

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

16 February 2005

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 8; Period covered: 1 December 2004 to 10 February 2005; Appeal coverage: 98.5% ([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 initially six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries (30,000 families). The appeal budget is revised down in Operations Update 7 to CHF 2,026,765. Bilateral donations, local fundraising and partnerships have, together with the contribution to the appeal, ensured that the full plan of action will be implemented, exceeding the number of beneficiaries in the rehabilitation phase than originally planned. The appeal has been extended to nine months (27 April 2005) to ensure proper implementation of the rehabilitation and capacity building phase.

Outstanding needs: CHF 30,319

Related Annual Appeals: [Nepal 01.58/2004](#) and [Nepal 05AA048/2005](#)

Operational Summary: The operation has continued amid the environment of the continued armed conflict and unstable political landscape. A state of emergency was announced on 1 February by the King, dissolving the previous government. The first week after this announcement communication lines were down, delaying some activities. It is currently difficult to forecast what the impact the new political situation might have on the operation. Increased strikes and blockades might be expected which could hamper the implementation of the relief operation. However, the operation has shown that the Nepal Red Cross is respected as a competent and neutral organisation and despite difficulties in the prevailing environment, will continue to proceed with planned activities.

The operation is now in its rehabilitation phase. The Nepal Red Cross is assisting 1,800 families by supplying material for reconstruction of their homes. Vegetable seeds are also being distributed for personal food production and/or generating income. Most of the warehouse replenishment of relief stocks has been done and pre-positioning of goods at regional and zonal warehouses has been finalised.

As outlined in Operations Update 7, the time period for this appeal was extended by three months to the end of April. This period may have to be further extended due to the current state of emergency. The Nepal Red Cross and the Federation will closely monitor the situation and revert in the next Operations Update.

As outlined in Operations Update 7, the Nepal Red Cross has, through coordination and cooperation with local international non-government organisations (INGOs) and UN agencies, been able to deliver more relief assistance than planned. Local donations have also made it possible to revise the budget and ensure that rehabilitation and capacity building activities can go ahead even if the original appeal budget was not fully funded.

The emergency relief phase of the operation was successfully completed in the beginning of November. Over 30,000 families received family packages and 1,000 vulnerable families received food items covering their mid-term needs. Food assistance was also given to families in the emergency phase of the flooding. The district

branches were responsible for raising funds and in-kind food items in the first response phase. By the end of October, 15,000 families had received water purification liquid, meeting the target of the appeal, however outside the planned time frame. This was due to difficulties in obtaining enough liquid from the sole supplier in Nepal.

The positive impact of earlier disaster preparedness (DP) activities on the Nepal Red Cross emergency response has been reviewed in a participatory three-country action learning process (PAL) led by the South Asia regional delegation. The Nepal report can be obtained upon request.

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:

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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 killing 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.

The situation normalised by the end of October, with displaced persons returning to their homes or finding alternative accommodation. The rehabilitation activities are assisting families who are still recovering from having lost their livelihoods.

Operational developments

The work to reconstruct houses of families affected by the disaster is ongoing. The rehabilitation phase started as planned with the identification of families to receive assistance. This assistance is being provided in 12 districts, both in the hilly and plain areas. The Nepal Red Cross is providing materials and technical support for the construction. Almost 200 houses have been finished and construction is underway on several more. District chapters are mobilising volunteers for the implementation and monitoring of the rehabilitation activities.

Seeds are being distributed to support food consumption and cash-income for families. This is expected to be finalised by the end of February. The capacity building activities funded through this appeal are being implemented.

The time period of this appeal was extended to from six to nine months and is scheduled to finish by the end of April. However, the political upheaval as a result of the events of 1 February may lead to a further extension,

depending on constraints which may emerge. Planned purchasing and delivery of construction materials had not occurred during the first week-and-a half of February as a result of the political situation. Further inactivity in these areas will lead to delays in construction.

As outlined in Operations Update 7, the planned 30,000 family packages had been handed out to beneficiaries by the end of October. Distribution of food items to 1,000 families covered by this appeal was finalised in the beginning of October, with distribution targeting mid-term needs of especially vulnerable families. Additional food distribution in the direct emergency phase had been done through raising local resources and replenishment of relief stocks to the warehouses is being finalised.

The Nepal Red Cross has been coordinating closely with other organisations as it is seen as the lead agency in response to the disaster due to its extensive network. There has been regular contact with UN agencies, the Home Ministry and other organisations active in the DP Net. It is currently working closely with agencies involved in the rehabilitation phase, such as Care Nepal.

A regionally coordinated action learning exercise took place in the flood affected areas in September. This included consultations with communities, districts and a national lesson learnt workshop. Findings underline the importance of the Nepal Red Cross's role as the only organisation able to effectively bring disaster relief to people in conflict-affected areas. The value of the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes is also emphasised. Communities who were prepared were able to respond, evacuate and save lives. The report from the action learning exercise can be obtained from the Federation.

