

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nepal: Floods

Preliminary Emergency appeal n°MDRNP002

GLIDE n° FL-2008-000104-NPL

Operations update n° 01

05 September 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 29 August to 03 September 2008

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,392,228 (approximately USD 1,268,130 or EUR 861,530).

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, in cash and kind, the appeal is approximately 70% covered.

Appeal history:

- A preliminary Emergency Appeal has been launched on 29 August 2008 for CHF 1,392,228 (USD 1,268,130 or EUR 861,530) for nine months to assist more than 5,000 families affected by the Koshi flood in Nepal's Sunsari district.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 (USD 227,740 or EUR 154,700) was initially allocated on 28 August 2008, from the International Federation's DREF, to support the Nepal Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance.



People trying to save their scare belongings in Sunsari district, Nepal

Summary:

Due to high water levels, the Saptakoshi river broke its weakened embankment on 18 August 2008, flooding a densely populated region in Sunsari district. Approximately 70,000 people have been displaced, and the majority of them will need shelter for an estimated minimum of six months as the embankment needs to be repaired. Around 200 trained volunteers and 18 staff members from the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) have been deployed for emergency assessments, registration of beneficiaries, distribution of pre-stored food and non-food items (including tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and clothes) and the delivery of first aid services.

The NRCS has been working in cooperation with the Nepal government, international NGOs and local organizations in the relief operation. The national society has the lead role in the distribution of non-food relief items (NFRI) and emergency shelter. It has also assisted in food distributions in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP). NRCS has established an information and registration desk in each of the established 28 shelter camps. Two representatives from the national society are present in each camp for monitoring and supervision and for the collection and distribution of relief material. The NRCS representatives are working together with a team from the district authorities. The relief is being provided in a coordinated way in order to assure the most vulnerable beneficiaries receive assistance and to avoid duplication.

The International Federation has issued a mobilisation table for the supply of relief goods, from the Kuala Lumpur regional warehouse, to the affected areas, in line with the preliminary appeal. The Federation office in Nepal has been supporting the NRCS with policy decision making and representation towards and coordination with the international community.

Partner national societies who have contributed to the appeal so far: British, Finnish, Netherlands, Swedish, Danish, Japanese, Luxembourg and Belgian Red Cross Societies. The International Federation, on behalf of NRCS, would like to thank all partners for their very quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

A breach in the embankment of the Koshi River, which occurred on 18 August 2008, caused the displacement of around 70,000 people from different villages of Sunsari district in Nepal. Approximately eight Village Development Committees (Kusaha, Laukahi, Ghuski, Sreepur, Haripur, Narshimha, Madhuban and Basantapur) were badly affected; four of them being completely under water. Other Village Development Committees in the area (Bhokraha, Madhuban, Narshimha, Basantapur and Dhuskighat) experienced some limited flooding and are hosting displaced people. The East-West highway has been cut open at several places to let the water flow and road connections to and from Sunsari district are therefore only possible via a long detour through India. Damage to crops will have a long-term impact on the affected population and the Food and Agricultural Organisation has already appealed for support. Damaged communication lines have made it difficult to communicate with the field. The Nepal government declared a state of emergency in the affected Sunsari district.

On 2nd September, 27,387 displaced people were reportedly taking shelter in 28 temporary shelter camps located in Inaruwa Municipality (Sunsari district)¹. These shelters are mostly set up in school and college buildings. Among the displaced people, 11,871 are children under the age of 14. Similarly, 22,751 affected people have been displaced from the western part of Sunsari district and are living in makeshift shelters at the river embankment in Bhardaha area in neighbouring Saptari district. Approximately 20,000 people are being accommodated with relatives, though their exact number is unclear as they have not been registered. Beneficiary cards are being issued to the displaced people who have been registered, for the distribution of relief material. The NRCS is planning to mobilize its sub-chapter volunteers to start registration of the displaced living with host families.

The emerging humanitarian needs are felt mostly in the areas of shelter, drinking water and sanitation, health and regular food. The identification of appropriate land to establish emergency shelter camps is ongoing. The district authorities, supported by an expert from the NRCS, are currently studying several possible locations. However, both the damage assessment in the affected area and the decision for site location is overdue.

