

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

20 October 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 6; Period covered: 16 Septemberto 13 October 2004; Appeal coverage: 69.4% ([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 of the operation is virtually complete. Over 30,000 families have received family packages and the distribution of food items is being finalised in the last two districts this week.

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.

The Nepal Red Cross warehouses are still being replenished and stocks are being pre-positioned in regional and zonal warehouses.

Through coordination and cooperation with local international non-government organisations (INGOs) and UN agencies, Nepal Red Cross has been able to deliver more relief assistance than planned. The local donations have also made it possible to revise the budget and ensure that the rehabilitation activities will go ahead even if the appeal is not fully funded.

National society volunteers and staff have been active throughout the operation. In addition to assessment and distribution they have also arranged local health awareness campaigns and fund-raising.

The armed conflict and the unstable political situation in the country have continued during the operation. However, the Nepal Red Cross has been able to implement the activities without any major problems. The operation has shown that the Nepal Red Cross has been respected as a competent and neutral organisation.

During this reporting period, an action learning exercise has taken place to draw lessons from the national and local implementation of the flood operation. A report will be finalised later this month.

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.

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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 and killed 185 people.

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.

In eastern Nepal the situation is back to normal and all displaced persons have returned to their homes. However, many families are still facing problems as they lost their livelihood. Rehabilitation activities supporting these families are still to be carried out.

During this reporting period, heavy rain occurred in western and central Nepal causing flooding and landslides. Nepal Red Cross district chapters immediately rendered relief services to those affected. The situation in these districts is as follows:

Region	District	Type of disaster	Affected families
Far-western	Kailali	Flood	1,183
Central	Sindhupalchowk	Landslide	200
Central	Nuwakot	Landslide	69

Operational developments

The planned 30,000 family packages have been handed out to beneficiaries. Distribution of food items to 1,000 families covered by this appeal is being finalised this week. Additional food distribution has been done through raising local resources. Replenishment of relief stocks to the warehouses is now ongoing.

District chapters continue to mobilise volunteers and staff for specific interventions. The health campaign is ongoing and the assessment for the rehabilitation phase has started in the districts concerned.

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.

A regionally coordinated action learning exercise has taken place in the flood affected areas. A national society/Federation team has visited and consulted affected communities and districts as well as having discussions

at headquarter level and with national stakeholders. Preliminary findings underline the importance of the Nepal Red Cross role as the only organisation able to bring disaster relief to conflict-affected areas of the country, with the value of the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes emphasised. Communities who were prepared have been able to respond, evacuate and save lives. A lessons learnt workshop is planned at country level for the end of the month and a report of the study will then be published.

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

Based on the assessment reports, district chapters identified for food distribution have procured food items according to the SPHERE standards locally and have distributed these to beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are families selected on the basis of having lost family members, accommodation and/or their livelihood through the disaster. Two mountainous districts are still to finalise the distribution.

As the table below, distribution has been completed in six of eight targeted districts.

District	No. Families	Quantity of Distributed Foods					Remarks
		Rice (kg)	Pulse (kg)	Oil (Ltr)	Salt (kg)	Sugar (kg)	
Dhanusha	200	14760	2160	900	270	720	Completed & report is yet to be received
Sarlahi	200	14760	2160	900	270	720	Completed & report is yet to be received.
Mahottari	150	11070	1620	675	202.50	540	Completed & report is yet to be received.
Siraha	123	9077.40	1328.40	553.50	166.05	442.80	completed
Khotang	117	8634.60	1263.60	526.50	157.95	421.20	Completed & report is yet to be received.
Okhaldhunga	50	3690	540	225	67.50	180	Ongoing
Ramechhap	120	8856	1296	540	162	432	Ongoing
Udayapur	40	2952	432	180	54	144	Completed
Total	1000	73,800	10,800	4,500	1,350	3,600	

As outlined in Operations Update 4, by 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 national headquarters (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 has been 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. Four of the districts targeted are also remote mountainous districts with little or no road access. This has also delayed the operation. These issues will be addressed in the evaluation phase. Despite these delays, over 8,000 beneficiary families received food assistance from branches through locally mobilised resources before the end of August.

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

In the reporting period, a further 2,069 family packages were distributed bringing the total distributed to 30,659, exceeding the target. Of the packs distributed in this reporting period, 1,100 were targeted for families affected by the summer flooding and a further 969 were distributed to families affected by the fresh September floods. The Nepal Red Cross will continue to distribute relief packages from stocks as required.

In this reporting period (with cumulative figures in brackets) central and regional Nepal Red Cross warehouses received 7,000 sets of kitchen utensils (17,000), 4,000 saris (21,000), 4,680 blankets (18,180). All cloth has now been delivered according to the orders and no further addition was made to the stock of 15,000 male dhosis, while the targets of 15,000 metres of plastic sheet and 10,200 tarpaulins had been met previously.

