

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nepal: Flood and Landslides

DREF operation n° MDRNP003
GLIDE n° [FL-2009-000219-NPL](#)
19 July 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 307,240 (USD 302,858 or EUR 202,870) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 October 2009 to support the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 4,000 families with non-food relief items as well as to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.

In October 2009, heavy floods and landslides in mid- and far-western regions of Nepal affected more than 257,000 people (46,800 families). A total of 79 people died and more than 18,300 people (3,300 families) were displaced.

NRCS immediately responded to the situation by mobilizing trained volunteers and staff in the field to conduct assessments, and distribute relief items (ready-to-eat food, water, emergency shelter material) and first aid services to the people affected by the disaster. Following this, NRCS carried out a detailed assessment in the affected areas and distributed non-food relief items (NFRI) including tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and cloth sets to more than 4,000 families (one NFRI package per family) badly affected by the disaster from its own stock. The relief assistance helped

the people in settling down temporarily during the emergency and returning to normal lives after the disaster. So far, most of the affected families have returned to their original places and continued livelihood activities, showing that the operation has helped alleviate the suffering of affected populations.

With the support of DREF, 4,000 NFRI packages (including tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and cloth sets) were replenished in the NRCS central warehouse through local procurement. With this, the operation was concluded on 19 April 2010 six months after the allocation of DREF on 19 October 2009.

As a result of disaster response operations over the last several years, including this, the coordination and collaboration mechanism among the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, government and other national and international organizations including UN agencies has improved, particularly since the introduction of



NRCS volunteers were mobilized immediately in the response, distributing National Society pre-positioned non-food relief items to people affected by the floods and landslides. **Photo: NRCS**

the cluster system. NRCS, supported by IFRC, is the lead organization for the emergency shelter and non-food relief items distribution during disaster in Nepal. While learning lessons from such operations, NRCS has now focused its attention on pre-monsoon preparedness and early warning mechanisms.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society/Netherlands government has contributed EUR 20,000 (CHF 30,193) towards the replenishment of the DREF for the allocation made to this operation. This is in addition to the contribution of CAD 50,000 (CHF 49,703) received from the Canadian government in the replenishment of the same allocation. The operation's total expenditure was CHF 277,113; the balance of CHF 30,127 was returned to DREF.

IFRC, on behalf of the Nepal Red Cross Society, would like to thank all donors and partners for their generous support to DREF.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Nepal experienced heavy floods and landslides in October 2009 which affected 14 districts in its mid- and far-western regions, of which Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dadeldhura, Achham and Kanchanpur were the worst hit districts. In total, 79 people died, over 257,000 people (46,800 families) were affected and more than 18,300 people (3,300 families) were displaced due to the disaster.

The floods washed away large areas of paddy fields along with food, clothes, household utensils and other valuable stocks in houses. Drinking water sources were contaminated and damaged. The displaced population was forced to seek temporary accommodation with their relatives, while others settled in schools, temples and open space which were not affected severely by the floods or landslides.

The following table summarizes the situation:

	Category	Total
1.	Affected districts	14
2.	Affected village development committees (VDCs)	254
3.	Affected municipalities	7
4.	Completely destroyed houses	3,101
5.	Partially destroyed houses	4,907
6.	Deaths	79
7.	Missing people	8
8.	Injured people	62
9.	Displaced people	18,386 (3,343 families)
10.	Affected people	257,724 (46,859 families)

During the first few days, assessments, rescue and relief operations proved to be challenging due to the partial or complete breakdown in communication systems and transportation networks. Moreover, the remote locations and scattered communities in the affected area impeded the timely accomplishment of the operation. Nevertheless, NRCS was able to provide immediate relief assistance such as ready-to-eat food, emergency shelter (tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets), and first aid service to the affected population, through its wide network of volunteers in the community. In the early days, people survived mainly on emergency relief supplies such as instant noodles, beaten rice, and biscuits received from the Red Cross, local government and other organizations. Two weeks on, people slowly resumed normal life as they returned to their collapsed or damaged homes, while others set up temporary shelters.

NRCS undertook its response actions as part of a national and district level coordinated approach through the pre-established mechanism mandated by government policy. NRCS is an ex-officio member of the Nepal government's central natural disaster relief committee (CNDRC) which is headed by the country's minister of home affairs. Likewise, the district chapters are members of the district disaster relief committee (DDRC) which is headed by the chief district officer.