Cases of diarrhoea, pneumonia, fever and eye infections have been reported and have resulted in a few casualties. Severe outbreaks of waterborne diseases are a possibility and tube-wells for clean drinking water are therefore established in the area. Vulnerable people are being put at further risk due to population movement, which is significantly high.

Coordination and partnerships

The relief operation is currently coordinated by the respective District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) of Sunsari and Saptari districts. To support the efforts of the DDRC, a task force of the Home Ministry was established in the affected districts. The Home Ministry is taking the lead for the relief operations on a central level, and the newly appointed Home Minister is the chairperson of Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC). So far, a total of four CDRC meetings have been conducted. The NRCS is an ex-officio member of the CDRC as well as the DDRC.

Based on the presence of a UN Humanitarian Coordinator in country, the humanitarian work is coordinated using the cluster approach. Inter-Agency Standing Committee meetings are hosted by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and a representative from the Home Ministry. The International Federation and the NRCS are participating in these coordination meetings and providing updates on the emergency shelter situation. The International Federation has so far not officially taken its emergency shelter cluster lead role.

At the field level, sectoral committees for food, health, water and sanitation and shelter were established. These sectoral committees are chaired by the district officer together with the respective cluster lead. In addition, Inter Agency coordination meetings are being held every day at the DDRC office in Sunsari and Saptari districts. UNOCHA has established a presence in both districts. Additional information sharing between the International Federation and the NRCS with UNOCHA, the government and other humanitarian organizations is ongoing on a regular basis. The NRCS is sharing its daily situation updates with the humanitarian community.

The NRCS national headquarters is supporting its district chapters in Sunsari and Saptari and is coordinating with the neighbouring district chapters of Siraha, Dhanusha, Parsa, Mahottari and Udayapur to support Sunsari and Saptari for the relief distribution.

The national society has been entrusted with a leading role for the distribution of NFRI and emergency shelter; and collaboration with WFP to carry out food distributions. Similarly, UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and government agencies have active roles in water and sanitation, education, protection and health and nutrition. In

¹ See annex for more detailed information on these camps.

coordination with the above, the NRCS is also planning to distribute jerry cans, to ensure a better collection and access to safe drinking water.

The International Federation office in Nepal has been supported by partner national society delegates in-country and has been supporting the NRCS with the emergency appeal, operational planning, policy decision making especially on emergency shelter, donor relations and fundraising and representation towards and coordination with the international community.

The International Committee of the Red Cross sub-delegation in Biratnagar has been providing technical and material/logistics support to the relief operation of the NRCS' Sunsari and Saptari district chapters. It has provided two vehicles and approximately 500 NFRI are in stand-by position at Biratnagar.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

NRCS is the main humanitarian actor on the ground and is closely working with the district authorities. As a consequence, the national society was entrusted the lead role for non-food relief distributions and emergency shelter by the district authorities. It has also assisted in food distributions in cooperation with WFP. Around 200 trained NRCS volunteers and 18 staff members are involved in the relief operation in Sunsari and Saptari districts. They are mainly engaged in the registration of beneficiaries, in the distribution of relief items and first aid services (see below). The deployed staff members include one trained RDRT member and five trained NDRT members.

In Sunsari district, the NRCS has established an information and registration desk in each of the established camps. Two representatives from the national society national headquarters are present in each camp for monitoring and supervision and for the collection and distribution of relief material together with the DDRRC team. In Saptari district, the relief management for the established makeshift shelters on the river embankment is not yet fully developed. NRCS staff and volunteers have started the registration of displaced people.

The national society has a network of warehouses, including a central warehouse at national headquarters with 25,000 NFRI kits on stock, four regional warehouses each with a stock of 3,000 NFRI, two zonal warehouses storing 1,000 NFRI kits and 20 depots containing 500 NFRI kits. During this relief operation, the entire NRCS supply of non-food items is made from its regional warehouses located at Biratnagar and Birgunj, with the national headquarters central warehouse providing additional kits. The transportation of goods to Biratnagar is currently supported by flights from the International Organisation of Migration.

