

**DREF operation n° MDRNP005**  
**GLIDE n° EQ-2011-000136-NPL**  
**Update n°01**  
**4 October 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 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.

**On 21 September 2011, CHF 172,417 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) to conduct rapid assessments and deliver immediate assistance to some 1,500 families in five districts affected by the Taplejung earthquake which occurred on 18 September.**

**A further allocation from DREF was approved for an additional CHF 263,762 to scale up the relief distributions to an additional 2,000 families in an additional seven districts and support the volunteer mobilization and transport costs to enable relief teams and goods to reach people affected in very remote areas. The total budget has become CHF 436,179 for serving 3,500 families (21,000 beneficiaries).**



A house in Khandbari, Sankhuwasava district, destroyed by the 18 September earthquake. A total of 16 such houses have been fully damaged in the locality. **Photo:** Dipendra Shakya.

The Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Canadian government and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) have replenished the DREF for this allocation.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the national society, would like to extend thanks to all for their

generous contributions. Details of the contributions to the DREF can be found on [www.ifrc.org/dref](http://www.ifrc.org/dref)

Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

### Summary:

On 18 September 2011, an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale struck the eastern region of Nepal. According to the National Seismologic Centre, the epicentre was east of the Nepal-India border of Taplejung district and the Indian state of Sikkim, at around 6:26 pm Nepal time. The tremors were felt quite strongly in the capital Kathmandu (where three people were killed by a collapsed wall) and were also felt as far as Delhi, India and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to receive information from its district chapters, which had immediately mobilized its district disaster response teams and other trained volunteers from sub-chapters to undertake rapid assessments and light search and rescue across the country. Following the release of initial funds from DREF, NRCS also deployed two national disaster response teams (NDRT) to support assessments in the two districts closest to the epicentre (Taplejung and Sankhuwasabha) and has performed relief distributions of non-food items (NFIs) to more than 2,000 displaced families in five of the most vulnerable districts, using prepositioned NFIs in several of its warehouses in east and central Nepal.

To date, reports have confirmed seven deaths, 64 injured and 4,825 families (approximately 29,000 people) displaced across 18 districts mainly in the eastern part of the country. However, numbers of people affected are increasing daily as assessment teams find it a challenge to gain access to remote areas which have been cut off by heavy rainfall and landslides. NFIs have been distributed to more than 2,000 displaced families and additional tarpaulins have been distributed to 925 affected families, with more in the pipeline.

It is envisaged that relief distributions will continue for at least the next two weeks, as assessment teams access more remote communities. A major challenge is the high cost of transport to these areas, for both personnel and relief goods. In many cases this can only be done by air, or using porters, mules and tractors.

It is likely that NRCS will be requested or invited to contribute to the Government of Nepal's "Programme on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Infrastructures Damaged by Earthquake" which was principally agreed by the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC). Additional longer term needs will also be identified during the NRCS detailed assessment process and in the coming weeks, NRCS will be preparing an initial recovery plan and is likely to need additional financial support for its implementation, either through specific proposals or other mechanism to be decided.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

In the 11 days following the earthquake, teams are still having difficulty reaching all of the affected areas due to heavy rains and landslides. In addition, the impact of the earthquake has been widespread, spanning some 18 districts, within which damage has been spread across many different areas. Through continuous assessments, reports indicate that seven people have been killed and 64 injured, with structural damage sustained in over 9,866 houses, of which 5,221 have been fully damaged. Approximately 4,525 families (around 28,000 people) have been displaced with many more frightened to return to their damaged homes. Government reports also indicate that many schools, hospitals, health posts and other public buildings have sustained heavy damage.