During this disaster, NRCS national headquarters coordinated with central level government agencies, IFRC and other national-level stakeholders to secure prompt response and fill the gaps observed at the district level, including through participation in the interagency standing committee meetings coordinated by UN OCHA. Similarly, the NRCS district chapters coordinated their activities with government agencies (such as

DDRCs, VDCs, district education offices and district health offices and civil society organizations), international agencies such as Care Nepal, Save the Children, UN agencies and World Vision International, and local agencies such as Christian Relief Fund, Community Development Centre, Dalit Sewa Sangh, Mercy Corps, Peace Win, S Nepal, Sam Development Centre, and Women Jagaran Centre.

The government of Nepal, particularly the DDRC in the affected districts, coordinated the relief operation as well as distributed food items (20 kg of rice and 1 kg of salt per family) to the affected people. Similarly, the government line offices in the affected districts managed health camps, and renovated water and sanitation units.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the floods and landslides, NRCS mobilized more than 350 trained volunteers and some staff for emergency situation assessments and provision relief assistance to the affected population. The NRCS national headquarters activated its emergency operation centre, and set up administration and response units within the disaster management department. The headquarters also provided financial support to each of the district chapters in the most-affected areas for the mobilization of volunteers, coordination of relief activities, distribution of relief goods and maintenance of communications. NRCS emergency assistance included the distribution of ready-to-eat food (locally collected), shelter and non-food relief items, and delivery of first aid services to the affected population.

The details of the ready-to-eat food and other food items distribution are given in the table below.

	District	Ready-to-eat food (locally collected)			Rice (kg)	Pulse (kg)	Food items (kg)	Oil (lit.)	Salt (kg)	Sugar (kg)
		Beaten rice (kg)	Noodles (packets)	Biscuits (packets)						
1.	Banke	9,659	8,049	8,049	-	-	-	-	268	966
2.	Bardiya	185	168	168	450	-	-	-	105	25
3.	Kanchanpur	-	-	-	26,800	-	-	-	1,341	-
4.	Doti	265	515	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Achham	-	-	-	6,400	400	-	-	-	-
6.	Kailali	62,765	-	-	13,567	-	17,846	8,996	-	4,153

In addition to the above distribution, NRCS supported the government (DDRC) in delivery and distribution of staple food (20 kg of rice and 1 kg of salt per family) to the disaster-affected districts. The National Society was also actively involved in the search and rescue and evacuation operations in collaboration with other local stakeholders in the districts, mainly with the DDRC of the government.

In parallel to the initial emergency relief assistance, the National Society conducted a detailed field assessment of the affected areas, prepared beneficiary lists, developed a registration system and distributed non-food relief items from its own stocks, maintained in the regional warehouses of Mahendranagar and Nepalgunj and central warehouses. The objective of providing 4,000 families (24,000 people) with NFRI packages was fully accomplished. The target beneficiary number was determined based on the assessments and covered all the most affected families in these locations. In addition, NRCS met the water and sanitation need of the population in the Kailali and Kanchanpur districts through the ongoing recovery programme in these areas which was launched as a response to the 2008 floods.

Towards the end of the relief distributions, NRCS focused on re-stocking its regional warehouses from stocks located in the central warehouse. DREF supported NRCS to replenish 4,000 NFRI packages in the central warehouse to maintain the agreed levels of relief stock as appropriate disaster preparedness measures.

NRCS was successful in completing the operation through effective coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders (government, NGOs/INGOs, local organizations and beneficiaries), and the provision of effective logistical mechanisms such as transportation, volunteer mobilization and other administrative arrangements.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 4,000 families (approximately 24,000 people) affected by floods and landslides with provision of 4,000 sets of non-food relief items to secure their immediate needs and livelihood

Expected results	Activities planned
Approximately 4,000 families (24,000 people) affected by floods and landslides have directly received non-food relief items (including a tarpaulin, a blanket, a cloth set and a kitchen set) distributed by the NRCS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop beneficiary list targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute non-food relief item sets to identified 4,000 families affected by floods and landslides.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent field visits from the national headquarters to monitor and evaluate the relief activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide reporting on relief distributions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize lessons learnt workshop and develop an exit strategy.

Impact:

A total of 4,101 families from the 14 affected districts received non-food relief items (each family received a tarpaulin, a blanket, a cloth set and a kitchen set). NRCS provided the relief items from its pre-positioned stocks in the regional warehouses at Mahendranagar and Nepalgunj, and the western regional hubs.