The NRCS has recently established a Disaster Management (DM) Centre at its national headquarters, which has been activated. The entire NRCS relief operation is being coordinated from this DM centre. To identify the status of missing people, a tracing officer from the NRCS national headquarters provided a tracing orientation to three field staff at Inaruwa. Their main focus will be on conducting a "tracing needs assessment" and establishing Red Cross Message (RCM) exchange services.

The International Federation South Asia Regional Delegation has activated the South Asia Floods Task Force to monitor, coordinate and report at the regional level on the floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh during this 2008 monsoon season. The task force will have close communication with each country national society and International Federation country offices on their specific situations. The task will focus on the floods as a regional phenomenon and address common issues in a more united manner. The task force will meet on a daily basis as long as required and send consolidated updates to interested stakeholders.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: In coordination with other actors on the ground, a total of 10,000 affected families are supported with non-food relief items, including tarpaulins, kitchen sets, cloths, blankets and jerry cans. The focus for distributions will be on the most vulnerable, i.e. the approximately 7,000 displaced families.

Achievements:

The relief items requested through the International Federation's regional warehouse in Kuala Lumpur are fully funded through contributions from partner national societies. The tender process for the shipment is finalized and the goods are leaving Kuala Lumpur by vessel to Calcutta on 9th September. The 15,000 jerry cans will arrive in the disaster affected district by trucks on 26th September. The blankets will be delivered directly from the supplier in India and efforts have been made to receive both shipments at the same time.

Regarding the replenishment of 10,000 NFRI kits, which will be distributed from existing stocks, the NRCS has already published a tender notice to purchase these. It is expected to complete the purchase order within two weeks. Funds for the replenishment of stocks, as stated in the preliminary emergency appeal, are still needed.

The DDRC has centralized the distribution of relief items from its central warehouse. The NRCS is, upon their request, taking up a lead role in the management of this warehouse and the actual distribution of the goods. So far, 2,300 NFRI kits have been distributed from NRCS stock its eastern and western regional warehouses. The surrounding district chapters have also provided NFRI kits, including tarpaulins for temporary shelter.

Table: relief materials distributed by NRCS in flood affected areas	
Relief Items	Quantity
Rice	7,000 kilograms
Beaten rice	10,200 kilograms
Instant noodles	200 cartons
Blankets	2300 pieces
Male dhoti (clothing)	200 pieces
Kitchen utensils	2,300 sets
Plastic buckets	200 pieces
Tarpaulins	2,300 pieces

Prior to the WFP contribution coming in, the NRCS national headquarters, in coordination with its Siraha, Dhanusha, Parsa, Mahottari and Saptari district chapters, provided dry food to displaced people. A number of local organizations are also contributing for the provision of relief, mostly assisting with the distribution of dry food items. The relief is being provided in a coordinated way in order to assure the most vulnerable beneficiaries receive assistance and to avoid duplication.

Besides this, it should be noted that the NRCS is currently responding to relatively smaller disasters as well, viz. more than 35 districts are affected by landslides which have resulted in 110 casualties and approximately 10,000 displaced people. So far, the NRCS has distributed more than 3,000 NFRI kits in these areas and continues to give due attention to these incidents.

Emergency shelter

Objective: 5,000 most vulnerable disaster-affected families, i.e. the displaced families, are supported with materials to construct a shelter in an interim camp with a human environment until they are able to return to their own land.

Achievements:

All shelter kits, including the tarpaulins, requested through the International Federation's regional warehouse in Kuala Lumpur are funded through contributions from partner national societies. The tender process for the shipment is finalized and the goods are leaving Kuala Lumpur by vessel to Calcutta on 9th September. The goods will arrive in the disaster affected district by trucks on 26th September (according to the schedule and the ability of a fast clearance of customs).

Regarding the government's efforts to support emergency shelter, a damage assessment of the affected land is still outstanding. In addition, the site location for possible shelter camps is ongoing and a site was identified and chosen but could not host all displaced families. The NRCS has urged the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the authorities to speed up both processes to ensure that the emergency shelter kits can be quickly used upon arrival in Nepal.

Logistics and Human Resource

Objective: To ensure an efficient, effective and timely mobilization, shipping and distribution of the relief items and shelters to the previously selected beneficiaries.