SN	District	People			Displaced Families	Affected Families	Houses destroyed	
		Dead	Missing	Injured			Fully	Partially
1	Ilam	0	0	10	1,215	1,682	1,215	467
2	Taplejung	0	0	11	1,219	2,055	1,219	836
3	Sankhuwasava	1	0	18	214	726	214	512
4	Panchthar	0	0	3	945	2,077	945	1,132
5	Dhankuta	0	0	6	238	522	238	284
6	Khotang	0	0	0	115	335	115	220
7	Terhathum	0	0	0	488	842	530	312
8	Sindhupalchowk	0	0	0	81	138	81	57
9	Ramechhap	0	0	0	57	100	57	43
10	Bhojpur	0	0	7	130	765	474	291
11	Dolakha	0	0	0	47	137	47	90
12	Solukhumbu	0	0	2	39	358	39	319
13	Kathmandu	3	0	0	16	26	16	10
14	Lalitpur	0	0	1	9	47	9	38
15	Bhaktapur	0	0	3	12	42	12	30
16	Jhapa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Sunsari	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
18	Udayapur	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4,825</b>	<b>9,856</b>	<b>5,211</b>	<b>4,645</b>

In spite of the heavy structural damage, the loss of life has been surprisingly low. Meanwhile, many displaced people are seeking refuge within local communities in relatives' houses or public buildings, so there have been no reports to date of large populations sleeping in the open or in camp settings. However, there are concerns for the approaching winter, as temperatures have already been starting to drop, particularly in the high mountainous areas. Thus, timely provision of NFIs, together with additional blankets and tarpaulins is considered an urgent priority.

## Coordination and partnerships



A store room was wrecked due to the 18 September earthquake in Sankhuwasava. **Photo:** Dipendra Shakya.

The morning following the earthquake, the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) organized an emergency meeting at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and convened a meeting of CNDR that same afternoon, joined by Nepal Red Cross, which is a standing member. Following this, NEOC was activated and District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) convened meetings in the affected district headquarters to ensure effective and coordinated response activities. NRCS district chapters are represented in the DDRCs and have been feeding back information from needs assessments as well as identifying areas where there may be gaps in assistance needed. The government has also announced

financial support for those affected: NPR 300,000 (CHF 3,454) for the families of those killed by the earthquake and NPR 25,000 (CHF 288) for those whose homes have been damaged.

The UN cluster system is active in Nepal and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the convenor of the emergency shelter and NFI cluster. Several clusters have held meetings and/or circulated information among cluster members to get a more complete picture of the situation. The IFRC country representative requested all shelter cluster members to share information about current damage/needs assessments, current capacities and planned responses which will be compiled and reviewed for further action.

UNOCHA held a humanitarian country team (HCT) operations meeting on 21 September comprising of all cluster leads and the UN humanitarian coordinator/resident coordinator chaired a joint HCT operations and principals meeting on 25 September, comprising all cluster leads, heads of agencies, donors and other partners. During this meeting, several clusters announced their intention to conduct specific needs assessments, in particular looking at damage to schools and water/sanitation facilities to supplement the information being received through government and other channels. The need for improved coordination to track areas already assessed was also highlighted and UNOCHA has been compiling and sharing the assessment plans of different agencies to avoid duplication.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Rapid assessments

Immediately after the earthquake, NRCS headquarters activated its EOC and put its staff on an 'extended hours' roster. The EOC remains in close contact with the district chapters to monitor the situation and compile the detailed assessment information. This information has also been shared with the Government of Nepal, Movement partners and UNOCHA.

District disaster response teams in many of the district chapters, as well as trained volunteers in sub-chapters, were mobilized to assess damage and provide light search and rescue services. Moreover, two NDRT assessment teams were deployed from NRCS headquarters to two districts closest to the epicentre (Taplejung and Sankhuwasabha) to support the district chapters in the assessment process and have been supporting the coordination of relief efforts.

### Distribution of NFIs

NRCS has already begun the distribution of NFI sets as well as additional blankets and tarpaulins to accommodate for the ongoing monsoon rains and the cooler temperatures in the mountainous regions. The following table shows current distribution as at 29 September in the 12 priority districts:

