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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Nepal: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Update n° 3
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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.

Following the earthquake in the eastern region of Nepal on 18 September, a total of CHF436,179 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Nepal Red Cross Society to conduct rapid assessments and deliver immediate assistance to some 3,500 families in 12 affected districts, including support for volunteer mobilization and transport costs to enable relief teams and goods to reach people affected in very remote areas.

Due to the delayed delivery of some non-food items by suppliers and the need to undertake additional monitoring visits in the lead up to a final lessons learnt workshop, the operation will be extended to end of March 2012, and the final report will be available by end of May 2012.

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, 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.

Summary

In the second month following the 6.8 Richter scale earthquake of 18 September 2011, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) district chapters have completed the assessment and beneficiary registration process in nearly all of the affected districts and have expedited the distribution of non-food relief items and additional



A stone-mud-mortar made house damaged in Dhankuta. **Photo:** Nepal Red Cross Society.

tarpaulins and blankets. Since the last DREF update, NRCS assessment teams have managed to reach affected areas in the most remote, mountainous locations on foot or by mule, and consequently the total recorded number of people affected has increased. The latest figures indicate that a total of 19,813 families have been affected across 18 districts, of which 7,882 families are displaced from their homes. Many are living in self-made shelters using tarpaulins and blankets distributed by NRCS. In the face of the coming winter season, there are concerns that their living conditions may deteriorate further.

So far, NRCS has distributed non-food item (NFI) sets to 2,189 families plus an additional 3,149 tarpaulins and 709 blankets, all from its own warehouse stock. A further 1,269 NFI sets, 855 tarpaulins and 249 blankets are in the pipeline. The NRCS procurement process for 3,500 NFRI (excluding tarpaulins) has been initiated and the IFRC regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur has dispatched the required number of tarpaulins, which was received in the first week of December.

Due to the delayed delivery of some NFI by suppliers and the need to undertake additional monitoring visits in the lead up to a final lessons learnt workshop, the operation will be extended to end of March 2012, and the final report will be available by end of May 2012.

NRCS has also been distributing the relief items of other agencies working in some districts. The UN cluster system has been actively following the situation across the different sectors and several meetings have been held to discuss the immediate relief and recovery process.

The Government of Nepal has recently prepared a recovery plan involving grants to individual families, schools, health service centres and local authorities for the reconstruction or repair of damaged buildings. The plan also includes training of local masons in good building practices and awareness raising activities. Discussions are ongoing as to how NRCS and other organization could also contribute to recovery efforts.

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The situation

Immediately after the earthquake, NRCS district chapters mobilized district disaster response teams (DDRT) for assessments and the NRCS national headquarters deployed eight regional and national disaster response team members as supplementary support. These efforts were closely coordinated with national and local authorities as well as other organisations working in the affected areas. All assessments have now been completed, with the exception of one remote village development committee (VDC) in Bhojpur district. NRCS district chapters are heavily engaged in relief distribution through their volunteer network.

As per the reports received from the affected VDCs and from recent monitoring visits of NRCS and IFRC personnel from Kathmandu, most displaced families have been living with host families or in self-made shelters in the affected areas, using tarpaulins and blankets distributed by NRCS. It was noted that large numbers of houses made from stone and mud have been damaged whereas houses made from cement, particularly in more urban areas, were less affected. Assessment reports indicate that the availability of household materials such as clothing and cooking items was not significantly affected. Additionally, there have not been reports of any widespread health concerns or food scarcity problems at this stage. However, the winter season has just commenced which will place additional hardship on displaced families in mountainous, remote areas still living under tarpaulins.

The table below shows the latest numbers of affected families. Additionally, it has been reported that 424 school and health post buildings in four districts are also damaged, with information yet to be received from remaining districts. The Ministry of Education is coordinating with the UN education cluster at the central level and has been involved in collecting information of destruction of school buildings. District education offices are also coordinating with district level agencies for this purpose.