Achievements:

In order to store the incoming supplies, NRCS staff will identify suitable warehouse space in Biratnagar. The identification of a clearing agent is in process. The International Federation will deploy a logistics delegate from the region to provide logistics support to the NRCS in customs clearance, loading/offloading, transportation, temporary storage and reporting.

Considering the present emergency situation, the NRCS has been managing the logistics from its western and eastern regional warehouse located at Birgunj and Biratnagar respectively. In this regard, the logistic staff from the eastern regional warehouse and the national headquarters is in standby position to ensure and accompany the transport of goods from the Indo-Nepal border to Biratnagar. The national headquarters has been coordinating closely with the eastern regional warehouse to identify the possible places to store the goods received from Kuala Lumpur.

The International Federation office is in the process of getting the relief goods in the country tax exempted according to the existing Status Agreement.

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 International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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:

- In Nepal: Nepal Red Cross Society (Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Executive Director), email: umesh@nrsc.org, phone: +977.985.105.6369
- In Nepal: Federation office (Andrea Reisinger, Federation Representative), email: andrea.reisinger@ifrc.org, phone: +977.985.104.7071
- In India: Federation South Asia Regional Delegation (Al Panico, Head of South Asia Regional Delegation, New Delhi), email: al.panico@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1125
- Federation Asia Pacific zone office (Jagan Chapagain, Deputy Head of Zone) email; jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org, phone + 60 3 2161 0892
- Federation Asia Pacific zone office (Amy Gaver, Head, Disaster Management Unit), email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org, phone: +60 39 207 5724; mobile: +6012 2201174
- For mobilization of relief items: Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: jeremy.francis@ifrc.org
- For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilisation and planning monitoring evaluation and reporting coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org. All pledges should be sent to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: (Christine South, Operations Coordinator for Asia Pacific region); email: christine.south@ifrc.org; phone +41 22730 4529; mobile: +41 79308 9824

[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Annex

Sunsari district shelter camp details

S.No.	Camp	No of house holds	No. of people			Total	Vulnerable groups	Water and Sanitation situation
			Male	Female	Under 14 years			
1	Bhagwati Ma.Vi, Inaruwa	246	789	781	791	1570	20- pregnant 8- post partum	6 Tube wells 4 Toilets with 2 bathrooms
2	Sunsari Multiple Campus	124	427	410	387	837	16- pregnant 5- post partum 3- people with disability 32- elders	3 Tube wells 9 Toilets with 2 bathrooms
3	Balmandir, Inaruwa-7	274	701	726	524	1427	3- post partum 1- people with disability 62- elders	2 Tube wells 1 Toilet and bathroom
4	Rajagi Ramgi Sec. School, Inaruwa-8	198	469	473	514	942	25- pregnant 1- post partum 3- people with disability 62- elders	5 Tube wells 4 Toilets
5	Sarada H.S. School, Inaruwa-9	124	340	340	267	680	8- pregnant 2- post partum 1- people with disability	5 Tube wells 4 Toilets with 3 bathrooms
6	Saraswati Sec. School, Babeya	238	851	820	797	1671	13- pregnant 8- post partum 4- people with disability 13- elders	2 Tube wells 6 Toilets with 2 bathrooms
7	Mithila Public School, Laukahi	422	1283	1195	981	2478	4- pregnant 4- people with disability 50- elders	-
8	Devkota Primary School, Inaruwa-5	53	170	174	156	344	8- pregnant 2- post partum 2- people with disability 9- elders	2 Tube wells 2 Toilets with 1 bathroom
9	Rastreya Primary School, Laukahi	350	1057	1002	953	2059	12- pregnant 8- post partum 3- people with disability 355- elders	1 Tube well