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.

Progress/Achievements

Most of the affected districts raised funds and in-kind food for distribution to the most vulnerable in the emergency phase of the operation. Over 8,000 families received food aid through these initiatives. However, it was not possible to cover all the needs in this way, especially in poorer districts with limited Red Cross capacity. Food assistance meeting the mid-term needs of an additional 1,000 families was therefore funded through this appeal. In October and beginning of November, the targeted beneficiaries received a full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organisations.

Each beneficiary family received 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.

Villages that have been involved in the CBDP programme used their revolving fund and food stocks to distribute food to vulnerable community members. Through local fundraising and monthly collections, communities build up small reserves consisting of grains and a revolving fund to be used in times of disaster. This programme proved to be highly effective in communities where it is being implemented.

Impact

The ability of some district branches to locally mobilise food assistance directly following the disaster reflected good preparedness and response capacities 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 was done at the local level.

Constraints

Time over-runs in beneficiary assessment, food procurement and the transfer of funds to the districts contributed to the objective not being met by the end of August as planned. Four of the districts targeted were in remote mountainous districts with no or little road access which also delayed implementation. 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.

Progress/Achievements

By the end of October, the national society had distributed family relief packages to 30,659 families, exceeding the objective target. Most of these families were affected by the July floods. However, 969 of the beneficiary families were hit by the floods in September. Each family package contains a kitchen set, plastic bucket, jug, woman's sari, male dhoti, printed cloth, blanket and tarpaulin.

Restocking has been finalised for all cloth, blankets, dhotis, sarees, plastic sheeting and buckets. Suppliers are still delivering kitchen sets and tarpaulins. Relief stocks have been transported for pre-positioning in the various regional and zonal warehouses of the Nepal Red Cross.

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

Impact

The family packs gave displaced families the ability to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs were also met. The pre-positioning of relief goods at regional, zonal and district level well in advance of the monsoon season was identified as one of the strengths of the of the disaster response mechanism during the lesson learnt workshop. The restocking ensures that the Nepal Red Cross is ready to render assistance in the event of future disasters.

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. In the end of the year re-tendering had to be done for the kitchen sets and tarpaulin which has delayed the restocking.

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 national 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 donated 34,000 bottles, which have all been distributed to beneficiaries.

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

District chapters in affected areas mobilised volunteers from the CBFA programme, junior/youth Red Cross volunteers and teacher sponsors in sanitation and awareness generating activities.

The Nepal Red Cross, in coordination with CARE Nepal, is installing 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 clean water while cleaning/rehabilitation of wells and other water sources took place. Some waterborne diseases were reported during the emergency phase; however, major problems or epidemics were avoided.

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 full target was reached after six weeks.

Rehabilitation

Objective: To assist 2,100 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income.

Progress/Achievements

Seeds have been purchased by district chapters and are being distributed to 2,100 families in 12 districts. The seeds financed through this appeal are being distributed to the families receiving assistance to reconstruct their houses along with an additional 300 families. Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chili and other local vegetables. The distribution is expected to be finalised by end of February.

The Nepal Red Cross will actually distribute seeds to more than 30,000 families, utilising seeds provided by CARE Nepal as an in-kind donation not under this appeal. The CARE Nepal provided seeds are for distribution in the five most affected districts in the Terai region.

Impact

This will be a longer term impact. Crops resulting from the seeds are expected to satisfy beneficiary families' regular needs of local vegetables. The cultivation period for vegetables varies depending on the district.

Constraints

N/A

Objective: To assist 1,800 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses. (NB the number of targeted families has been amended from 2,100 as stated previously. See 'progress/achievements' below)

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

Beneficiaries in the 12 most affected districts have been selected using criteria defined by the national society national headquarters (NHQ). Targeted families are those which lost their homes in the floods and are especially vulnerable due to factors such as lack of an extended family network and/or a large number of households are headed by women.

In Operations Update 7, it was stated that an additional 300 to 500 families would be assisted on top of the planned 1,700 to receive assistance. However, an unexpected increase in the cost of construction materials (due to an

increase in Value Added Tax) means housing assistance can only be extended to an additional 100 families on top of the original target, bringing the total to 1,800.