Table: Numbers and locations of people affected (as at 21 November 2011)

SN	Districts	People			Families		Houses destroyed	
		Dead	Missing	Injured	Displaced	Affected	Fully	Partially
1	Ilam	-	-	1	1,867	2,334	1,867	467
2	Taplejung	-	-	18	1,349	4,549	1,349	3,200
3	Sankhuwasava	1	-	22	848	3,190	848	2,390
4	Panchthar	-	-	5	1,430	2,569	1,430	1,132
5	Dhankuta	-	-	6	627	1,394	627	767

6	Khotang	-	-	-	115	335	115	220
7	Terhathum	-	-	1	530	2,095	530	1,565
8	Sindhupalchowk	-	-	-	81	138	81	57
9	Ramechhap	-	-	3	97	434	97	337
10	Bhojpur	-	-	23	647	2,007	647	1,360
11	Dolakha	-	-	-	47	207	47	160
12	Solukhumbu	-	-	2	207	442	71	371
13	Kathmandu	3	-	-	16	26	16	10
14	Lalitpur	-	-	1	9	47	9	38
15	Bhaktapur	-	-	3	12	42	12	30
16	Jhapa	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Sunsari	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
18	Udayapur	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
	Total	7	-	88	7,882	19,813	7,746	12,108

Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Home Affairs, focal agency for disaster management in Nepal, has been coordinating national level meetings and Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) meeting at the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). NRCS, as a standing member of the CNDRC, has been attending the meetings and sharing updates regularly. Likewise, NRCS district chapters have been actively attending the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) meeting at district level. In addition, district chapters have been regularly sharing the assessment reports and updates of the relief operation with DDRC in regular basis. District chapters, in close coordination with DDRC, are conducting assessment as well as relief distribution. Additionally, district chapters, with the support from national level international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), have been distributing shelter kits, food items in some of the districts.

The government has just prepared a recovery plan to carry out reconstruction of damaged building including the software related activities to be coordinated by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works. In order to carry out reconstruction of damaged homes and public buildings, the Government of Nepal has planned to provide grants to individual families, schools, health service centres and government authorities as follows:

- NPR. 100,000 (CHF 1,105) for each of 7,000 houses that are fully damaged and NPR. 50,000 (CHF 553) for each of additional 10,000 houses that are partially damaged.
- NPR. 1,000,000 (CHF 11,054) for each of 400 schools which are fully damaged and NPR. 500,000 (CHF 5,525) for each of additional 600 schools which are partially destroyed.
- NPR. 500,000 (CHF 5,525) for each of 20 health centres which are fully damaged and NPR. 200,000 (CHF 2,211) for each of additional 40 health centres that are partially damaged.
- NPR. 1,000,000 (CHF 11,054) for each of 100 buildings that are fully damaged and NPR. 500,000 (CHF 5,525) for each of additional 200 buildings that are partially damaged.

In addition, the government has planned to carry out software related activities such as mason training for local masons and awareness raising activities in the affected VDCs. However, the final decision and approval of this plan is yet to be made.

The UN cluster is also actively taking part in collecting information and rendering services. As mentioned above, the education cluster, in close coordination with Ministry of Education, has been collecting damage information about school buildings with members such as Save the Children, UNICEF and Mercy Corps distributing shelter kits and planning to conduct some school recovery activities. UNOCHA is also planning to conduct a lesson learnt workshop in December.

IFRC, with support from NRCS and the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), is the convener of the emergency shelter and NFI cluster. A meeting was held on 21 October during which IFRC and NRCS gave an update on the situation following a recent monitoring visit. Other organisations also reported on their activities. Concern was expressed about the vulnerability of families who may remain living under tarpaulin during the winter months and it was agreed a small working group would study the availability of local materials, good practices and appropriate shelter models as a temporary or even permanent shelter option for displaced families. Another meeting was held on 5 November, hosted by DUDBC, including a sharing of the recovery plan developed by the Government of Nepal, being coordinated by Ministry of Physical Planning and Works. The meeting urged the conduct of damage and need assessments in the affected areas and also highlighted the need to consider transitional shelters since