S.No.	Camp	No of house holds	No. of people			Total	Vulnerable groups	Water and Sanitation situation
			Male	Female	Under 14 years			
10	Sishu Niketan , Babeya VDC	47	80	101	98	181	1- post partum 2- people with disability 6- Elders 2- pregnant	1 Tube well 3 Toilets
11	Paschim Kusaha, Dam side	445	1422	1328	990	2750	1- people with disability 25- elders	-
12	Narayani Petrol Pump, Inaruwa	96	361	338	345	699	8- pregnant 9- post partum 3- people with disability 3- elders	4 Tube wells
13	Janata Sec. School, Madhuban	94	245	237	190	482	13- post partum I 1- people with disability 30- Elders	5 Tube wells 2 Toilets
14	Dhanjit Primary School, Madhuban	41	133	128	116	261	4- pregnant 3- people with disability 7- elders	1 Tube well 2 Toilets
15	Sree Primary School, Bhokhraha	131	267	272	245	539	7- post partum 4- Pregnant 2- Elders 2- people with disability	1 Tube well 1 Toilet
16	Jameya Islameya Masjid, Bhokhraha-9	450	1350	1256	1185	2602	113- pregnant 101- post partum 31- people with disability 46- elders	10 Tube wells 14 Toilets with 4 bathrooms
17	Gyanoday Sec. School, Inaruwa-6	109	312	302	260	614	10- pregnant 2- post partum 3- people with disability 5- elders	2 Tube wells 4 Toilets
18	Koshi Ma. Vi, Paschim Kusaha	261	727	719	576	1446	10- pregnant 4- post partum 2- people with disability 20- elders	-
19	Amar Santi Primary School, Inaruwa-1	34	98	112	105	210	1- post natal 12- pregnant	4 Tube wells 2 Toilets and bathrooms
20	Janata Pra. Vi, Bhokhraha	98	274	299	242	573	4- pregnant 1- post partum	1 Tube well 2 Toilets

S.No.	Camp	No of house holds	No. of people			Total	Vulnerable groups	Water and Sanitation situation
			Male	Female	Under 14 years			
							1- people with disability 18- elders	
21	Jalpapur Madarsha	77	303	314	324	617	7- pregnant 4- post partum 4- people with disability 4- elders	2 Tube wells 11 Toilets
22	Janata Chowk Madarsha, Narshimha-1	125	429	427	391	856	10- pregnant 4- post partum 1- people with disability 17- elders	1 Tube well 1 Toilet
23	Prithvi Ni. Ma. Vi, Sirauli	81	246	249	268	495	9- post partum 3- people with disability 2- Elders 7- pregnant	1 Tube well 1 Toilet
24	Khairatole Madarsa, Bhokhraha	46	126	137	126	263	3- pregnant 10- post partum 4- people with disability 13- elders	6 Tube wells 7 Toilets
25	Inaruwa Madarsa, Inaruwa-7	44	186	155	113	341	6- pregnant 2- post partum 8- elders	3 Tube wells 4 Toilets with 6 bathrooms
26	Tabali Gul Madarsa, Thapabeli Sunsari	61	254	239	226	497	1- pregnant 10- post partum 24- elders	2 Tube wells 3 Toilets with 1 bathroom
27	Krishi Sewa Kendra, Laukahi	163	487	550	332	1037	2- pregnant 3- people with disability 3- elders	1 Tube well 1 Toilet
28	Laukahi Paschim Jamuwa Chowk	198	449	458	369	907	2- pregnant 1- post partum 1- people with disability 25- elders	2 Tube wells 2 Toilets
Total		4,630	13,836	13,542	11,871	27,378	330 - pregnant 198 - post partum 84 - people with disability 411 - elders	53 Tube wells 96 Toilets

Donor response to MDRNP002 - Nepal - Floods

TIMEFRAME: 28 Aug 08 to 31 May 09

LOCATION: Nepal

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,392,228
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	315,812
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	23%

Updated on: 05 Sep 2008

	Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF
BUDGET								
								1,392,228
FUNDING								
<u>Opening Balance</u>								
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	50,000	80,750					80,750
Total Cash contributions			80,750					80,750
Inkind Goods & Transport (pledged)								
Danish Red Cross	CHF	73,500	73,500					73,500
Japanese Red Cross	CHF	37,062	37,062					37,062
Luxembourg Red Cross	CHF	124,500	124,500					124,500
Total Inkind Goods & Transport			235,062					235,062
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF							
Total Other Income								
Total Income			315,812					315,812
TOTAL FUNDING			315,812	0	0	0	0	315,812
COVERAGE								23%