

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Cambodia: Stampede in Phnom Penh

Information bulletin n° 2  
25 November 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Cambodian Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for contact information>](#)

### The situation

On 22 November 2010, at around 20:00 in Phnom Penh, unrest occurred in an estimated crowd of one million people on Diamond Island where the annual water festival celebrations were being held. Reasons for this unrest are yet undetermined. People stampeded, trying leave the island via a bridge to the mainland with several jumping into the river below. Police tried to disperse the crowd by using water cannons, but this appears to have caused the electrocution of some people from loose electrical wires hanging on the bridge.

Figures have increased since the previous information bulletin with 375 people now reported dead and 758 others injured, according to the latest government reports on 23 November 2010. Most of those affected by this tragedy have been taken to four major hospitals, as is seen in the table below. The rest have been sent to Municipal hospital, Kuntha Bopha hospital, and private clinics.



Red Cross youth and staff working to assist families of casualties and to trace missing family members. (Photo: CRC)

Number of reported	Preash Ketomeala Hospital		Calmette Hospital		Preash Kosamak Hospital		Khmer-Soviet Hospital		Total
	Women/ girls	Men/ boys	Women/ girls	Men/ boys	Women/ girls	Men/ boys	Women/ girls	Men/ boys	
Deaths	11	3	99	41	33	18	76	65	<b>346</b>
Injuries	38	4	81	101	38	79	27	20	<b>388</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>734</b>
<b>Tracing services by CRC</b>	178 requests for forms		275 cases		No cases		61 cases		

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) national headquarters and youth responded immediately to the incident by providing first aid to more than 100 cases, resulting from this catastrophe. Red Cross youth were already in place and received information about the incident quickly at their dissemination stand for HIV/AIDS, first aid and road safety on-site; and at the food stands on the island and riverside opened for all three days of the water festival.

CRC has taken up a role in two main areas: restoring family links; and psychosocial support to those affected and their families who had been affected by this catastrophe.

The Cambodian national society positioned four teams at the four hospitals mentioned in the table: Preah Ketomealea, Calmette, Preash Kosamak, and the Khmer-Soviet; where casualties were taken.

CRC teams have worked, supporting those injured and their families in hospitals from 10:00 up to 19:00 on 23 and 24 November since the tragedy occurred. The national society has also provided small food parcels and some monetary assistance of USD 13 for each injured person to a total of 387 people. The CRC youth is also continuing to assist on a voluntary basis in hospitals.



**CRC's secretary general visited three hospitals on behalf of the President of the Cambodian national society. Representatives from CRC, IFRC and ICRC also paid visits to those injured in this tragedy at these hospitals (Photos: IFRC)**

Hospitals have announced the need for extra food and medical support. These requirements will be conveyed to the national committee on disaster management (NCDM) which will coordinate all these requests.

To date, the CRC teams stationed at the hospitals have received a total of 275 requests from family members and relatives of people missing. The CRC headquarters has also informed its branches' tracing units regarding the situation and will release instruction to their branches about procedures on how to receive and manage tracing requests from people whose family members and loved ones are still missing. CRC is also planning to provide support to the families of the wounded, directly in their homes. More detailed information and filling the gaps in data from each branch regarding the dead and injured are expected to be finalized next week.

In terms of support from within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement:

- Up to 200 body bags arrived in Phnom Penh from ICRC Bangkok on the evening of 23 November. Of these, 50 bags have been donated to Calmette Hospital. Other hospitals have indicated no need for them. ICRC will store the remaining 150 bags in Phnom Penh.
- Red Cross Society of China has donated USD 50,000 to Cambodian Red Cross to support response towards this incident.
- The IFRC country office in Phnom Penh continues to support CRC at headquarters level through information dissemination and interaction with the media. Focus still remains on technical support from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. Financial support is not requested at this time.

From the private sector, the Beeline mobile phone company has offered to install three free help lines for CRC to facilitate psychosocial support where necessary. CRC is currently considering the offer and if accepted, the national society will work together with French Red Cross to provide this service.

The Cambodian government has also made arrangements and is conveying the bodies of casualties to their home locations.

Those who wish to contribute towards assisting those affected are requested to contact the municipality office, or do so through the online fundraising facility at the Bayon and CTN TV stations. CRC itself is not fundraising for this disaster at this time.

## 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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