The following table summarizes non-food relief items distribution:

	Relief Items	Total distributed	Replenishment by DREF	Provided from NRCS stock	Remaining in NRCS stock
1.	Tarpaulin	5,222	4,000	1,222	
2.	Blanket	4,921	4,000	921	
3.	Ladies' saree	4,101	4,000	101	
4.	Cloth ^a	4101 (units)	4,000 (units)	101 (units)	
5.	Men's dhoti ^b	2,329	2,329	--	1,671
6.	Kitchen set ^c	4,101 (units)	4,000 (units)	101 (units)	
7.	Plastic mat	620	-	620	
8.	Water storage jar	620	-	620	

^a Each unit of cloth totals 16 metres of cloth per family

^b Men's dhotis were distributed in Terai belt (southern plain) only, therefore there are still 1,671 dhotis remaining in the NRCS central and regional warehouses.

^c Kitchen set includes 5 cooking pots, 3 thals (dish plates), 2 glasses, 2 cups, 2 serving utensils and 1 cooking pot cover

Table showing the distribution of NFRI packages by district:

	Affected district	Distributed packages/items	
		NFRI package ^d	Additional tarpaulins
1	Acham	280	0
2	Dadeldhura	324	0
3	Doti	475	2
4	Kailali	1,500	923
5	Kanchanpur	586	196

6	Baitadi	188	0
7	Myagdi	32	0
8	Syanja	36	0
9	Arghakhachi	75	0
10	Parbat	49	0
11	Bardiya	40	0
12	Bajhang	250	0
13	Bankey	203	0
14	Dang	63	0
	Total	4,101	1,121

^dNFRI package includes tarpaulin, blanket, cloth set and kitchen set

The immediate relief assistance from the NRCS was crucial in alleviating the suffering of the affected people and reducing their vulnerability. The humanitarian assistance supported them to settle down temporarily during the emergency and resume normal lives after the disaster. Many of the affected families have returned to their homes and resumed livelihood activities.

The NRCS image received an immense boost within the affected region following the floods and landslides operation as its response was prompt in reaching the affected population. This was facilitated through the safer access model within the Red Cross and wide network of Red Cross volunteers present in the communities.

Proper information management during the emergency contributed to better coordination and consequently the coverage of needs of the affected population by different stakeholders. This also meant that the district chapters of the NRCS were often asked to carry out this implementation, and, by extension, implement the distribution for other humanitarian organizations. The relief materials were provided in a coordinated way in order to avoid duplication. The coordination was carried out at the district level through the district disaster relief committee (in which NRCS is present in an ex officio capacity) as well as at the national level through the central disaster relief committee (of which, too, the NRCS is an ex-officio member). One implication of this coordination was that it covered other humanitarian agencies as well as civil society initiatives (including initiatives of local business) that provided aid to the affected population.

Now, NRCS has developed district disaster preparedness and response plans. The national society also has a plan to extend its radio communication system out of Kathmandu valley.

Challenges:

During the first few days of the operation, assessments, rescue and relief operations were hampered in some of the affected areas due to the partial or complete breakdown in communication systems and transportation networks. Some areas were inaccessible due to the heavy rainfall; however, the situation improved as flood water levels receded in the affected areas.

NRCS immediately coordinated with the Nepal government security force for the relay/transmission of information and district telecommunication office for the maintenance of the damaged communication system (repairing telephone pole, replacing damaged telephone ware). Similarly, NRCS mobilized local volunteers and distributed the relief items from the stocks maintained in its different strategic locations (district chapter warehouse, the regional warehouses of Mahendranagar and Nepalgunj, and western regional hubs)

Logistics

Objective: To facilitate overall relief operation through provision of effective logistical support such as transportation, volunteer mobilization and other administrative arrangements.

Expected results	Activities
More than 350 NRCS trained volunteers and staff mobilized for providing the humanitarian assistance to approximately 24,000 people (4,000 families).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobilization of volunteers in relief distributions and assessments
Non-food relief items dispatched from the central warehouse to regional warehouses and from regional warehouses to respective district chapters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation of non-food relief item sets• Management of distribution points• Management of warehouses• Other general and administrative arrangements control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user
A total of 4,000 non-food relief item sets procured and replenished in the central warehouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of suppliers for each of the non-food relief items• Procurement of 4,000 non-food relief item packages• Replenish non-food relief item packages distributed

Impact:

In response to the disaster, NRCS deployed more than 350 trained volunteers and staff for the emergency assessment, registration of affected people, distribution of pre-stored food and non-food relief items and the delivery of first aid services.

