

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## India: Flash Floods in Leh

DREF operation n° MDRIN005  
Final Report  
14 March 2011

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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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:** 11 August to 10 December 2010.

**Summary:** CHF 54,543 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 11 August 2010 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 40,000 beneficiaries and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) was able to reach 1,000 families with the relief supplies to address their basic needs to restart their life. In total, 16,000-18,000 litres of safe water was distributed to the affected families and relief workers every day (approximately 3,600 people every day) over a period of three months.

Despite the tough terrain and difficulties in breathing in areas of high altitude, IRCS staff and volunteers continued to render support to the affected families with their various services such as search and rescue, first aid, relief supplies, family news service and distribution of safe water.

Since the beginning of the operation, a close coordination mechanism with government authorities was maintained in order to avoid duplication and to efficiently use the available resources.

This DREF was utilized to support the deployment of the IRCS staff and volunteers in Leh and replenishment of the stocks distributed.

The IFRC India office loaned its staff to the national society for the Leh Flash Flood Relief Operation. IFRC coordinated with the partner national societies and other external agencies and kept them informed about the progress of the relief operation.

Out of the total allocated DREF of CHF 54,543, CHF 47,145 has been utilised and the balance has been returned.

The Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government (CIDA) and ECHO contributed funds for the replenishment of this DREF. The other major donor to this DREF is DG ECHO. Details of all donors can



Indian Red Cross Society volunteers and staff in action post-Leh flash floods. Photo: Indian Red Cross Society.

be found on:

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

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

*<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>*

## The situation

Flash floods caused by the heavy rain fall due to the cloudburst phenomenon in Leh district triggered mud flows. The high intensity and concentrated mud flow with a height of 20 feet roared down the slopes of hilly terrains and crushed and swallowed the housing colonies, roads, bus stand and all that came in its way. This resulted in huge infrastructural and lives loss.

The mud flows not only created impact on the human settlements and infrastructure but also on the natural drain channels which were hosting stream water were filled with big rocks and mud. This diverted the streams from their original channel and hence the stream started flowing through houses and over the roads.

One single weather phenomenon on the intervening nights of 5 and 6 August 2010, the cloudburst, caused wide spread devastation in Leh leaving behind destruction and upheaval in the lives of the residents of Leh. The flash floods claimed more than 200 lives and several are still missing.

The Indian Red Cross Society's (IRCS) five staff and volunteers were in Leh, conducting a volunteers' training programme when this calamity struck. The operation was initiated by these staff and volunteers by rendering services such as first aid, search and rescue, and family news service. In the flash floods, about 400 people were missing and around 200 lost their lives. Looking at the intensity of the disaster, this operation was scaled up multifold in a very short span of time.

The IRCS secretary general, along with the union health minister visited Leh and reviewed the operation. The affected population was heard and the injured were visited in hospital. This was during the IRCS secretary general and union health minister's visit that the decision to scale up the operation was made. IRCS deployed its response teams from the national headquarters along with relief supplies and water purification units. The relief supplies of 1,000 kitchen sets and 1,000 blankets were thereafter replenished.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

IRCS volunteers were amongst one of the first responders to rescue people and recover dead bodies from the collapsed buildings near Bus Stand.

IRCS was coordinating with its nodal ministry (Ministry of Health) to ensure efficient, effective and timely response to the disaster. The IRCS secretary general accompanied the IRCS chairman and union health and family welfare minister to Leh in the days following the disaster to assess the damage and the immediate needs of the affected people. They met senior officials of the state government and offered support in the relief measures. Relief supplies consisting of blankets (1,000), kitchen sets (1,000), tents (300), gum boots (123) and two NOMAD water purification units were airlifted.

A nine-member IRCS team of staff and volunteers was working round the clock to ensure safe drinking water is made available to people in Choglamsar relief camp and Hospital. The IRCS secretary general and chairman and the union health and family welfare minister visited some of the critically injured patients.

