

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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: FLOODS

29 September 2004

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 17/2004; Operations Update No 5; Period covered: 2 September to 15 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 68.6%;** ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

**Appeal history:** Launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,767,360 (USD 2,193,457 or EUR 1,802,246) for six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 868,551 (USD 689,489 or EUR 560,140)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Annual Appeal 01.58/2004**

**Operational Summary:** The emergency relief phase is virtually complete but there is a strong need for the rehabilitation phase to commence and further funding is required to achieve this.

Following earlier delays, is now proceeding to assist the targeted 1,000 families. Over 8,000 families had already been assisted with food relief from locally mobilised resources. The Nepal Red Cross is also working with CARE Nepal in food distribution.

The family relief pack distribution objective has effectively been achieved. Assessments show that with 28,590 packs already distributed out of the planned 30,000, this need has been met. Good progress has been made in this reporting period in continuing to boost warehouse stocks.

The water purification liquid objective has been met with 15,000 families assisted, however outside the planned time frame. This was due to difficulties in obtaining enough liquid from the sole supplier in Nepal.

There is an urgent need for further funding to allow the rehabilitation phase of the operation to proceed. The planned objectives of seed distribution and provision of construction materials are stalled pending funding. However the national society, outside of this appeal, has working with CARE Nepal in construction material distribution in some districts.

The current political situation in Nepal is not stable. However, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to implement the operation without any major problems up to date.

The Federation and Nepal Red Cross have used a cash transfer system for many years and pledge based reporting will therefore be provided directly by the national society.

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

- Nepal Red Cross Society, Kathmandu, Badri Khanal, Executive Director, [badri@nrcc.org](mailto:badri@nrcc.org), phone: 977 1 42 70 650 fax: 977 1 42 71 915.
- Federation Office, Kathmandu, Karin Hakansson-Furga, Federation Representative, [ifrcnp01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcnp01@ifrc.org), phone: 977 1 42 85 843, fax: 977 1 42 86 048.
- ICRC Delegation, Kathmandu: Nicolas Bachman, Communication Delegate, [Kathmandu.kat@icrc.org](mailto:Kathmandu.kat@icrc.org), phone 977 1 44 82 285, fax: 977 1 448 29 37.
- For regional overview, contact Bob McKerrow, Head of Regional Delegation, South Asia, New Delhi. Phone +91 11 2685 8671, mobile +91 98 1000 1534, email – [ifrcin02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcin02@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: Suzana Jekic, Asia-Pacific Department; email: [suzana.jekic@ifrc.org](mailto:suzana.jekic@ifrc.org) ; phone: +41 22 730 4353 and Ewa Eriksson, email [ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org](mailto:ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org), phone +41 22 730 4252.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background

Heavy rains which began in early July resulted in widespread flooding and landslides, affecting 800,000 people in 25 of Nepal's 75 districts with 185 people killed.

Parts of southern Nepal were submerged for over two weeks. There were numerous landslides in the hilly region with many homes swept away. At the height of the disaster, 37,000 families were displaced. A total of 68,000 houses were destroyed or damaged. Infrastructure such as schools and roads and bridges were severely affected in the flood-hit districts.

There has been no further serious flooding in the past month and water levels have receded in the worst affected areas. However, in the post-flood environment, illness from waterborne diseases continues to be a threat.

## Operational developments

The distribution of the family packages is virtually complete with 28,590 of the planned 30,000 packages handed out to beneficiaries. There has been little distribution in this reporting period due to assessments showing that the need has virtually been satisfied. The Nepal Red Cross plans to replenish its warehouse stocks of relief packages.

District chapters have continued to mobilise volunteers and staff in the relief operation. Food items are being purchased locally and distributed as part of the effort in allowing communities to return to some form of normal life.

The Nepal Red Cross is coordinating closely with other organisations as it is seen as the lead agency in response to the disaster due to its extensive network. There is regular contact with UN agencies, the Home Ministry and other organisations active in the DP Net.

As outlined in previous Operations Updates, relief materials have been delivered to the regional and zonal warehouses from the national society headquarters and directly by the suppliers.

The Nepal Red Cross is participating in an action learning exercise regarding the flood operation coordinated by the regional delegation. Terms of references and a team have been selected and the exercise is due to commence on 21 September through to 9 October.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

**Operation goal: To meet urgent needs of 180,000 beneficiaries of 30,000 vulnerable displaced and flood-affected families through the provision of food and family packages as well as to assist 15,000 families in the rehabilitation phase with seeds and 400 families with construction material.**

### Emergency relief

**Objective: To assist 1,000 flood-affected families with food items for one month, to be distributed before the end of August.**

Many of the affected districts are raising funds and in-kind food for distribution to the most vulnerable in their region. However, this not possible in some of the poorer districts which have limited Red Cross capacity. This food assistance will therefore be directed to the neediest families in districts lacking resources. The targeted beneficiaries will receive the full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organisations.