NRCS carried out the relief operation in the affected areas based on its existing logistics mechanism extended from central to district level. Initially, the non-food relief item sets were distributed from the stocks maintained at the regional warehouses located at Mahendranagar and Nepalgunj, the western regional hubs. These warehouses have now been restocked with non-food relief items from the central warehouse.

Parallel to the relief operation, NRCS procured non-food relief items (including tarpaulin, blanket, plastic rope, plastic bucket, kitchen sets and cloth items (jean cloth, plain cloth, printed cloth, ladies' *saree* and men's *dhoti*) to replenish the stock distributed during the relief operation.

This DREF operation has supported the National Society to replenish the non-food relief items in the central warehouse located in the Kathmandu so that it is back in a position to respond to a similar crisis.

Challenges:

Political turmoil as well as the weak security situation posed challenges in the logistical management including transportation of the relief materials from regional warehouses to the districts and dispatch points.

Conclusion

Lessons learnt:

In March 2010, NRCS organized a lessons learnt workshop in Nepalgunj to review and document the experiences and lessons learned of the floods and landslides operations in 2009. A total of 32 participants attended including:

- NRCS chairman, secretary general and executive director.
- NRCS disaster management director, deputy director and senior officer.
- Representatives from 14 affected district chapters.
- Federation country representative.



The experience from the National Society's response to the floods identified good practices and found recommendations for addressing key challenges. **Photo: NRCS**

- Stocking of relief items at local level is very useful to provide immediate assistance to the affected people during a disaster.
- Card system (identity and beneficiary card) is useful for the effective response to the affected people.
- Timely reporting from the field is crucial to maintain proper data of the beneficiaries and facilitate further planning of the response.

Similarly, the workshop made the following recommendations:

- The disaster response capacity of the sub-chapters should be strengthened, as they are the first NRCS units in the communities to respond to a disaster.
- NRCS district chapters should be supported for further infrastructure development.
- Review existing warehouse management guidelines and a separate policy/guideline is needed for the transportation of relief materials in different districts of different geographical areas.
- Proper documentation of each relief operation should be maintained in the national society so that the information can be used to respond to other disasters effectively in the future.

Conclusion:

The objectives of the DREF operation being the distribution and replenishment of 4,000 non-food relief items including volunteer mobilization and logistical support to carry out the relief operation were fulfilled successfully. However, more advocacy work and information sharing will be necessary with the national, departmental and local state institutions and authorities to contribute to strengthening the shelter aspect of emergency response mechanisms.

With the support from DREF, NRCS has provided a meaningful contribution towards alleviating the suffering of more than 4,000 families (24,000 people) affected by floods and landslides in 2009. In the process, the capacity of NRCS volunteers and field staff was enhanced, particularly in the areas of case tracing and disaster management. This has improved preparedness for future disasters in the country.

The participants shared lessons learnt from the operation, addressed a number of key challenges and identified a number of good practices the ways to be followed in the future.

The main lessons learnt from the operation were as follows:

- Pre-meetings and consultations ensured a more effective response.
- Developing a roster of assessment and training tools would facilitate mobilizing volunteers and staff for collecting appropriate information in a timely and effective manner.
- Pre-disaster hazard mapping of the disaster-prone VDCs would provide required information for timely response.
- Coordination and collaboration with the government and other non government organizations are important for the effective response.

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 \(NGOs\) 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:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRNP003 - Nepal - Floods & Landslides

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/9-2010/5
Budget Timeframe	2009/9-2010/5
Appeal	MDRNP003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	307,240					307,240
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	307,240					307,240
C6. Other Income	307,240					307,240
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	307,240					307,240
D. Total Funding = B + C	307,240					307,240
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	307,240					307,240
E. Expenditure	-277,113					-277,113
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	30,127					30,127

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	307,240						307,240	
General Expenditure								
Professional Fees		10,000					10,000	-10,000
Other General Expenses	287,269							287,269
Total General Expenditure	287,269	10,000					10,000	277,269
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		248,981					248,981	-248,981
Total Contributions & Transfers		248,981					248,981	-248,981
Programme Support								
Program Support	19,971	18,132					18,132	1,839
Total Programme Support	19,971	18,132					18,132	1,839
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	307,240	277,113					277,113	30,127
VARIANCE (C - D)		30,127					30,127	