In such a critical situation where volunteers work round the clock in adverse weather conditions at high altitude which limits physical activities, visits of motivators are equally important to boost the moral of relief and rescue workers.

The IRCS secretary general and the head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) India office were those who visited Leh to motivate and interact with the volunteers to understand the difficult situation they were working in and show appreciation for their contribution to alleviate sufferings of the people of Leh.

### 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.**

**Outputs (expected results) and 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.

**Achievements:**

IRCS airlifted the following relief items to Leh in just four days after the disaster:

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 coordinated with the district administration and could arrange trucks and warehouse for stocking of these relief supplies. These items were distributed to the most affected population in coordination with the district administration in far flung areas. With the help of *Patwari* (government representative in each village) and village heads, the list of affected families was prepared. This list was compiled by the district administration.

Within 45 days, the distribution of tents, kitchen sets and blankets was finished.

**Impact:**

In the hilly terrain like Leh, to construct temporary shelter or reconstruct houses was a big challenge for the government and other agencies. The Red Cross tents were able to provide shelter to the families who lost their houses until the new houses or shelters were constructed by the government before the winter sets in.

The relief supplies such as kitchen sets, tents and blankets also helped 1,000 families to meet their basic needs to restart their lives.

**Challenges:**

Due to difficult terrain and landslides, many affected areas were difficult to access or were not accessible. IRCS coordinated with the government in order to ensure that the relief items reaches the most affected and needy people. The government not only provided vehicles for the distribution but also provided their staff on a needs basis.

### 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.**

**Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:**

- Assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene situation.
- Deploy water treatment units to Leh, on the basis of the assessment.
- Mobilisation and operationalisation of water purification units in the affected areas to supply potable drinking water to the population of 40,000.
- Establish, treat and distribute safe drinking water to the affected population of 40,000 using the water treatment units.
- Ongoing monitoring and technical advice by IRCS national headquarters and IFRC.

**Achievements:**

IRCS airlifted two water treatment units to Leh from their main warehouse in Delhi. One of these units was installed in Choglamsar which served more than 1,000 people. The treated water that met the required water quality standards was distributed to the affected population as well as rescue workers and the people involved in cleaning operation.

The second unit was installed in Hospital to allow the treated water to be provided to the patients.

Three rounds of deployments of the eight-member National Disaster Water and Sanitation Team (NDWST) took place in Leh in order to operate the water treatment units. The unit deployed at Choglamsar was moved to the New Colony as the Choglamsar relief camp shifted in the New Colony area. In New Colony, not only people from Choglamsar but also from other affected areas were shifted.

NDWST members trained the staff from the Hospital and Public Health Engineering Department on the maintenance and operation of the water treatment units, so that they were able to assume operation after the team withdrew.

Additional fiber and carbon filters were donated by Australian Red Cross for the operation of the treatment unit and were imported from the Asia Pacific regional logistics unit warehouse in Kuala Lumpur.

On request, the commissioner of Leh requested IRCS to keep these water treatment units supplying safe water in Leh until the end of November 2010, and this request was granted.

**Impact:**

The IRCS WatSan intervention prevented the possible spread of water-borne diseases which might have occurred through the use of contaminated water sources.

The total amount of water supplied was between 16,000 to 18,000 litres per day and given to approximately 3,600 people per day for a period of 90 days.

**Challenges:**

1. With the rainfall in hills, turbidity of stream water was fluctuating, which made it difficult to treat.
2. The availability of water in the stream was dependent on the rainfall in hills.

**Restoring Family Links**

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

**Outputs and activities planned:**

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

**Achievements:**

IRCS extended its family news services to the people stranded in Leh and their families. In total, 53 cases of family news services were successfully solved which include both Indian and foreign nationals.

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

The following are examples:

- a. A lady named Kathryn from Boston, USA, was injured and could not establish her contact with her family in USA. Red Cross helped her to get in touch with her family and admitted her in the hospital to get the proper treatment.

