

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

India: Flash Floods in Leh

DREF operation n° MDRIN005

Update n° 01
24 August 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 6 to 20 August 2010.

Summary: CHF 54,543 (USD 52,476 or EUR 39,516) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 40,000 beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, IRCS deployed a team of staff and volunteers who have been serving the affected population. The services like purified water for drinking, distribution of non-food items and family news service are being made available.

The Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government contributed funds for the replenishment of this DREF. The other major donor to this DREF is DG ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 10 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 February 2011).

The International Federation, on behalf of the Indian Red Cross Society, would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)



Potable drinking water being provided by the Indian Red Cross Society to the people affected by the flash floods in Choglamsar, Leh. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

The situation

Following torrential rains in the intervening night of 5-6 August 2010, a massive cloudburst occurred in Leh. The worst hit areas are Leh Bus Stand and nearby Choglamsar village. So far, 196 persons have lost their lives and 200-250 are injured. Five relief camps have been opened in the affected areas.

The following damages were reported due to flash floods and landslides:

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) exchange and Bus Stand in Leh town has been completely washed away.
- The Civil hospital and Leh airport was inundated.
- The Nyoma-Leh road was blocked due to heavy mud-slide.
- The Fayang Bridge on the National Highway between Kargil and Leh was washed away, thus disrupting traffic.
- The pumping station was washed away, disrupting water supply in Leh township.
- The Cultural Institute of Buddhist Studies was affected.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp was completely washed away.

In response to the flash floods and the devastation caused, the government has taken the following steps:

- Around 6,000 army and paramilitary personnel have been deployed for rescue and relief operations in the affected areas.
- One team consisting of 45 personnel was deployed in Leh along with the rescue and relief equipments.
- Ten quantities of medicine from Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, Delhi, have been provided to the rescue and relief operations.
- The disaster management division, MHA, have been provided with five (5) units of INMARSETs to the state government of Jammu and Kashmir, Leh, for emergency communication purpose.

As per the latest updates:

- NH-1A between Srinagar-Kargil is operative.
- Part of NH-1A between Kargil-Leh is operative.
- Hospital has been cleaned up and efforts are being made to resume out-patient department (OPD) services.
- Electricity has been resumed in Leh town area through diesel general sets.
- Water is being supplied through water tankers.
- Communication network of BSNL is partially operative.
- Normal movement of civil aircrafts has been resumed.
- Tourism re-started in Leh.

Coordination and partnerships

IRCS, in its auxiliary role, has been closely coordinating with the central government and district administration. Good coordination mechanism has been established and resources are being shared to optimise their use.

IRCS, along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been keeping all partner national societies and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) informed about the developments on ground.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

IRCS deployed a team of three from the national headquarter. This team was joined by the six volunteers and staff in Leh. These six staff and volunteers have been in the field since the disaster struck and have extended all possible support (first aid, family news service and tracing) to the affected population. In total, 53 family news service cases have been successfully solved.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The immediate needs of at least 1,000 flood-affected families (5,000 beneficiaries) have been met through relief distributions.

Activities planned:

- Detailed need assessment by IRCS and mobilisation of national disaster water and sanitation response team (NDWRT) members and volunteers.
- Procurement for replenishment of non-food item (NFI) stocks.
- Dispatch and transportation by IRCS to the distribution sites.
- Storage and distribution of relief items by trained IRCS volunteers and staff.
- Regular detailed monitoring and reporting of distributions.

Progress and impact: IRCS has airlifted following relief items to Leh:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Kitchen sets	1,000
2	Blankets	1,000
3	Gum boots	123
4	Family tents	300

The deployed team in the field has been coordinating with the district administration and could get provided trucks and warehouse for stocking of these relief supplies. These items are being distributed to the most affected population.

Challenges: Due to difficult terrain and landslides, many affected areas are difficult to access or are not accessible. IRCS has been coordinating with the government in order to ensure that the relief distributions reach the most affected and needy people.

Emergency health, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risks to the flood-affected people from waterborne or water and sanitation related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation to population of 40,000 persons.

Activities planned:

- Deploy NOMAD water purification units in Leh.
- Assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene situation.
- Mobilisation and operationalisation of water purification units in the affected areas to supply potable drinking water to the population of 40,000.
- Provision of safe drinking water to flood-affected families.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

Progress and impact: IRCS has airlifted two water purification units to Leh from Delhi. One of these units has been installed in Choglamsar which is serving more than 1,000 people. Water from the stream with turbidity of more than 300 NTU is being purified. The purified water with the turbidity of less than five NTU with a pH of between 7.2 and 7.8 is being made available to the affected population. In addition to the affected population, rescue workers and the people involved in the cleaning operation are also using the purified drinking water.

The second water purification unit has been installed in the local hospital so that the purified water can be provided to the patients.

Challenges:

1. With the rains falling in the hills, turbidity of stream water suddenly increases.
2. The stream may dry, if the rain fall in the catchment areas decreases.
3. As the government is trying to restore the original stream, the place where the water purification unit is installed may become unaccessible to the people. Hence, the length of the water purification unit pipe should be increased so that the water can be transported across the stream to make it accessible.

Restoring Family Links

Objective: To re-establish broken contact between family and its members due to disaster in Leh.

Activities planned:

1. Registration of tracing request.
2. Tracing of missing person.
3. Exchange of Red Cross Messages.

Progress and impact: IRCS extended its family news services to the people stranded in Leh and their families. So far, 53 cases of family news services have been successfully solved which include Indian as well as foreign nationals.

The following cases have been solved through the family news service:

Place	No. of cases
Punjab	31
Bihar	11
Doda	6
Jammu	1
USA(Bouston)	1
Army (Delhi, Aligarh and Kulgam)	3

Challenges: As the mobile network was down in Leh, staff and volunteers working on restoring family links faced many problems in communicating with the different IRCS branches.

How we work

All IFRC 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 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 nonviolence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	4,762	4,762
Water & Sanitation	4,762	4,762
Ustensils & Tools	27,643	27,643
Total Supplies	37,167	37,167
Travel	9,286	9,286
Communications	3,000	3,000
Other General Expenses	1,762	1,762
Total General Expenditure	14,048	14,048
Program Support	3,329	3,329
Total Programme Support	3,329	3,329
TOTAL BUDGET	54,543	54,543