

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nepal: Potential diarrhoea update

Emergency appeal n° MDRNP004

Operations update n° 3
10 August 2010

**Period covered by this
Operation Update:** 11 June
2010 to 28 July 2010.

Appeal target (current):
CHF 738,960 (USD 664,175
or EUR 527,232).

Appeal coverage: To date,
the appeal has received cash
contributions of 21 per cent,
while those in the pipeline
brings the coverage to
approximately 30 per cent.

Funds are urgently needed to
support the Nepal Red Cross
Society operation in reducing
the risk of a diarrhoea
outbreak in the vulnerable
districts of Nepal.

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 13 May 2010 seeking CHF 738,960 (USD 664,175 or EUR 527,232) in cash, kind, or services to support the Nepal Red Cross Society to assist 189,000 beneficiaries for nine months in seven districts of Jajarkot, Rukum, Achham, Dadeldhura, Bajura, Baitadi and Bajhang.
- CHF 200,000 (USD 179,855 or EUR 142,718) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.

Summary:

The urgency to reach people affected by diarrhoea in the mid- and far-western remote districts of Nepal has intensified, following the onset of monsoon. Over the past weeks, the number of deaths has risen from 28 to 43, with many of these occurring within the past week. Over 1,700 cases have been officially reported nationwide across 18 districts, and among those worst affected are children and the elderly. Many people in remote areas are not seeking treatment at health posts but they stay at home. Additionally, some communities remain isolated by the recent floods and landslides, many with reduced-access to safe drinking water. Thus the actual number of cases across the country is feared to be higher.

Nine people have died in Dang district over the past two weeks. Likewise, an outbreak of diarrhoea in Banke district claimed six lives, with several hundred people requiring medical treatment in all 17 wards of the district capital



A participant demonstrating the proper way of washing hands in the water, sanitation and hygiene training organised by the Nepal Red Cross Society in Rukum district.
Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

Nepalgunj. Of three samples tested so far, one has been confirmed with *Vibrio Cholera*.

The government's Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) of the Department of Health Services has issued instructions to all district health offices to be well prepared for further outbreaks and has been leading the response activities in coordination with district committees as well as the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster, which includes the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS).

In the seven districts covered by this appeal (Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Jajarkot and Rukum), NRCS has mobilised a WASH coordinator for each district and deployed more than 240 trained volunteers and WASH mobilizers to disseminate knowledge of safe hygiene practices in the community through door to door visits, distribution of information, education, communication (IEC) materials and health education. These activities are being carried in 70 of the most vulnerable village development committees (VDC) in the selected districts.

During the reporting period, the operation has significantly scaled up, with the following key activities undertaken:

- A three-day "WASH in Emergency" training was conducted for 21 participants, including WASH coordinators, district health focal persons from government and governance volunteers from the NRCS district chapters of the seven operation districts. The training was held from 8-10 June in Nepalgunj, Banke.
- Diarrhoea prevention kits (containing oral rehydration solution, chlorine solution/water guard and soap), IEC materials (brochure and flex) and volunteer visibility material (T-shirts and caps) were procured and dispatched to all the operational districts.
- A baseline survey has been completed in all the operational districts. For this purpose, NRCS volunteers were oriented together with other local volunteers and mobilized for door to door visits.
- NRCS district chapters in each of the operational districts have provided orientations on the operation's response and prevention strategy to concerned stakeholders (including representatives from district health offices, district disaster relief committees, district drinking water and sanitation offices).
- A WASH coordination committee has been formed in each of the selected VDCs comprising 11-15 members, including representatives of different political parties, district health office, VDC secretary, school teachers, female community health volunteers and VDC WASH coordinators. Each committee is responsible for coordinating other stakeholders and providing guidance to staff and volunteers for the planning and implementation of the proposed activities in the selected VDCs.
- A detailed plan of action for the next five weeks of the operation has been developed (up to end of August), which takes into account the current level of funds available. Similarly, plans have been finalized for monitoring and evaluation and contingency plan for increasing rains.
- The district chapters in the operational districts have been conducting a two-day WASH training for the volunteers to empower them with knowledge of environment, health and hygiene promotion.