UNICEF has supported the Nepal Red Cross with 1,400 family packages of relief materials for affected families. This is in addition to the several thousand of relief packages that various non-government organisations (NGOs) donated earlier. A complete report of this external support will be available in the final update.

Since some of the family packages budget was met through local donations and NGOs in Nepal, the total budget for purchasing the items has not been used. Some of the funds will be redirected for rehabilitation and some for strengthening the response capacity, especially at district level.

Impact

The family 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:

Civil disturbances, mainly in the capital Kathmandu, at the beginning of September slowed delivery to warehouses from suppliers. However, the Nepal Red Cross utilised stocks in its various warehouses to minimise the impact of these disturbances.

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 (CBFA) and other volunteers for clean-up activities. Local communities will also be encouraged to join in.

Progress/Achievements

A total of 15, 000 families received bottles of water purification liquid within the first one-and-a-half months of the operation.

In addition to the 15,000 bottles purchased from the appeal budget, UNICEF has donated 34,000 bottles. Part of this stock has already been transported to districts to be used where there are still local needs or when new needs occur.

Due to local donations, part of the budget for this item has been reallocated to other activities.

District chapters in affected areas have continued to mobilise 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 and/or rehabilitation in these districts through the national society.

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. Only 2,500 families were assisted in that time frame while the target was reached after six weeks.

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, chili 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

Seeds are being purchased utilising funds from the appeal, others raised locally and also in conjunction with other organisations.

This national society is coordinating the seed distribution with CARE Nepal in five districts in the Terai region.

Impact

Yet to be measured as distribution has yet to occur.

Constraints

N/A

Objective: To assist 1,700 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses. (NB the number of targeted families has changed from 400 to 1,700 due to the amended nature of the form of assistance. See 'progress/achievements' below.)

Targeted families are those who have lost their homes to floods. They are regarded as especially vulnerable due to 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

After reassessing the needs and revising the budget the implementation of the rehabilitation phase will go ahead in November. However, the objective has been changed to reach more families. Initially it was planned that families would receive construction materials such as cement, iron bars, bricks, etc, for re-building an entire house. However since the majority of the houses were only partially damaged it has been decided to provide families with construction materials to ensure that each family has at least two rooms. Local construction materials, such as thatch, bamboo, stone, wood, etc, will be used. Local construction experts will be assigned to give advice to the families rebuilding their houses. It is estimated this new approach will assist 1,700 families. Selection criteria for beneficiaries have been developed and districts are currently using these to select families in the 10 most affected districts.

In addition to this appeal-funded activity, the Nepal Red Cross, with the support of CARE Nepal and using the approach described above, plans to distribute construction materials for 3,100 houses in Sarlahi, Siraha, Mohattari, Dhanusha and Saptari.

Impact

N/A

Constraints

N/A

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 :

Through the action learning exercise some areas of the response system has been identified that needs further strengthening. Final decisions will be taken after the lessons learnt workshop in early November. However, the need for increasing the capacity of district staff and volunteers in assessment and reporting is one area that has been discussed. The warehouse management and the capacity to preposition goods also need to be enhanced. Improved communication within districts was another challenge identified. Approximately CHF 100,000 (USD 81,123 or EUR 65,010) has been allocated for capacity building in the revised budget.

Impact

N/A

Constraints

N/A

Federation Coordination

Nepal Red Cross has through the earlier established DP-Net done most of the coordination and liaison with other organisations involved in the flood response. Many of the INGOs and also some of the UN agencies have cooperated closely with the Red Cross and they have chosen to adapt their interventions to the Nepal Red Cross standards. For example the family packages of the Red Cross became the model used. Other organisations have also donated their in-kind contribution to the Red Cross for distribution to the beneficiaries. Only the Red Cross has the network needed to execute the distribution and it is also the only organisation with access to conflict affected areas. In all districts affected by the flood, part of them is affected by the ongoing armed conflict. The Federation office has supported the Nepal Red Cross in this work according to the need and request of the society.

The appeal was shared with all major embassies and local agencies. The Federation and Nepal Red Cross is planning to invite this group to present the result of the operation. This will take place in the beginning of November to coincide with the launch of the World Disaster report in Nepal.

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 CDBP programmes in 13 of the 25 affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. CBFA 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) 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

19/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,769,000		TOTAL COVERAGE		
			69.4%		
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	
HONG KONG - RC	132,000	HKD	21,358	24.09.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS
JAPANESE - RC	106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
CHINA - MACAU - RC			10,000	30.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,157,497	NOK	393,743	11.08.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			636	16.09.04	
PRIVATE DONORS - IMPM	540	EUR	838	04.10.04	
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	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			1,774,698	CHF	64.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146,750	CHF	5.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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