Each beneficiary family will receive a monthly ration of 73.8 kg rice, 10.8 kg pulse, 4.5 kg vegetable oil, 3.6 kg sugar and 1.35 kg salt.

**Progress/Achievements**

District Chapters identified for food distribution based on the assessment reports have procured food items locally and have begun to distribute these to beneficiaries. District chapters, as authorised by national headquarters (NHQ), have purchased food according to the SPHERE standards outlined above. Exact distribution figures will be available in the next Operations Update.

As outlined in Operations Update 4, before the end of August the Nepal Red Cross had distributed food packages to 8,046 families through its own fundraising. The district chapters of Dhanusha and Mahottari made over 90 percent of these distributions with the assistance of NHQ, local resource generation and support from various partners. No further food distribution from local resources has taken place during this reporting period.

**Impact**

The ability of some district branches to locally mobilise food assistance directly following the disaster reflected good preparedness and response capacity and greatly assisted beneficiaries who had extremely limited options for sourcing food at that time. The additional support through this and other internationally funded actions can only be supplementary to what is done on local level.

**Constraints**

Processes under this objective have taken longer than anticipated. Time over-runs in beneficiary assessment, food procurement and the transfer of funds to the districts have contributed to the objective not being met by the end of August as planned. These issues will be addressed in the evaluation phase of the operation. Despite these delays, beneficiaries have received food assistance from branches through locally mobilised resources as outlined above.

**Objective: To assist 30, 000 flood-affected families with family relief packages during the first month of the operation, including replenishment of already distributed family packages. From within these targeted beneficiaries, 15,000 families will also be provided with additional plastic sheeting for protection of goods, food and clothing.**

Each family package contains a kitchen set, a plastic bucket and jug, female sari, male dhoti, printed cloth, blanket and tarpaulin. In addition to the material worth of these packages they also have a high psychological value, reinforcing to beneficiaries that they have not been forgotten and that the Red Cross cares for their welfare.

**Progress/Achievements**

There has been no distribution in the reporting period with assessments revealing this need has effectively been met. To date, Nepal Red Cross has distributed a total of 28,590 relief packages out of a planned 30,000.

In this reporting period (with cumulative figures in brackets) central and regional Nepal Red Cross warehouses have received 1500 tarpaulins (10,200), 3000 sets of kitchen utensils (10,000), 5750 saris (17,000), 6000 blankets (13,500), and 125,000 metres of cloth (205,000). No further addition was made to the stock of 15,000 male dhotis.

Care-Nepal has donated 5,950 relief packages and UNICEF will provide 1,400. Earlier in the operation, several other NGOs donated family packages.

In addition to the provision of the family packages, UNICEF has agreed to support the Nepal Red Cross with 24,000 bottles of water purification liquid and some assistance with transportation. An agreement in this regard has already been signed between two parties.

**Impact:**

These packs have given displaced families the ability to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs have also been met. To receive a relief package is also important recognition of the suffering and needs a family have. It shows that the Red Cross cares for people that have been forced from their homes and lost their belongings.

**Constraints:**

The current conflict situation has affected access and speed of delivery from suppliers.

**Objective: To deliver water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation. To mobilise volunteers for cleaning up and sanitation activities.**

The Nepal Red Cross has not yet built up capacity in the area of emergency health. The society will distribute water purification liquid to ensure that people can use safe drinking water. It will also mobilise youth, community-based first aid and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in.

**Progress/Achievements**

A total of 12,500 bottles of water purification liquid have been distributed (one to each family) during this reporting period. This brings the total number of assisted families to 15,000. A total of 2500 families were assisted within the first month of the operation against the target of 15,000.

To date Nepal Red Cross warehouses have received a total of 19,000 bottles of Piyus water purification liquid including 4000 bottles supplied by UNICEF on 15 September. This is an increase of 11,500 bottles in this reporting period.

As UNICEF is providing a total of 24,000 bottles of Piyus, the Nepal Red Cross has decided not to procure additional water purification liquid. Originally the national society had planned to procure 30,000 bottles, but with 15,000 bottles already purchased and the UNICEF assistance, this will not be required.

Most of the district chapters in affected areas have been mobilising volunteers, junior/youth Red Cross volunteers and teacher sponsors in sanitation and awareness generating activities.

The Nepal Red Cross, in coordination with CARE Nepal, has planned to install 500 tube wells in the districts of Mahottari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Saptari and Dhanusha. CARE will be distributing materials for reconstruction/rehabilitation in these districts through the national society. It has been planned to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for this activity.