In the areas where NRCS has been operating, the numbers diarrhoea cases have reduced and there have been no further deaths reported. However, considering the high possibility of further outbreaks due to the late appearance of the monsoon this year, there is an urgent need to scale up these efforts to reduce the risk of potential outbreaks.

Financial situation: To date, this appeal is 21 per cent covered with contributions received totaling CHF119,949 (USD 115,336 EUR 88,198), while soft pledges and those in the pipeline brings the total potential funding to 30 per cent. Additionally, CHF 200,000 (USD 179,855 or EUR 142,718) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.

Partners who have made contributions to the appeal to date include the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. Soft pledges have been received from the German Embassy / GTZ and Hong Kong Red Cross.

On behalf of the Nepal Red Cross Society, the International Federation would like to thank all partners and contributors for their response to this appeal.

The situation

As expected, the number of diarrhoea cases across the country has been increasing with the onset of the monsoon. Over the past weeks, the number of deaths has risen from 28 to 43, with many of these occurring within the past week. Over 1,700 cases have been officially reported nationwide across 18 districts, and among those worst affected are children and the elderly. Many people in remote areas are not seeking treatment at health posts but they stay at home. Additionally, some communities remain isolated by the recent floods and landslides, many with reduced-access to safe drinking water. Thus the actual number of cases across the country is feared to be higher.

Nine people have died in Dang district over the past two weeks. Likewise, an outbreak of diarrhoea occurred in Banke district which claimed six lives, with several hundred people requiring medical treatment in all 17 wards of the district capital Nepalganj. Of three samples tested so far, one has been confirmed with *Vibrio Cholera*.

The present number of the deaths and cases of diarrhoea is summarized in the table below:

S.N.	District	Number of deaths	Number of cases	Cases under hospital/health service centre treatment	Remarks
1	Accham*	3	N/A	1-2 cases each day	
2	Baitadi*	3	295	N/A	
3	Bajhang*	4	29	N/A	
4	Bajura*	2	N/A	N/A	
5	Banke	6	500+	300+	Six deaths in 1 week. Stool samples being examined for <i>Vibrio Cholera</i>
6	Dadeldhura*	1	24	N/A	
7	Dailekh	3	28	N/A	
8	Dang	9	350+	33	Details of deaths: 14 July- 1 person, 15 July-2 persons, 16 July -1 person, 28 July -2 persons, 29 July 30 July-1 person, 2 August-1 person
9	Dhading	0	15	N/A	
10	Doti	1	N/A	5-10 cases each day	Increasing cases
11	Jajarkot*	6	370	N/A	No deaths since 17 June
12	Khotang	1	19	N/A	
13	Mustang	0	47	NA	
14	Pyuthan	1	N/A	N/A	Latest death on 16 July
15	Rolpa	0	52+	N/A	Reported from two VDCs, food poisoning
16	Rukum*	2	N/A	N/A	
17	Surkhet	0	5+	N/A	'Several' cases reported in 2 wards
18	Tanahu	1	27	N/A	
Total		43	1,761+	400+	

Sources: EDCD, NRCS District Chapters, UNFCO, 2 August 2010

* NRCS Emergency Appeal Operational Districts: Achham, Baitadi Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, and Jajarkot, Rukum.

Coordination and partnerships

Current efforts to reduce the risks of an outbreak are being led by the government's Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) and district committees together with the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster (which includes the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)), at both national and district levels.

In Banke district, where the latest outbreak has occurred, the District Health Office (DHO) has mobilized a rapid response team (RRT) and on 30 July called an emergency health meeting to discuss on the treatment and preventive measure to control the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in Nepalgunj. NRCS, Save the Children, Plan-Nepal, Nepalgunj Municipality, Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), International Nepal Fellowship (INF), Nepalgunj Medical College, EDCD, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Field Coordination Office (UNFCO), participated the meeting and agreed on a number actions to be taken to minimize the spread of the infection, including the mobilization of volunteers to distribute hygiene prevention kits, IEC (information, education and communication) materials and the dissemination of hygiene message through loudspeakers and local radio stations.



School students practicing the proper way of hand washing in Bajhang district. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society.

