

# ***NEPAL: FLOODS 1998***

*20 April 1999*

*appeal no. 28/98*

*situation report no. 2 - Operation extended to 21 May 1999*

*period covered: 15 February - 7 April, 1999*

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*Nepal Red Cross Society Branches have completed distributions of household items, blankets, and clothing to some 10,000 very vulnerable families affected by last year's floods. In addition, the National Society has almost completed the entire procurement and replacing of essential relief supplies used up in this emergency in readiness for the coming monsoon season. For a longer-lasting impact, NRCS has conducted and will conduct a series of community-based disaster preparedness training workshops to address the specific vulnerability and capacity of flood prone communities.*

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## ***The context***

Exceptionally heavy rains in mid-1998 created serious flooding and landslides in 73 of Nepal's 75 districts leaving 260 dead and some 10,000 families homeless. Across the country, an estimated 29,000 hectares of arable land were destroyed.

The NRCS district branches with their staff and volunteers undertook needs assessments and provided assistance to the most affected people. A Federation appeal was launched on September 18, 1998 seeking CHF 525,000 in cash to provide assistance to 10,000 very vulnerable families. It also covered, in a second and third phase, the urgently needed restocking of relief items as well as some systematic community-based disaster preparedness training.

Donor response to the appeal was positive, enabling NRCS to complete the distribution to the targeted 10,000 families within the initial time frame, and to carry out the other two appeal objectives -- essential restocking and community-based training activities among the flood-prone communities. The training component is expected to be completed shortly, hence the extension of the time frame.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Distribution**

The distribution of essential relief items was completed during the emergency phase September - November 1998. However, due to the inaccessibility of many of the districts and the impaired communication infrastructure, the last of the final distribution reports arrived only in early 1999. These reports indicate that the distribution was successful and reached the most vulnerable 10,000 families in good time.

Region	District	No. of families	Relief Items					
			Tarpaulin (pcs)	Kitchen set (set)	Blanket (pcs)	Ladies Saree (pcs)	Men's Dhoti (pcs)	Assorted clothes (pcs)
Eastern	16	3,823	2,222	2,172	2,352	6,906	2,152	39,030
Central	19	1,801	2,014	1,329	1,611	1,801	825	24,554
Western	13	3,739	989	1,787	1,098	3,739	2,030	35,207
Mid-Western	14	230	91	104	173	230	133	2,999
Far-Western	7	366	144	176	344	366	0	7,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>9,959</b>	<b>5,460</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>5,578</b>	<b>13,042</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>108,965</b>

### **Procurement**

The following items have been procured:

- 120,000 metres cloth (in final stage of purchase)
- 5,000 sets of kitchen utensils
- 6,500 pcs tarpaulins
- 6,000 pcs blankets.

All procurement is done strictly according to NRCS procurement rules and regulations, including tendering.

### **Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Training among flood-prone communities**

The following training activities are being undertaken:

- April 18-22, 1999 - Community-based DP training for 25 participants from selected districts
- April 18-22, 1999 - Women's Involvement in DP, training for 25 participants (selected districts)
- April 28-30, 1999 - Fire and Flood Management for 25 participants from selected districts.

These training initiatives will link in meaningfully with the wider scale CBDP training programme of the National Society.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Although response to this appeal has been sufficient to replace the Society's disaster stocks, the country's vulnerability to disaster and the communication difficulties make disaster preparedness a permanent concern. Donors are reminded that the Emergency Appeal 1999 for Nepal seeks funds both for pre-positioning of supplies and for the preparedness training of staff, volunteers and communities.

In view of the recent announcement by the Ministry of Communication that, in April, the first cellular phone facility in Nepal will be tested for launch in May 1999, NRCS has been encouraged to use part of the funds for the urgent procurement of 2-3 mobile phones to increase the communications facilities.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Co-operation with Government authorities and other NGOs remains excellent.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The immediate emergency response by NRCS helped the most affected members of the population to return to their villages as early as possible and begin re-establishing themselves. The soon to be completed procurement of relief stocks has ensured that NRCS has, at least, replenished those stocks distributed during the emergency, while the ongoing structured disaster preparedness training at community level fits meaningfully into the National Society's disaster management strategy.

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