

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

appeal no: 18/99
11 August 1999

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,141,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 40,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS***

Summary

Cambodia is one of several Asian countries hit by devastating floods following unusually heavy rains since 31 July. While floodwaters are receding in most places, weather forecasts predict that seasonal rains will continue, raising fears of further flooding. Poorer countries like Cambodia are finding it hard to respond with relief and rehabilitation support for the thousands of affected people.

The Disaster

When the tidal Prek Toek Chou river overflowed following monsoon showers from 31 July to 1 August, the town of Kampot, in the south of Cambodia, was under 1.5 metres of water, forcing government offices, markets and hospitals to close. Because of the monsoon rains, reportedly the worst since the 1950s (Cambodia Daily, 6 Aug. 1999) rivers and streams are at or near their capacity in Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kandal, Prey Veng, Koh Kong and Kampot provinces.

The flooding has seriously damaged homes made of thatch primarily in Kampot town, and in Kompong Bay, Dong Tong, Kompong Trach and Chouk -- all districts in Kampot province. Over 7,000 families comprising 40,000 people have been affected and four children died in the disaster. Hundreds of livestock and over 10,000 hectares of farmland have been destroyed. A shortage of food and fuel has pushed prices up by 100-300%. Dozens of villages remain cut off and the full impact on people and infrastructure can only be ascertained when the flood waters recede.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), a ministerial level agency mandated to co-ordinate and direct the activities of the Royal Cambodian Government during disasters, is co-ordinating field level activities of assessment teams.

The government has joined CRC assessments and has provided some initial relief, including 520 mosquito nets and 23 cholera kits.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The Cambodian Red Cross, assisted by the International Federation, has mobilised its volunteers to assist in the assessment of the worst affected areas (see assessment details below). A planning meeting chaired by the CRC's First Vice-President discussed CRC's participation with local authorities and the National Committee for Disaster Management, of which CRC is a member. The CRC has also participated in meetings with the Provincial Governor.

Other Agencies' Action w

No action has been reported by other agencies so far. Many are waiting for more information on the need for assistance.

Co-ordination w

The International Federation and the Cambodian Red Cross have already contacted other organisations such as ECHO, MSF, WFP, Medicam, Food for the Hungry and SAWA for co-operation and information sharing.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

Needs are based on previous experience of flooding in Cambodia as well as on detailed village and commune level assessments that have already taken place or are currently underway. Specifically the CRC and Federation (including its Water & Sanitation delegate and Disaster Preparedness delegate) visited Kampot province on 6, 8 and 10 August.

Immediate Needs •

The most immediate problems to be addressed are: lack of food, lack of shelter (repairs to damaged houses), the loss of household items, the prevalence of malaria and the loss of agricultural tools.

Anticipated Later Needs •

A comprehensive water and sanitation assessment is underway to ascertain the damage done to local water supplies. Provisional information indicates that 10 damaged or contaminated water sources will be rehabilitated (with possible support from ECHO) and that there will be an extensive education component on safe health and hygiene practices.

Red Cross Objectives •

- { To provide immediate assistance to flood victims in the form of 7,000 emergency household kits.
- { To implement a water and sanitation project, to reduce spread of infectious diseases, and to improve the longer term disaster preparedness and health conditions of the target community.

{ To enhance the capacity of the Cambodian Red Cross branches.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

August 1999 •

Distribution of household kits and repair materials to flood victims.

The Federation aims to provide 7,000 emergency household kits specifically designed for the situation based on needs identified during assessments. The kits will contain some 20 items including *house repair materials*: nails (1kg x 5cm; 1kg x 10cm), plastic sheeting, steel wire, hammer, axe, hoe head, knife; *cooking utensils*: plastic water container, rice pot (2), metal plate (5), spoons (5); *clothing and sleeping items*: blanket (2), mat (nylon), impregnated mosquito net (2), sarong (2), krama (2); *other items*: carrier bag for mosquito nets (2), carrier bag for household items, soap (8) for hygiene.

The distribution will begin with 3,080 household kits to families in communes in Kampot district (see table below). The remainder will be distributed to beneficiary families as they are identified in the coming days.

Commune	Village (number)	Families (number)	People (number)
Prey Khmum	4	870	4,473
Kompong Kreng	5	795	4,096
Thmey	3	249	1,333
Kondol	3	581	3,212
Stung Keo	5	585	3,055
Total:	20	3,080	16,169

September 1999 - January 2000 •

On completion of the assessment, advice on water storage and purification will be provided and 10 shallow wells will be refurbished. Work will be carried out by the communities with support from Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross Youth (school based). Health education (related to water and sanitation in disasters) as well as Community Based First Aid (CBFA) will be disseminated in communities. Training in disaster management, as a means to strengthen its capacity, will also be provided to CRC branch staff (in line with the objectives of the Federation's Disaster Preparedness programme for Cambodia covered in the Annual Emergency Appeal 1999).

Capacity of the National Society •

All four NHQ departments (Disaster Management, Programme, Administration and Finance and Communications) will be involved in the implementation and monitoring of this operation. The Provincial Red Cross branch in Kampot will play a significant role in planning, implementation and monitoring.

Present Capacity of the Federation in 1999 •

The Delegation is currently composed of a Head of Delegation, Finance/Administration Delegate, Disaster Preparedness Delegate, Water & Sanitation Delegate plus locally employed Programme Assistants and support staff. Further support is provided by the Federation Regional Delegation in Kuala Lumpur.

Evaluation •

The International Federation will monitor the implementation of the operation; variances and 'lessons learnt' will be incorporated into the ongoing support to the CRC's disaster management operations.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

This operation will not only address the emergency needs of more than 40,000 people in Kampot, but will also help ensure that mechanisms are in place to reduce vulnerability and to enhance the response capacity of the local Red Cross. While some donor interest has already been shown in vulnerability reduction, donors are requested to provide timely support for the victims of this seasonal, yet significant, disaster.

For further information, please contact Mr Antony Spalton, Desk Officer, on +4122 7304252 (email: spalton@ifrc.org) or Ms Seija Tyrninoksa in the field, on +855 23210162 (email: ifrckh01@ifrc.org)

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CAMBODIA FLOODS**IN CHF****RELIEF NEEDS - 7.000 Kits (see annex 2)****Emergency kits (7.000 kits) See annex 2**

Shelter kits	187,810
Cooking sets	143,360
Clothing and sleeping kits	200,620
Others	23,100
Packaging and delivery of kits	21,000

Water & Sanitation

Treatment of water sources & Rehab. of 10 wells	160,000
Health education	65,000

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	800,890
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<u>Capital equipment</u>	10,000
<u>Transport, storage & vehicle costs</u>	75,000

Personnel

Personnel (6 expat staff/months)	60,000
Personnel (local staff)	24,000
Training	55,000

Administrative, office & general expenses

Assessment/Survey mission/Evaluation	5,000
Printing Costs/Information/Visibility	8,000
Secretariat operational support	53,110

TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	340,110
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	1,141,000
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LESS CASH ON HAND	0
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NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	1,141,000
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All items are going to be purchased locally