**Impact**

Water purification liquid has been essential for people to have access to clear water since it has taken some time to clean up wells and other water sources.

**Constraints:** There is just one manufacturer of Piyus water purification liquid in Nepal and the National Society's demands exceeded the existing stocks. Delays were caused as more purification liquid was manufactured. This led to the objective of distributing water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation not being met, with only 2500 families assisted in that time frame.

**Rehabilitation**

**Objective: To assist 30,000 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income.**

Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chilli and other local vegetables. This intervention draws on positive experiences of kitchen garden programmes in the Nepal Red Cross operation for Bhutanese refugees.

**Progress/Achievements**

No progress can be reported since funding is not sufficient to start this part of the plan of action. However, this activity would be highly needed to assist beneficiaries.

However, the society is carrying out seed distribution in coordination with CARE Nepal in five districts in the terai region.

**Impact:**

N/A

**Constraints:** Funding is required to support this objective.

**Objective: To assist 400 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses.**

Targeted families are those who have lost their homes to floods. They are regarded as especially vulnerable due factors such as the lack of an extended family network and a large number of households are headed by women.

Each family will receive construction material and a Red Cross employed expert will give advice regarding the construction under the supervision of the NHQ construction engineer. Communities will be mobilised to assist with the construction, which is a tradition in many of the villages in Nepal.

**Progress/Achievements**

No progress can be reported since funding is not sufficient to start this part of the plan of action. However, the society has been coordinating and exploring possibilities to carry out this activity with local partners. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), with the support of CARE Nepal, plans to distribute construction materials for 3,100 houses in Sarlahi, Siraha, Mohattari, Dhanusha and Saptari.

**Impact:** N/A

**Constraints:** Funding.

**Capacity Building**

**Objective: Disaster response capacity and disaster preparedness programmes will be further enhanced and developed based on lessons learned from this flood operation.**

**Progress/Achievements:** N/A

**Impact:** N/A

**Constraints:** N/A

**Federation Coordination**

The Nepal Red Cross was the only humanitarian organisation appointed to the government task force assessing the flood damage. The task force decided to not launch an appeal on behalf of the government. The government has adopted the statistical figures of the Nepal Red Cross regarding the damages of the floods.

In coordination with the Federation, the national society is continuing to liaise with other organisations and UN agencies. Many local organisations are channelling their assistance through the Nepal Red Cross.

The appeal has been shared with all major embassies and local agencies. Representatives from the Nepal Red Cross and the Federation are continuing to follow up these contacts. The Nepal Red Cross has requested major enterprises within the country to contribute to the flood operation.

In coordination with Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), NRCS has distributed food in two districts separate from areas where the national society is making distributions. The two organisations are also developing a concept paper for a health campaign. Using Red Cross volunteers, the aim will be to create awareness regarding health problems related to flooding.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

Branches in all affected districts mobilised volunteers and members to participate in the flood response. Youth, community first aid and disaster trained volunteers have been especially active. District committees and secretaries have coordinated the operations with the district level disaster committees and kept in close contact with the authorities and other organisations.

The society has two 3.5-tonne trucks and a number of other vehicles. These trucks are being used to deliver the supplies in various locations. More than 27 warehouses/depots in different strategic locations have also been essential in the current operation. Well defined procurement procedures, relief operation guidelines and experienced, motivated staff as well as the society's own relief fund are strengths of the society.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes in 13 of the 25 affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. Community-based first aid programmes have been implemented in five of the branches. The first aid volunteers have also participated in the response to the flooding, such as raising local resources for food aid.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The Nepal Red Cross continues to collate information from the field via its extensive branch network. NHQ is liaising with various media to share information about the emergency operation and highlighting various activities. The national society website ([www.nrcs.org](http://www.nrcs.org)) is being updated regularly. The Nepal Red Cross's activities are also being outlined in the national society's fortnightly national radio programme.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)**

# Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,769,000		TOTAL COVERAGE		
			68.6%		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	69,300	USD	87,630	27.08.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
AUSTRIAN - RC	35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04	
BRITISH - RC	25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID	98,040	GBP	224,119	29.07.04	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH - RC	24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - RC	25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA	250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04	
DANISH - GOVT			9,539	17.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC	100,000	EUR	152,900	10.08.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC			30,000	27.07.04	
JAPANESE - RC	106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
MACAU - RC			10,000	30.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,157,497	NOK	393,743	11.08.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			193	16.09.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC	1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
SWISS - RC			53,476	06.08.04	
UNITED STATES - EMBASSY	50,000	USD	63,225	30.07.04	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>			<b>1,752,059</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>63.3%</b>

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>146,750</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>5.3%</b>

# Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	