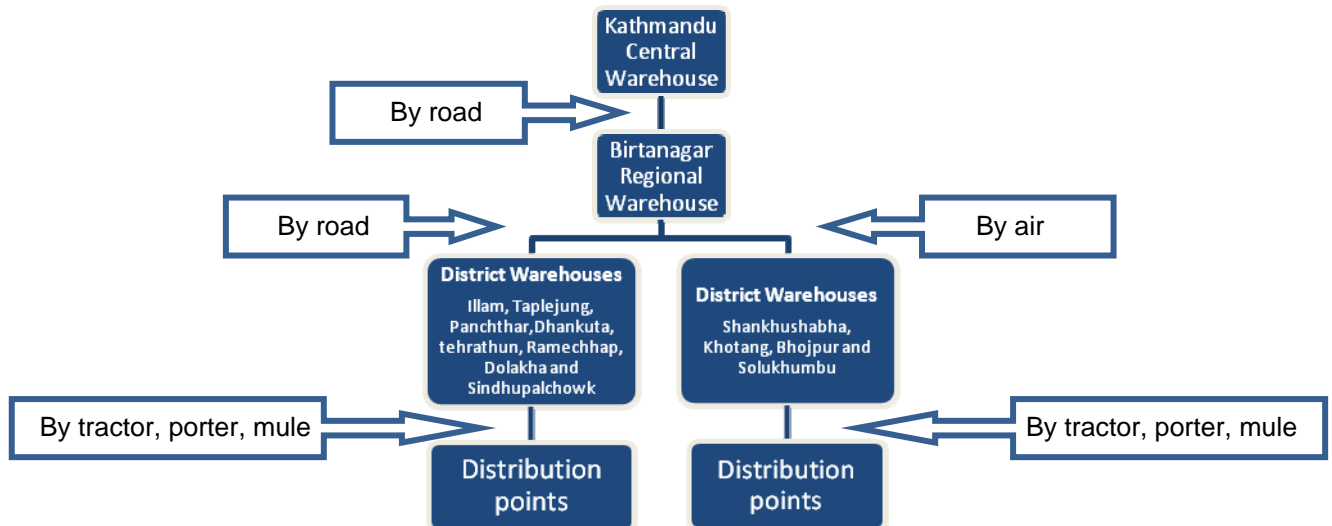
No.	District	No. of displaced families	Relief distributions to date			Relief goods in the pipeline (dispatched from NRCS warehouses to district chapters)		
			NFI Sets	Additional Tarps	Additional Blankets	NFI Sets	Additional Tarps	Additional Blankets
1	Ilam	1,215	683	595	0	330	200	0
2	Taplejung	1,219	512	0	0	300	100	0
3	Sankhuwasava	214	81	30	0	0	0	0
4	Panchthar	945	468	150	0	400	800	800
5	Dhankuta	238	65	0	0	150	0	0
6	Khotang	115	80	0	0	150	0	0
7	Terhathum	488	111	150	0	220	0	0
8	Sindhupalchowk	81	4	0	0	100	0	0
9	Ramechhap	57	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Bhojpur	130	76	0	0	0	0	0
11	Dolakha	47	0	0	0			0
12	Solukhambu	39	7	0	0			0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>800</b>

### Transportation

Transport has been a major concern throughout this operation, particularly for accessing remote communities cut off by floods and landslides due to the heavy monsoon rains. This has impacted to both the time and cost of the assessment and relief distributions. NFIs can only be delivered to some district chapters

by air because roads are either cut off or non-existent. They are then transported to distribution points by tractor and, where this is not possible, through the use of porters and mules, a process which can take several days. The cost and timeliness of these transport methods need to be taken into consideration for the future of the operation.

Below is a chart explaining the methods of transport for NFIs from the central and regional warehouses to the final distribution points in the field:



## The needs

**Immediate needs:** As per the figures above, the number of displaced families currently stands at 4,825. The families identified for the current NFI distribution are those whose have been displaced as a result of damage to their homes, requiring the replacement of their household items, blankets, clothing and shelter materials to provide some temporary relief.

**Longer term needs:** NRCS district and sub-chapters are undertaking further detailed needs assessments and the Government of Nepal has also instructed its District Disaster Relief Committees to gather more detailed assessment information.

On 25 September, the Government's CNDRC principally agreed to a "Programme on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Infrastructures Damaged by Earthquake" which outlines a number of key steps for the recovery process, to be implemented primarily by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works. These steps include:

- Damage and needs assessment to identify structural damage and affected families.
- Feasibility study for reconstruction, including multi-hazard assessment, site selection and categorisation of buildings according to damage.
- Design of low cost, earthquake resistant housing models.
- Undertaking reconstruction works of housing as well as schools, health posts and other infrastructure.
- Monitoring and supervision.
- Advocacy and awareness.