On 9 July 2010, a coordination meeting was organized by NRCS to update key partners on the current overall diarrhoea situation and to exchange information. Participants included representatives from the EDCD, International Federation, Belgian Red Cross, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, drinking water supply and sanitation office, Save the Children and key personnel of NRCS. The meeting was crucial in bringing partners together to discuss the current situation, lessons learned from previous outbreaks and the way forward for preventing outbreaks during the current

monsoon period. EDCD presented on the overall vulnerability of different districts based on historical data and an overview of the current situation. NRCS presented the situation in the seven districts covered by the operation. Participants underscored the need to further enhance coordination among partners at national and district level, with EDCD taking the lead role. The challenges of needing to address both the short and long term causes of diarrhoea was also raised, as well as some of the practical issues such as the availability of sufficient supplies of oral rehydration solutions (ORS) and funds for prevention activities.

Also during the reporting period, NRCS and the International Federation continued coordination with the WASH cluster through exchange of information on planned activities, target village district committees and discussions over the standard approach for diarrhoea prevention in all districts. The International Federation has also been active in sharing information with the multi-agency Humanitarian Country Team, partner national societies and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) about the progress of this appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The focus of the NRCS operation covered by this Emergency Appeal is to reduce the immediate risk of a diarrhoea outbreak, as well as the long-term risk of waterborne diseases and in particular, to address the gaps, identified from the resource mapping undertaken by the government and the WASH cluster.

NRCS has been conducting intensive water, sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns including awareness-raising and information about treatment facilities through volunteer mobilization and providing diarrhoea prevention kits (soap, oral rehydration solution and chlorine solution/water guard) and other supplies like information, education, communication (IEC) materials at community level.

NRCS has completed a baseline survey in all the selected VDCs by deploying local volunteers and WASH mobilizers. The trained WASH coordinators have been coordinating all the operation activities at district level. Similarly the volunteers have been creating awareness on WASH in the communities through door to door visits, street drama, demonstration programmes, health education programme. Compared to last year, there have so far been fewer deaths and diarrhea cases, which may be due at least in part to the early awareness created by NRCS and other agencies on health, hygiene and sanitation.

In addition, NRCS will be developing a longer-term five-year plan to ensure that vulnerable communities remain resilient to outbreaks in future.

Progress towards objectives

Outcome: The risk of a diarrhoea outbreak is reduced in seven of the most vulnerable districts in the mid- and far- western region of Nepal, through support provided to 31,500 households (189,000 beneficiaries).

Expected result 1: Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, diarrhoea prevention kits and referral services to the most vulnerable communities and households in seven districts.

Activities planned	Achievements within the reporting period
Orientation and training for relevant district level staff and volunteers in WASH, epidemic control and rapid assessment and the mobilization of 2,000 trained volunteers;	A three-day training on "WASH in emergency" was conducted for 21 participants including WASH coordinators, district health focal persons from government and governance volunteers from the NRCS district chapters of the seven operation districts.
Procurement of 33,500 diarrhoea prevention kits ¹ in accordance with the International Federation procurement procedures;	Procurement of diarrhoea prevention kits are on-going. So far, 124,000 packets of ORS, 69, 5000 bottles of Chlorine solution (water guard) and 100,000 pieces of washing soap have been procured.
Immediate distribution of 31,500 diarrhoea prevention kits to identified households and prepositioning of additional 2,000 diarrhoea kits in mid and far western region warehouses for use in current and other potentially affected districts in the region;	Diarrhoea prevention kits, IEC materials (brochure and flex banner) and volunteer visibility materials (t shirt and cap) have been distributed to the communities of the project districts (detail of the distribution is given in the table below)
Training for and deployment of water and sanitation Kit 2 from the Kuala Lumpur Regional Logistics Unit warehouse, to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to vulnerable households in selected village development committees;	Water and sanitation Kit 2 arrived in Nepal from the International Federation Regional Logistics Warehouse in Kuala Lumpur and a 2-day orientation was provided to 20 participants from NRCS headquarters and some districts. Since the diarrhoea prevention kits procured from this Emergency Appeal is sufficient for now, NRCS has planned to keep some Kit 2 materials for prepositioning. However, some materials like chlorine solution/aqua-guard, which have short life span, will be distributed during this operation.