- b. A request for the tracing of an army personnel was received from Delhi. The person was traced and his contact was established with his family.
- c. Some people were injured and could not establish contact with his family. Red Cross helped them in getting proper medical assistance and established his contact with his family.

**Impact:**

With the help of the IRCS family news service, 53 families could get information of well-being of the family members even in a chaotic situation post-disaster.

**Challenges:**

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

**Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

A case study on the Leh flash floods has been prepared which will be printed for wider dissemination. This case study has captured the challenges faced by the agencies involved in the relief operation, IRCS intervention and learnings and impact of the disaster on the affected population. This case study will be added in the curriculum of the post-graduate diploma course on disaster management being run by IRCS in collaboration with Guru Govind Singh University.

## 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 \(NGO's\) 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:**

In India:

- Indian Red Cross Society: Dr. S P Agarwal, Secretary General; email: [spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org); phone: +91.11.2371.6441; fax: +91.11.2371.7454
- International Federation country office in India: John Roche, Head of country office; email: [john.roche@ifrc.org](mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11.233.4235

International Federation South Asia Office in Delhi:

- Mr. Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office, email: [azmat.ulla@ifrc.org](mailto:azmat.ulla@ifrc.org), phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Michael Higginson, Regional programme coordinator; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: [michael.higginson@ifrc.org](mailto:michael.higginson@ifrc.org)
- Pete Garratt, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator; phone: +91.11.2332.4203; fax: +91.11. 2332.4255; email: [pete.garratt@ifrc.org](mailto:pete.garratt@ifrc.org)

International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:

- Jagan Chapagain, Interim Director AP zone office, phone: +603 9207 5700, mobile: +6012 215 3765, email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org)
- David Andrew Strobel, operations coordinator, phone: +60 3 9207 5700; mobile: + 60192744960, email: [drew.strobel@ifrc.org](mailto:drew.strobel@ifrc.org)
- Alan Bradbury, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org); phone: +603 9207 5775, fax: +603 2161 0670
  - Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)
- Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +6012 298 9752, fax: +603 2168 8573, email: [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org)
- Patrick Fuller, zone communications manager, mobile: +6012 387 0829, email: [patrick.fuller@ifrc.org](mailto:patrick.fuller@ifrc.org)

**[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

MDRIN005 - India - Flash Floods in Leh

Appeal Launch Date: 10 aug 10

Appeal Timeframe: 10 aug 10 to 10 dec 10

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/8-2011/1
Budget Timeframe	2010/8-2010/12
Appeal	MDRIN005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	54,543					54,543
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	54,543					54,543
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	54,543					54,543
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	54,543					54,543
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	54,543					54,543
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	54,543					54,543
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-47,145					-47,145
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	7,398					7,398

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### III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>54,543</b>					<b>54,543</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	4,762	4,899				4,899	-137	
Water & Sanitation	4,762	822				822	3,940	
Utensils & Tools	27,643	22,706				22,706	4,937	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>37,167</b>	<b>28,427</b>				<b>28,427</b>	<b>8,740</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage		75				75	-75	
Distribution & Monitoring		479				479	-479	
Transport & Vehicle Costs		37				37	-37	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>		<b>591</b>				<b>591</b>	<b>-591</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	9,286	12,968				12,968	-3,683	
Information & Public Relation		16				16	-16	
Office Costs	1,762	50				50	1,712	
Communications	3,000	307				307	2,693	
Financial Charges		882				882	-882	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>14,048</b>	<b>14,225</b>				<b>14,225</b>	<b>-177</b>	
<b>Programme &amp; Service Support</b>								
Programme & Service Support	3,329	2,877				2,877	452	
<b>Total Programme &amp; Service Support</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>2,877</b>				<b>2,877</b>	<b>452</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries		1,024				1,024	-1,024	
<b>Total Services</b>		<b>1,024</b>				<b>1,024</b>	<b>-1,024</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>54,543</b>	<b>47,145</b>				<b>47,145</b>	<b>7,399</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>7,399</b>				<b>7,399</b>		