It is likely that NRCS will be requested or invited to contribute to some or all of these activities, in addition to responding to any additional longer term needs identified during their own detailed assessment process. In the coming weeks, NRCS will be preparing an initial recovery plan and is likely to need additional financial support for its implementation, either through specific proposals or other mechanism to be decided.

## The proposed operation

The activities identified in this operation are supplementary to those described in the DREF Operation of 21 September 2011, which covered the assessment and relief distribution in five districts for 1,500 families, based on the gravity of their situation and the damage to their homes. The total budget has become CHF 436,179 for serving 3,500 families (21,000 beneficiaries).

Based on the rapid assessment findings, NRCS will expand its operation to a further seven districts and to reach an additional 2,000 families in Illam, Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Khotang, Terathum, Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap, Bhojpur, Dolakha and Solukhumbu, with the provision of an additional 2,000 NFI sets, 3,000 blankets and 3,000 sets of tarpaulin.

These NFIs include blankets, tarpaulins, cooking sets, water buckets, clothing materials and other locally purchased items, and are already pre-stocked in a number of warehouses across the country included in the regions affected.

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> An additional 2,000 displaced families (approximately 12,000 people) will benefit from the provision of non-food items to meet their immediate needs.</p> <p>A total of 3,500 families who have suffered most from the earthquake will receive materials to improve their living conditions in the form of shelter materials.</p>
<p><b>Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:</b> Families received shelter materials and non-food items to better protect them from the elements while they are temporarily displaced, and other items to replace necessary household items lost in the earthquake.</p> <p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilisation of staff and volunteers in seven additional districts.</li><li>• Community assessments.</li><li>• Beneficiary registration.</li><li>• Dispatch and transportation by NRCS to the distribution sites.</li><li>• Distribution of relief items, especially at unit level by trained staff and volunteers.</li><li>• Monitoring and reporting of distributions.</li><li>• Procurement and storage of NFIs, as replenishment of stocks distributed, according to IFRC standard procedures.</li><li>• Ongoing monitoring by the national headquarters and IFRC, with lesson learnt workshop conducted after the operation.</li></ul>

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
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# DREF OPERATION

Addition 27-09-2011

MDRNP005 Nepal : Taplejung Earthquake

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	101,745
Clothing & Textiles	71,448
Utensils & Tools	17,374
Other Supplies & Services	4,046
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>194,613</b>
Computer & Telecom Equipment	714
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>714</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	3,332
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,781
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>15,113</b>
National Society Staff	2,380
Volunteers	11,995
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>14,375</b>
Workshops & Training	1,000
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Travel	14,328
Information & Public Relations	952
Office Costs	1,428
Communications	2,142
Other General Expenses	3,000
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>21,850</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	16,098
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>16,098</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>263,762</b>

