

# 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 لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## NEPAL: FLOODS/LANDSLIDES

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains have adversely affected parts of western Nepal, most seriously the districts of Banke, Bardiya and Achham. So far, 47 people have died and over 37,000 people have been affected. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been conducting rescue and relief operations in the affected areas, along with assessing the situation, identifying the needs of the affected families and distributing relief items to them.

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Nepal: Nepal Red Cross Society, Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal (Executive Director), email: [umesh@nrccs.org](mailto:umesh@nrccs.org), phone: +97.71.435.2702, fax: +97.71.427.1915
- In Nepal: Nepal Delegation, Nicolas Russell (Federation Representative), e-mail: [fedrep@nrccs.org](mailto:fedrep@nrccs.org), phone: +97.71.428.5843, fax: +97.71.428.6048
- In India: South Asia Regional Delegation, Ms. Nina Nobel (Programmes Coordinator), email: [nina.nobel@ifrc.org](mailto:nina.nobel@ifrc.org), phone: +91.11.2411.1125, fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional Officer), email: [hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org](mailto:hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395, or Nelly Khrabrava (Senior Assistant), e-mail: [nelly.khrabrava@ifrc.org](mailto:nelly.khrabrava@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4306

### The Situation

Incessant and heavy monsoon rains, starting from 24 August 2006, caused floods and landslides in western Nepal, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of property. While the districts in the western plains have faced flooding, those in the hilly region have suffered from landslides. Floods have most seriously affected the mid-western districts of Banke and Bardiya and landslides have severely affected the far-western district of Achham. Reports are being received from other districts as well and a total of 13 districts in the region have so far been affected. According to information received from the district chapters of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), to date 47 people have died and over 37,000 people have been affected. Hundreds of people are still missing but, as some areas are still inaccessible, it is difficult to assess the exact number of missing people.

#### Banke

It is reported that the floods have so far left 3 people dead and 63 people missing. Initial assessment by the NRCS has estimated that about 6,711 families have been affected in the district. There has also been a huge loss of property.

The Nepal army has evacuated 300 people and shifted them to elevated areas. District level coordination meetings among concerned stakeholders are taking place regularly to assess the situation and the resources needed to address the needs of the affected population.

### **Bardiya**

Almost a half the district has been affected by the floods. It is so far reported that 3 people have died. About 5,000 houses in the severely affected areas have been submerged and communication systems have been damaged. Displaced people have moved to safer places like camps and schools. As food stocks have been damaged, the need is now for food supply, particularly for children, pregnant women and the sick. A problem of epidemics has also been seen in certain areas. Initial information received from NRCS shows that about 1,352 families have been affected in the district.

### **Achham**

Landslides have left 5 people dead and 3 people injured in the district. Houses have been destroyed and swept away and 150 families have been displaced. Some people are still buried in the debris due to house collapses. About 800 people have been temporarily shifted to safer areas by army choppers.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

NRCS immediately sent its assessment teams to carry out assessments of the situation and needs of people in the affected districts. However the inundation and cutting off of many areas has restricted the carrying out of detailed assessments. This has also limited the distribution of relief materials, to the affected communities, by NRCS. The NRCS networks for rescue and relief operations are in place and these are being carried out by NRCS's district sub-chapters (14 sub-chapters in Banke district and 15 sub-chapters in Bardiya district). More support will be provided once detailed assessments are complete.

In Banke, initial assessment suggests that about 2,000 affected families are in need of immediate support in terms of relief materials. It is estimated that at least 2 million rupees will be needed to provide food assistance to the affected in the district during this initial stage. The government's district disaster relief committee has given NRCS the responsibility for collecting, coordinating and distributing food items in the affected areas. The district development committee and the municipality have provided food items to NRCS, which have been distributed. The NRCS has also received assistance in cash and in kind from other organizations, such as the local branch of the chamber of commerce and the NGOs Rural Reconstruction Nepal and Save the Children Federation (United States).

Ongoing assessment in Bardiya district has indicated a need to supply food items for about 5,000 affected families for a period of one month, as well as temporary shelter and health care for the same period.

The NRCS, through its district chapters, has started distributing relief items in the affected districts of Banke, Bardiya and Achham. It has also distributed food, non-food items and cash to affected communities in other districts, like Baitadi.

**Table: Relief items distributed in the most affected districts**

<b>District</b>	<b>Items distributed</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Banke	Beaten rice	23,060 kilos
	Crude sugar	8,766 kilos
	Instant noodles	240 packets
	Water	600 litres
	Blankets	40 pieces
Bardiya	Beaten rice	Distributed to 489 families in the evacuation centres
	Pulses	
	Puffed rice	
	Family packs	400
	Water purification liquids	300 bottles
Achham	Relief materials	100 packets
	Tarpaulin	100 pieces
	Food items (are being sent)	

NRCS has kept its national disaster response team (NDRT) and regional disaster response team (RDRT) members on alert for necessary deployment. The national society is working in coordination with other organizations in the affected districts.

*The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.*

*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.*

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