recovery/reconstruction works have not started yet. Habitat for Humanity, as a part of their regular programme, has planned to assist 150 families to construct their houses. Minutes from Emergency Shelter Cluster meetings is available at: <http://www.un.org/np/coordinationmechanism/cluster-shelter>.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Plan of Action – Assessment and relief distribution	
<p>Outcome: 3,500 displaced families (approximately 21,000 people) who have suffered most from the earthquake will benefit from the provision of non-food items and additional shelter materials to meet their immediate needs.</p>	
<p>Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: 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>	
Activities planned	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilisation of staff and volunteers in 12 districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS district chapters have mobilized volunteers and DDRT members to undertake assessment and relief distribution. As per reports received from Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasava, Ilam, Panchthar Solukhumbu and Taplejung altogether 619 volunteers have been mobilized so far. NRCS national headquarters also deployed 8 RDRT/NDRT members to assist district chapters to conduct assessment as well as coordinate relief operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment is completed in all districts. Government of Nepal has planned to conduct detail need and damage assessment (DANA) to initiate recovery and reconstruction of damaged infrastructures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary registration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The identification of beneficiaries is almost completed (with the exception of one remote VDC in Bhojpur) and district chapters have listed out the details of beneficiaries for rendering immediate relief services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispatch and transportation by NRCS to the distribution sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the need, NRCS national headquarters through regional warehouse located in Biratnagar have been sending relief items to the district chapters (see table below).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of relief items, especially at unit level by trained staff and volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS district chapters are heavily engaged in distributing relief items to the identified beneficiaries. Altogether 2,189 NFRI sets, 3,149 additional tarpaulin and 709 additional blankets have been distributed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting of distributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the District Executive Committees are making regular monitoring visits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and storage of NFIs, as replenishment of stocks distributed, according to IFRC standard procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NRCS procurement process for 3,500 NFRI (excluding tarpaulins) has been initiated and suppliers have been selected. However the quality of printed cloth did not meet the specification so a second tender notice was published for that item and the tenders were received on 25 November. Upon request from NRCS, the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit has dispatched the required number of tarpaulins, which will be received by end of December.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing monitoring by the national headquarters and IFRC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS headquarters have developed a standard reporting format for this operation, sent to all district chapters and have been following up to receive reports on a regular basis. Two NRCS national headquarters teams comprising of IFRC representative, DM director, finance director, treasurer general, and senior officials made monitoring visits covering most affected districts.

Dispatch and distribution of NFIs

The following table shows current distribution in the 12 priority districts. The data given below represents the non-food items distributed from NRCS with the support received from DREF. In addition to this, some NRCS district chapters have also distributed shelter kits and tarpaulins on behalf of other of national and local level I/NGOs which is not shown in the table given below.

The complete distribution report of the dispatched items is yet to be received from all concerned sub-chapters, so the data given in this update varies from previous.

No.	District	Relief distribution to date (from NRCS stock only)			Pipe line (NRCS stock dispatched from warehouses, not yet distributed)		
		NFRI Sets	Additional Tarps	Additional Blankets	NFRI Sets	Additional Tarps	Additional Blankets
1	Illam	237	947		63	98	
2	Taplejung	270	742	270		288	
3	Sankhuwasava		447		300		
4	Panchthar	1,261	251	251	249	469	249
5	Dhankuta		434	73	150		
6	Khotang	86	100		65		
7	Terhathum	188	171		227		
8	Sindhupalchok	4					
9	Ramechhap						
10	Bhojpur	25	57		225		
11	Dolakha	3					
12	Solukhumbu	115		115			
	Total	2,189	3,149	709	1,279	855	249

Total quantity of NRCS stock mobilised (distributed and in the pipeline):

NFI Sets	Additional tarps	Additional blankets
3,468	4,004	958

Content of one standard non-food relief item kit (NFRI)

Item	Quantity
Tarpaulin (piece)	1
Nylon Rope (meters)	10
Blanket (piece)	2
Female Sari (piece)	1
Male Dhoti (piece) (only for Terai area)	1
Jean Cloth (meters)	5
Print Cloth (meters)	7
Plain Cloth (meters)	6
Water Bucket with lid (piece)	1
Kitchen Utensils (set)	1
Bag for holding kit items (piece)	1

Challenges and constraints

During this relief operation, transportation remains a major problem in almost all districts, as affected communities are scattered over wide areas and in remote locations. NRCS volunteers faced challenges accessing many areas to carry out assessments and in the most of remote areas of Taplejung, Ilam, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasava, Solukhumbu and Tehrathum, where there is little or no road access, NFRI sets are being transported by mule or porter. Thus the operation has been progressing slowly in some areas.

Due to the lack of effective communication (e-mail and fax) services and time consuming postal services, some of the district chapters are facing challenges to send their progress reports on time. More incoming reports with additional information from these district chapters will be incorporated in the next update.

Longer term needs

As described above, the Government of Nepal has developed a recovery plan involving cash grants for private and public buildings that have been fully or partially damaged by the quake, as well as undertaking some software components such as the training of local masons and awareness-raising activities. Given the onset of winter and the potential for the recovery scheme to take some months for implementation, there remain concerns about families who remain under tarpaulin, unable to return to their homes. NRCS is in discussion with the government, shelter cluster partners and others to determine how best to address their potential needs and undertake any recovery activities as may be needed.

Contact information

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 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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