

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: MONSOON FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES**

8 August 2002

*Information Bulletin N° 1; Also refer to the previous bulletins on Bangladesh, India and Nepal entitled “South Asia: Monsoon flooding and landslides”, posted on the Federation’s web site on 25 July and 2 August respectively.*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) Allocated: 0*

*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. The Federation will launch an emergency appeal next week to respond to the situation, needs, and to support the efforts of the Nepal Red Cross Society. The Federation will provide further information as it becomes available and/or as the situation evolves.*

*This flood situation is regional in nature, with implications which affect Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The Federation’s response is structured on a regional and country basis, with separate emergency appeals to be launched for each country (Bangladesh: Monsoon Floods, appeal 21/2002 was launched on 7 August, 2002).*

### **The Situation**

Widespread flooding and landslides continue to bring suffering to millions of people affected by this year’s monsoon in eastern, central and some parts of western Nepal. The death toll has risen to 391 (8 August) and aerial assessments indicate massive destruction, particularly in the hilly regions. Nearly half a million people in 46 of the 75 districts have been affected.

According to the Government Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DOHM) the heavy monsoon rains from the 21-24 of July were the highest recorded in the past three decades.

The monsoon rain in the eastern and central regions of the country appears to have subsided. However the monsoon is extending to western and mid-western regions where 12 different districts currently are affected by floods and landslides. Increased incidence of such diseases as encephalitis, typhoid and dysentery has been reported in some of the flood and landslide affected areas such as the Morang, Sunsari, Mohattari, Saptari, Siraha, Jhapa, Chitawan and Nawalparasi districts.

The damaged highways mentioned in previous reports have been partially reopened which has enabled relief material to be transported by road.

The Government is fully depending on the NRCS to reach the affected population with rescue, relief, and first aid, and has given the NRCS a co-ordinating function for distributing relief. NGOs such as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) are depending on NRCS to reach the victims.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Due to lack of communication and transportation facilities, the NRCS has been unable to receive up-to-date information from all the disaster affected areas on a regular basis. However the NRCS continues to be very active through its grassroots network all over the country (i.e. a network of 75 district chapters, 3,282 subchapters and co-operation committees and 3,282 youth/junior Red Cross circles). This network has been fully mobilised for the disaster response activities. In addition, the NRCS continues to maintain close contacts, share information and co-ordinate its efforts with the Federation, ICRC, sister national societies, NGOs, international organizations, and the government.

The NRCS has provided relief materials to 37,212 persons in 25 districts in both the eastern and western regions of the country. Relief materials have been dispatched from the NRCS's central warehouse, from regional warehouses in Birgunj and Biratnagar, as well as from its zonal warehouse in Pokhara/Bhaitawa. The total cost of the materials distributed to date is estimated at NRs 12,694,500 (CHF 259,071).

In addition to First Aid, search and rescue services, and the evacuation of affected families, the NRCS distributions have consisted of more than 10,000 kg of food items, and 5,555 family packages (consisting of one woollen blanket, one piece of plastic tarpaulin, kitchen utensils, clothes, i.e. one ladies saree, one male dhoti, and 16 metres of different type of cloth).

On Sunday 4 August 55 Red Cross Youth volunteers managed an appeal in Biratnagar for funds, food, clothes and blankets to support the victims. For the last week they have been running collections and the response from local business and citizens is encouraging. The Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme including its revolving funds programme where villagers give approximately 5 rupees a month is proving its usefulness. Those affected by disasters in villages which are part of this programme, can take money from the fund to repair or rebuild houses.

The need for relief materials is growing. Although the affected district chapters have been responding rapidly and effectively to the disaster, they were able to assist only a small percentage of the affected population. At present, the NRCS has only 12% of its relief materials remaining in stock, with many assessment reports still to arrive from remote areas this will not be enough to continue assisting the vulnerable population.

An Operational Project Agreement was concluded on 3 August between the Nepal Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Nepal delegation and the Federation's Regional Delegation in Delhi regarding the implementation of disaster flood assistance in those districts which are affected by conflict. By the terms of the agreement, the ICRC has lead agency status while the Federation plays a lead role in support of the NRCS in this operation and is responsible for the launch of this appeal. The ICRC is supporting this operation with a contribution of CHF 100,000. The agreement is in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Seville Agreement (1997), the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief, and the recently issued Security Guidelines and Code of Conduct, which will serve as a reference and guide to all partners involved.

The Federation's head of the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) is presently in Nepal visiting the NRCS to meet with the ICRC Head of Delegation and to visit the affected areas with senior NRCS officials. The regional disaster response delegate left for Kathmandu on 2 August and has, together with the ICRC co-operation delegate and NRCS relief staff, assisted the NRCS in operational planning. Between 5 to 8 August they conducted a joint assessment in the districts of Kavre, Jankapur, Dhanusa, Parsa and Makawanpur, and an inspection of the warehouse in Birgunj to reaffirm operational priorities, including logistics, to ensure the needs of the vulnerable will be addressed.

### **Contingency Planning**

In addition to the extensive relief experience within the NRCS, there are currently 6 experienced Federation/bilateral Delegates and national/regional staff in Nepal. Regionally there is also one FACT team leader, and a number of delegates and national staff who have received FACT or ERU training. A contingency plan has been devised for the deployment of these specialists if and when necessary.

An appeal for international support will be launched early next week, intended to respond to the increasing needs and to support the efforts of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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