terai have been divided in three groups to ensure smooth operation. District chapters have been mobilized for assessment, site selection and planning. Assigned relief officers have started to work with the district chapters.

Objective 6: Families separated by the flood have re-established contact.

Only three persons are reported to be missing, and there is currently no request to investigate their status. NRCS together with ICRC remain prepared for future requests to locate missing family members.

Coordination

The coordination mechanism is described in detail in the emergency appeal document. The central disaster relief committee (CDRC) at the home ministry and district disaster relief committees (DDRC) are coordinating all relief activities. Coordination with all stakeholders is held on a regular basis, either through coordination meetings or bilateral discussions with partners. As described above, major partners of the NRCS for the distribution of relief items are the WFP for food items, UNICEF for drinking water and hygiene articles and Red Cross partners for non-food relief items.



One of the major partners of the NRCS is the World Food Programme, who is providing food rations which are distributed by NRCS volunteers.

Movement coordination

The Emergency Appeal is a joint initiative of the Red Cross Movement partners in Nepal and will be implemented accordingly. Regular cooperation management meetings between NRCS, the Federation and ICRC have continued to take place on a regular basis as they did before the flooding, and have served as an effective platform for Movement coordination during the relief operations. The Danish Red Cross with a delegation in Nepal has applied for ECHO funds and has been closely coordinating with the Federation in the course of the application.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

As an independent humanitarian organization, NRCS has maintained its auxiliary and complementary role in relief operations. The "safer access" concept has been followed – aiming to increase individual and organizational acceptance while ensuring impartial and neutral behaviour in regards to the image of the NRCS. A "safer access" workshop will take place in few districts next week as per need. All activities of the NRCS are carried out under the NRCS disaster relief guidelines which are based on Sphere standards as well as the Federation's Principles and Rules on Disaster Relief and the Code of Conduct.

National Society Capacity Building

The NRCS has functioning branches in all 75 districts of Nepal and more than 2,000 NRCS volunteers have been actively involved in the relief operations in these districts.

In addition, the NRCS has 25 trained staff for regional disaster response teams (RDRTs), 56 trained staff for national disaster response teams (NDRTs), 700 trained staff and volunteers for district disaster response teams (DDRTs) and one trained field assessment and coordination team member. The society has a network of warehouses as well transportation capabilities throughout the country.

To boost up the capacity of the national society, a relief coordinator has been recruited at the national headquarters to support the disaster management director for overall relief and recovery operations. Three relief officers have already been deployed in central and eastern districts for relief and recovery operations. Focal persons for relief and recovery in the affected districts have been nominated and given terms of reference.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The NRCS communication department has a continued information-sharing mechanism through print, electronic and online media, at both national and international levels. Narrative stories, photographs and geographical maps have been posted on the NRCS website (see www.nrsc.org). Situation and response updates have been regularly shared among stakeholders. The disaster management department has also been providing disaster information bulletins and situation monitoring reports to concerned organizations.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRNP001 - NEPAL - FLOODS

TIMEFRAME: 03 Aug 07 to 08 Aug 08

LOCATION: Nepal

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	2,006,481
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	1,480,868
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	74%

Updated on: 18 Sep 2007

	Currency	Amount	Coordination & Implementation	Disaster Management	Health & Care	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				2,006,481				2,006,481
FUNDING								
Opening Balance								
Income								
Cash contributions								
American Red Cross	USD	50,000		60,150				60,150
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	AUD	100,000		99,000				99,000
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)	EUR	100,110		164,581				164,581
British Red Cross	GBP	42,500		102,850				102,850
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	CAD	150,000		148,050				148,050
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)	CHF	207,750		207,750				207,750
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	80,000		131,520				131,520
Japanese Red Cross	USD	80,000		96,240				96,240
Liechtenstein Red Cross	CHF	3,333		3,333				3,333
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	10,000		16,500				16,500
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR	40,000		65,760				65,760
Singapore Red Cross (from Singapore Government)	SGD	30,550		24,134				24,134
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	2,000,000		359,000				359,000
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	CHF	2,000		2,000				2,000
Total Cash contributions				1,480,868				1,480,868
Total Income				1,480,868				1,480,868
TOTAL FUNDING			0	1,480,868	0	0	0	1,480,868
COVERAGE			0%	74%	0%	0%	0%	74%