Districts have followed the Nepal Red Cross tendering processes to purchase construction materials. Families selected are receiving materials and construction has started, with 183 dwellings completed to date. Staff and volunteers are involved in implementation and monitoring of the activity. The table below shows the progress per district:

District	No. houses	Completed
Makwanpur	234	50
Rautahat	54	24
Sarlahi	216	
Mahottari	220	
Dhanusha	214	
Sindhuli	31	
Siraha	258	45
Udaypur	61	24
Saptari	183	
Ramechhap	150	
Khotang	76	40
Okhaldhunga	103	
Total	1800	183

As outlined in Operations Update 7, the approach to the construction project was changed. Originally it was intended to assist 400 families with provision of materials for rebuilding entire houses. However, since the majority of the houses of targeted families were only partially damaged it was decided to provide families with construction materials to ensure that each family has at least two rooms. This approach has meant assistance has been able to be extended to a larger number of families.

Local construction materials, such as thatch, bamboo, stone, wood, etc. are being used. Local construction experts are being assigned to give advice to the families rebuilding their houses.

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

Impact

A total of 183 families now have fully repaired or new homes. In some areas houses have been constructed on sites less flood-prone to increase security in the event of future disasters.

Constraints:

The sudden increase in VAT forced a recalculation of the budget and the distribution of funds to districts. The uncertain political situation following the events of 1 February may affect deliveries, transport and distribution of construction materials.

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 done in September, some areas of the response system were identified for further capacity building. Staff and volunteers at district level were targeted for more training. Lessons learnt workshops have been organised in all affected district to better prepare for the future. More attention was paid to strengthening district level disaster response capacity through training as well as coordination mechanisms.

Three regional warehouses as well as the central warehouse have been repaired and renovated to increase the storage capacity. Another Federation programme has financed a computer system for warehouse management which will increase efficiency in delivery and coordination. Plans for retrofitting the central warehouse are being finalised.

The CBDP programme is being expanded to include more communities, however not funded through this emergency appeal.

In addition to the above, a selected number of districts will be equipped with a disaster kit including a mobile evacuation centre. Communication systems including the geographic information system (GIS) will be enhanced. A disaster management plan will be printed and contingency planning for major disasters elaborated and published.

Impact

Capacity building at local level increases the effectiveness of local and district level coping mechanism to respond to disaster. The action learning exercise showed the ability to respond at grassroots level is fundamental to an overall effective response to disaster. Good networking and coordination among all involved in the field will produce better results before, during and after disasters.

Constraints

N/A

Federation Coordination

Most of the Nepal Red Cross coordination and liaison with other organisations involved in the flood response was conducted through DP-Net. Many INGOs and also some of the UN agencies have cooperated closely with the Red Cross. Several have chosen to adapt their interventions to Nepal Red Cross standards, such as the Red Cross family package. Some organisations chose the Nepal Red Cross as the agent for distribution items to beneficiaries through in-kind donations.

The Nepal Red Cross has the largest distribution network in the country of any humanitarian organisation. It is also the only humanitarian organisation with access to all conflict-affected areas (facilitated by the ICRC). All flood-affected districts are involved in the ongoing armed conflict. The Federation office has supported the Nepal Red Cross in this work according to the needs of the society.

The appeal was shared with all major embassies and local agencies. In combination with the launch of the World Disaster Report the Nepal Red Cross presented the results of the relief part of the flood operation. Several partner NGO and UN agencies participated, as well as media representatives.

National Society Capacity Building

Branches in all affected districts mobilised volunteers and members to participate in the flood response, with youth, community first aid and disaster trained volunteers being 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 supplies in various locations. The 27 warehouses/depots in various strategic locations have been an essential element in the current operation. Well-defined procurement procedures, relief operation guidelines and experienced, motivated staff as well as the national society's own relief fund are strengths of the Nepal Red Cross.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented CBDP programmes in 13 of the 25 affected districts. Communities involved in this programme have mobilised 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 national society has maintained high visibility during the operation. Progress in programme implementation as well as the financial situation of the operation has been shared with the media and other stakeholders in a transparent manner. In the field district chapter volunteers and staff are disseminating Red Cross Principles and promoting correct use of the emblem. All volunteers are using Red Cross aprons for visibility as well as security.

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 while the national society website (www.nrcs.org) is updated regularly. Nepal Red Cross activities are also highlighted in the fortnightly national society national radio programme.

Impact

The Nepal Red Cross has strengthened its position as the leading disaster management organisation in the country. At the field level the neutrality and independence of the society has helped facilitate planned activities effectively. At the national level all stakeholders have appreciated the leadership the Nepal Red Cross has shown. INGOs and UN organisations have shown strong interest in continuing and institutionalising cooperation with the society in the area of disaster preparedness and response.

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

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,026,765		TOTAL COVERAGE 98.5%
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
BRITISH - RC		24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	
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	
IRANIAN - RC		15,000	USD	18,968	01.11.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC				30,000	27.07.04	
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH		132,000	HKD	21,358	24.09.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS
JAPANESE - RC		106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
CHINA - MACAU RC BRANCH				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				1,849,696	CHF	91.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146,750	CHF	7.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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