¹ Diarrhoea prevention kit includes: 2 bottles of chlorine, 4 pieces of hand washing soap, 5 packets of oral rehydration solution and bag, suitable for 1 household for 2 months. This is the standardised WASH cluster kit for Nepal.

<p>350 community orientation sessions to promote point of use water treatment options, specifically use of chlorine tablets, boiling and SODIS (solar treatment) during volunteer household visits;</p> <p>Provision of support to 700 selected households to construct low cost latrines through maximum utilization of local raw materials;</p> <p>Provision of animal shed management support to 700 vulnerable households;</p> <p>During household visits, volunteers to provide referral services to people affected by diarrhoea to encourage them to visit health posts for treatment, in coordination with national/local health authorities;</p> <p>Through grass root networks of volunteers, support national/local health authorities in household level surveillance of diarrhoea cases.</p>	<p>A series of community orientation sessions are on-going in the operation districts to promote water treatment options, specifically use of chlorine ,boiling and SODIS (solar treatment) in the communities.</p> <p>NRCS National headquarters has already sent NPR 550,000 (CHF 9,167) to each of the operational district chapters to support the construction of low cost latrines for the selected households.</p> <p>Planned to commence during the last week of July.</p> <p>NRCS volunteers have been encouraging and supporting the people affected by diarrhoea to visit health posts for treatment.</p> <p>Planned to commence end September to October. It was originally planned to commence at the end of May.</p>
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Table: Summarizing the dispatch of different materials from national headquarters to the operational districts.

S. NO.	District Name	Soap (pieces)	Chlorine solution /Water guard (bottles)	T-shirt and Cap per piece	Hygiene Promotion Kit pc	Brochure	ORS
1.	Jajarkot	18,000	9,000	130/130	11	5,000	In process
2.	Rukum	15,000	9,000	130	11	16,000	13,000
3.	Dadeldhura	9,000	9,000	130	11	16,000	13,000
4.	Baitadi	10,000	9,000	130	11	16,000	13,000
5.	Achham	15,000	9,000	130	11	16,000	13,000
6.	Bajura	18,000	9,000	130	11	5,000	In process
7.	Bajhang	15,000	9,000	130	11	5,000	In process
	Total	100,000	63,000	910	77	79,000	52,000

Expected result 2: Improved hygiene practices through increased water, sanitation and hygiene awareness for 31,500 households in 70 village development committees.

<p>Practical orientation by volunteers to 31,500 households, to prepare oral rehydration solution and chlorine solution and ensure proper use;</p> <p>Dissemination of daily WASH messages through FM radio in all seven districts;</p>	<p>Trained volunteers have been demonstrating the correct way of preparing oral rehydration solution and chlorine solution in the vulnerable communities.</p> <p>In addition to two radio shows on issues of water and sanitation jointly operated by NRCS and Radio Sagarmatha, NRCS district chapters (Dadeldhura and</p>
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<p>Reproduce health education/information, IEC materials;</p> <p>Conduct household visits by trained volunteers on hygiene awareness, water treatment and sanitation including distribution of diarrhoea kits and IEC materials;</p> <p>Initiation by volunteers of five community-organised drinking water source improvement campaigns in all 70 village development committees;</p> <p>Volunteer-organised street drama events in all 70 village development committees;</p> <p>Ten hand washing demonstrations and hygiene promotion in schools and communities in all 70 village development committees;</p> <p>Volunteer-organised 'Ignition Participatory Rural Appraisal', to discourage open defecation in five village clusters in all 70 village development committees;</p> <p>Procurement and distribution of brochures/pamphlets, hoarding boards and banners for awareness for 70 village development committees as well as 77 volunteer mobilizer support and visibility packs.</p>	<p>Bajhang) have been disseminating daily WASH messages as well as preventive measure of the diarrhoea through local FM stations.</p> <p>A total of 150,000 brochures and 150 pieces of flex banner about health, hygiene and sanitation, and preventive measures of diarrhoea were produced.</p> <p>More than 240 NRCS trained volunteers have been involved in door to door visits. They have been creating awareness on hygiene awareness, water treatment and sanitation including distribution of diarrhoea kits and IEC materials.</p> <p>Not yet commenced.</p> <p>Volunteers have been creating awareness in health and hygiene through different street drama events in the operational districts.</p> <p>NRCS volunteers/mobilizers have been demonstrating proper way of hand washing in schools and communities of the operation districts.</p> <p>Not yet commenced.</p> <p>A total of 150,000 pieces brochures and 150 pieces of flex banner were procured and have been dispatching into the operation districts (detail is given in the table above). Similarly, NRCS has been installing hoarding boards in the public places such as markets, schools and hospitals. The hoarding boards have been an effective means to disseminate the information and knowledge on the health and hygiene promotion.</p>
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Expected result 3: Strengthened capacity of NRCS for responding to public health emergencies and to undertake longer term activities to improve the overall health condition of communities.