# DREF OPERATION

Combined

## MDRNP005 Taplejung Earthquake

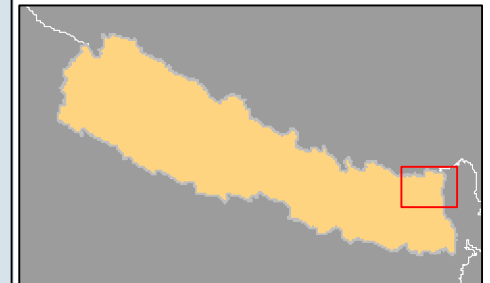
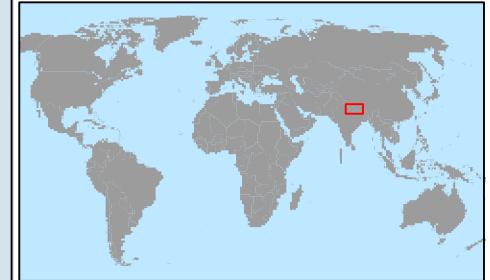
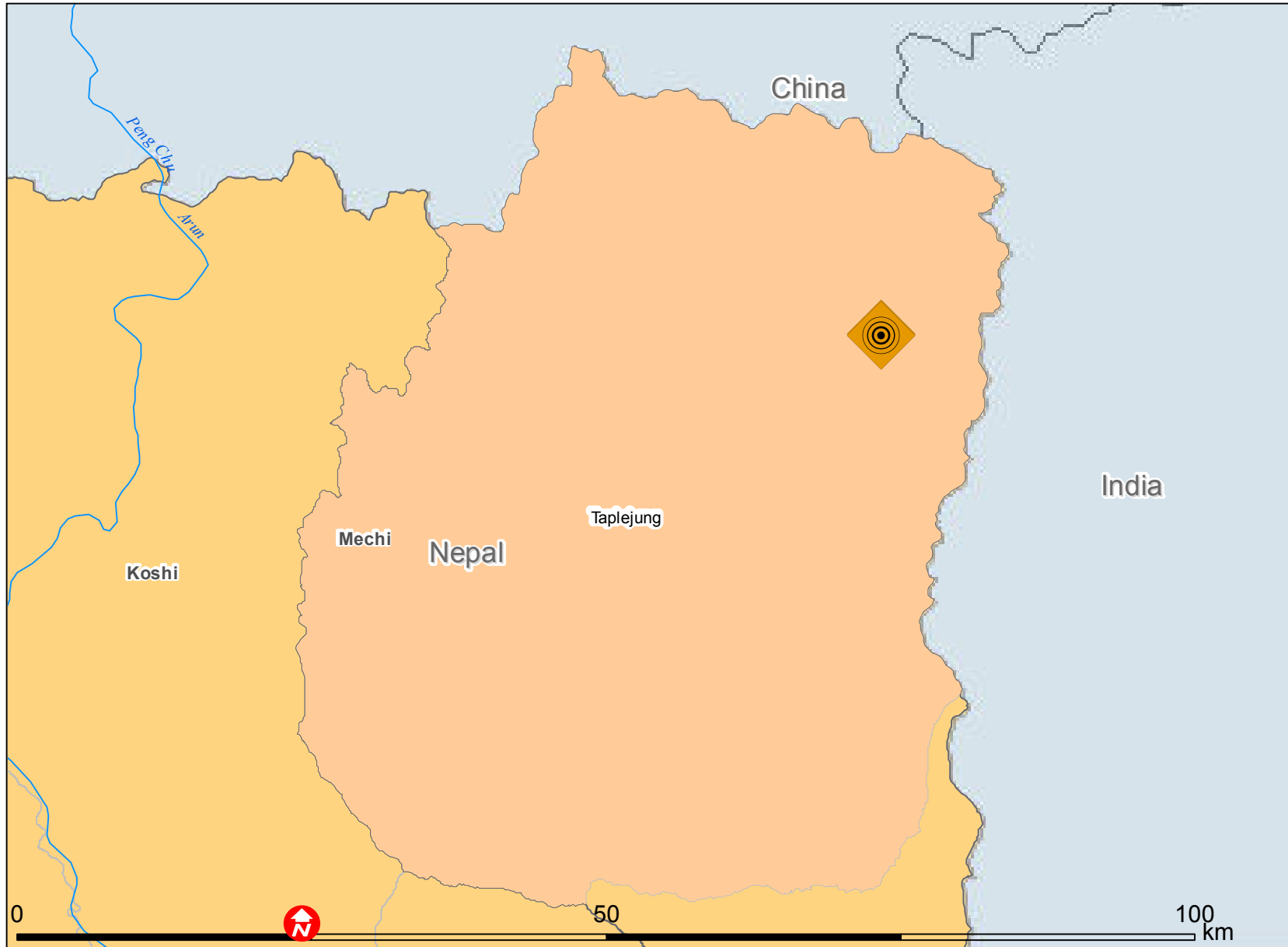
<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	143,710
Clothing & Textiles	126,395
Utensils & Tools	30,410
Other Supplies & Services	7,082
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>307,597</b>
Computer & Telecom Equipment	2,024
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>2,024</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	5,713
Transport & Vehicle Costs	19,222
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>24,935</b>
National Society Staff	8,166
Volunteers	20,567
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>28,733</b>
Workshops & Training	5,000
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Travel	23,894
Information & Public Relations	2,378
Office Costs	3,809
Communications	3,333
Other General Expenses	7,857
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>41,271</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	26,621
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>26,621</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>436,179</b>




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

DREF MDRNP005  
EQ-2011-000136-NPL  
4 October 2011

# Nepal: Earthquake



 Affected district