<p>Training for relevant headquarters and district level staff and volunteers in water and sanitation national disaster response team and public health in emergencies;</p> <p>Conduct baseline assessments in all seven districts with a view to developing a transition plan from short term response to a longer term development approach, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>Strengthen community-based health and first aid activities to create a sustainable</p>	<p>Planned to commence in November and December.</p> <p>A baseline survey has just been completed in all the seven districts. For this purpose, NRCS volunteers were oriented together with other local volunteers and mobilized door to door.</p> <p>Originally, this was planned to start by July, however it has been postponed to November, subject to the</p>
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<p>community approach through training of trainers/volunteers, and involvement of community leaders and members;</p> <p>Ensure the implementation of a common approach to volunteer mobilisation, induction, support and recognition across all programmes that leads to strengthened branch volunteer base and volunteer management capacities for the future.</p>	<p>adequate coverage of this appeal.</p> <p>This has been developed throughout the operation and will be analyzed towards the end of the operation.</p>
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Key challenges and constraints

The current low donor response to the appeal is most likely to affect the progress of the operation. A revised work plan has been developed to re-prioritise activities based on available funding, which will postpone some activities until further funding can be secured. Nevertheless, the International Federation and NRCS are continuing to treat this operation as an emergency, to prevent the further loss of life from diarrhoea in the identified districts and VDCs.

Besides this, the others challenges that NRCS has been facing in this operation are as follows:

1. Access to adequate information on the current diarrhoea situation is challenging. Government practice is to provide situation updates only during times of severe outbreak, making it difficult to access official numbers in different districts for monitoring purposes.
2. The ability to disseminate WASH information to mass gatherings and to engage large-scale community participation has been another challenge, because many people are engaged in seasonal farming and the monsoon period has begun.
3. Geographical remoteness is another challenge - it takes about 1-3 days walk to reach from one selected VDC to another VDC. This has been made all the more difficult following the onset of the monsoon. Nevertheless, the operation remains largely on track.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

In addition to two radio shows on issues of water and sanitation jointly operated by NRCS and Radio Sagarmatha, NRCS district chapters (Dadeldhura and Bajhang) have been disseminating daily WASH messages as well as preventive measure of the diarrhoea through local FM stations. For advocacy purposes through a radio programme, interaction was made with a local journalist, who had informed that the problem of diarrhea is an increasing trend and although there are government actions taking place, the presence of the non-government sector is low.

The NRCS's communications department has been collecting information related to the diarrhoea situation throughout the country and providing information to stakeholders when required.

NRCS was also involved in health, hygiene and sanitation awareness activities during National Sanitation Week (5-11 June).

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.

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- Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
- Enable healthy and safe living.
- Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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MDRNP004 - Nepal Potential Diarrhoea Outbreak

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Construction - Materials	11,669
Water & Sanitation	137,551
Medical & First Aid	181,911
Teaching Materials	55,194
Other Supplies & Services	5,835
Total Supplies	392,160
Computer & Telecom	4,584
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,584
Distribution & Monitoring	14,503
Transport & Vehicle Costs	38,941
Total Transport & Storage	53,444
International Staff	32,256
National Staff	6,001
National Society Staff	64,363
Consultants	10,002
Total Personnel	112,623
Workshops & Training	47,735
Total Workshops & Training	47,735
Travel	20,004
Information & Public Relation	3,001
Office Costs	20,254
Communications	13,578
Professional Fees	4,168
Financial Charges	2,100
Other General Expenses	20,209
Total General Expenditure	83,314
Program Support	45,101
Total Programme Support	45,101
TOTAL BUDGET	738,960
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	738,960