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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Nepal: Extreme cold

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRNP006
GLIDE n° CW-2011-000203-NPL
17 January 2012

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.

A total of CHF 69,134 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Nepal Red Cross Society to conduct rapid assessments and deliver immediate assistance to 5,000 families across nine districts who have been made vulnerable by the extreme cold following the onset of winter after their homes were severely damaged or destroyed by the earthquake in the eastern Nepal in September 2011. This includes the distribution of 10,000 blankets, support for volunteer mobilization and transport costs to enable relief teams and goods to reach people affected in very remote areas.



A Nepal Red Cross volunteer (*right*) talking to a man from Dolakha district whose home was damaged during the September 2011 earthquake. This man is now living in a makeshift tent and fighting against the cold. **Photo:** Nepal Red Cross Society.

ICRC country office in Nepal has made an in-kind contribution of 2,000 blankets, so the total procurement under this DREF will be for 8,000 blankets.

Summary

Following the earthquake with a 6.8 magnitude on the Richter scale which struck the eastern region of Nepal on 18 September 2011, some 7,746 families were displaced across 12 districts of the country after their homes were completely or severely damaged. Together with the Government of Nepal, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) undertook initial needs assessments following an allocation of CHF436,179 from



A make-shift tent in Budhuk Panchthar. Tents such as these do not shelter occupants from the cold temperatures. **Photo:** Nepal Red Cross Society.

DREF allocated to support 3,500 of the most vulnerable families with non-food items. Additional blankets and tarpaulins were also distributed to more than 3,000 other families in need of partial support. The distribution of relief items is now over and it was expected that the government's recovery plan, which was prepared soon after the earthquake struck, would have commenced before the onset of winter. However to

date, much of the plan has yet to be implemented.

Consequently, there are still many displaced families living under tarpaulin or in makeshift, temporary structures. With the onset of winter, which results in extreme cold, particularly in the mountainous regions of the country, there is serious humanitarian concern about their living conditions. NRCS, through its district chapters, has been closely monitoring the situation in the area and have identified some 5,000 families in urgent need of additional blankets to protect them from the cold. NRCS plans to distribute two blankets to each affected family based on their immediate needs.

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

The situation

Since the last week of December, the temperature in most of the areas affected by last September's earthquake has significantly dropped to close to freezing at night as well as intense snowfall in many parts of the districts. Of the total 7,746 families displaced by the earthquake across 12 districts, some 5,000 families have been suffering from extreme cold in nine districts: Taplejung, Ilam, Panchthar, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasava, Khotang, Solukhumbu, Tehrathum and Dhankuta. NRCS district chapters have been closely monitoring the situation and making field visits. Based on their observations, they have identified that these families are in urgent need of additional support. Given the time sensitive nature of this support, the dispersed nature of the target group and the difficult terrain, it is not possible to conduct another detailed needs assessment of each individual family. Nor is it possible to start a procurement process for items which are not already in stock. Therefore, NRCS has determined that the distribution of an additional two blankets per family will be sufficient to provide much needed protection from the cold.

Additionally, a joint monitoring team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNHABITAT and NRCS has conducted a review and lessons learnt workshop from 16 to 24 December in Taplejung, Panchthar and Ilam districts. The lessons learnt workshop report clearly identified the need for additional blanket distributions for those families still living under tarpaulin.

Based on the provisional estimates from NRCS district chapters, the table below shows the breakdown of the numbers and locations of families who are most at risk (as of 13 January 2011):

SN	Districts	Families	Needs of Blanket
1	Ilam	1,089	2,178
2	Taplejung	1,000	2,000
3	Sankhuwasava	300	600
4	Panchthar	1,075	2,150
5	Dhankuta	541	1,082
6	Khotang	85	170
7	Terhathum	530	1,060
8	Bhojpur	300	600
9	Solukhumbu	80	160
	Total	5,000	10,000

Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Home Affairs, the focal agency for disaster management in Nepal, has been coordinating national level meetings on the earthquake situation and Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) meetings at National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). NRCS, as a standing member of the CNDRC, has been attending the meeting and sharing updates regularly. Likewise, NRCS district chapters have been actively attending the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) meetings at district level. NRCS district chapters have been regularly sharing their assessment reports and updates on the relief operation with DDRCs on a regular basis and have been conducting assessments as well as relief distributions of non-food item sets, blankets and tarpaulins in recent months, including the distribution of items supplied by other organizations such as food items and shelter kits.

The UN cluster system is also actively taking part in collecting information and rendering services. The education cluster, in close coordination with Ministry of Education, has been collecting damage information about school buildings. Some members of the education clusters, such as Save the Children, UNICEF and Mercy Corps, are distributing shelter kits and are planning to carry out recovery works of school buildings. As mentioned above, a joint monitoring team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNHABITAT and NRCS has conducted a review and lessons learnt workshop from 16 to 24 December in Taplejung, Panchthar and Ilam districts.

IFRC, as the convener of non-food item (NFI) and shelter cluster, has convened several shelter cluster meetings to discuss the situation and to identify ongoing needs. The most recent was held at NRCS headquarters on 13 January 2012, also attended by the Nepal Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, where the current situation was identified as a humanitarian concern and the need for supplementary distributions of blankets recommended.

Proposed Intervention

Plan of Action – Assessment and relief distribution
Outcome: 5,000 displaced families (approximately 30,000 people) who have been suffering from extreme cold in earthquake affected areas will benefit from the provision of blankets to meet their immediate needs.
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: Families receive blankets to better protect them from the cold environment and adverse health conditions.
Activities planned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of staff and volunteers in nine districts for assessments and distribution. • Dispatch and transport of 10,000 blankets from NRCS warehouses in national headquarters and Biratnagar to the distribution sites. • Distribution of blankets (two per family), at unit level by trained staff and volunteers. • Monitoring and reporting of distributions. • Procurement and storage of, as replenishment of 8,000 blankets, according to IFRC/NRCS standard procedures (2,000 blankets have been donated by ICRC).

- Ongoing monitoring by the national headquarters and IFRC.

NRCS national headquarters has been regularly contacting district chapters to receive reports on the ongoing situation. In order to support district chapters and ensure consistency in reporting, a standard reporting format developed by the national headquarters is being applied by all district chapters.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to 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,

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.

and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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DREF OPERATION

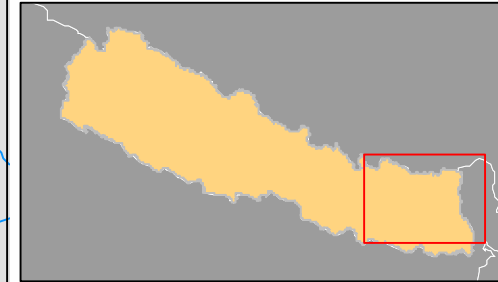
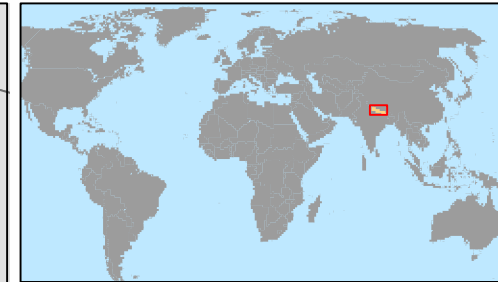
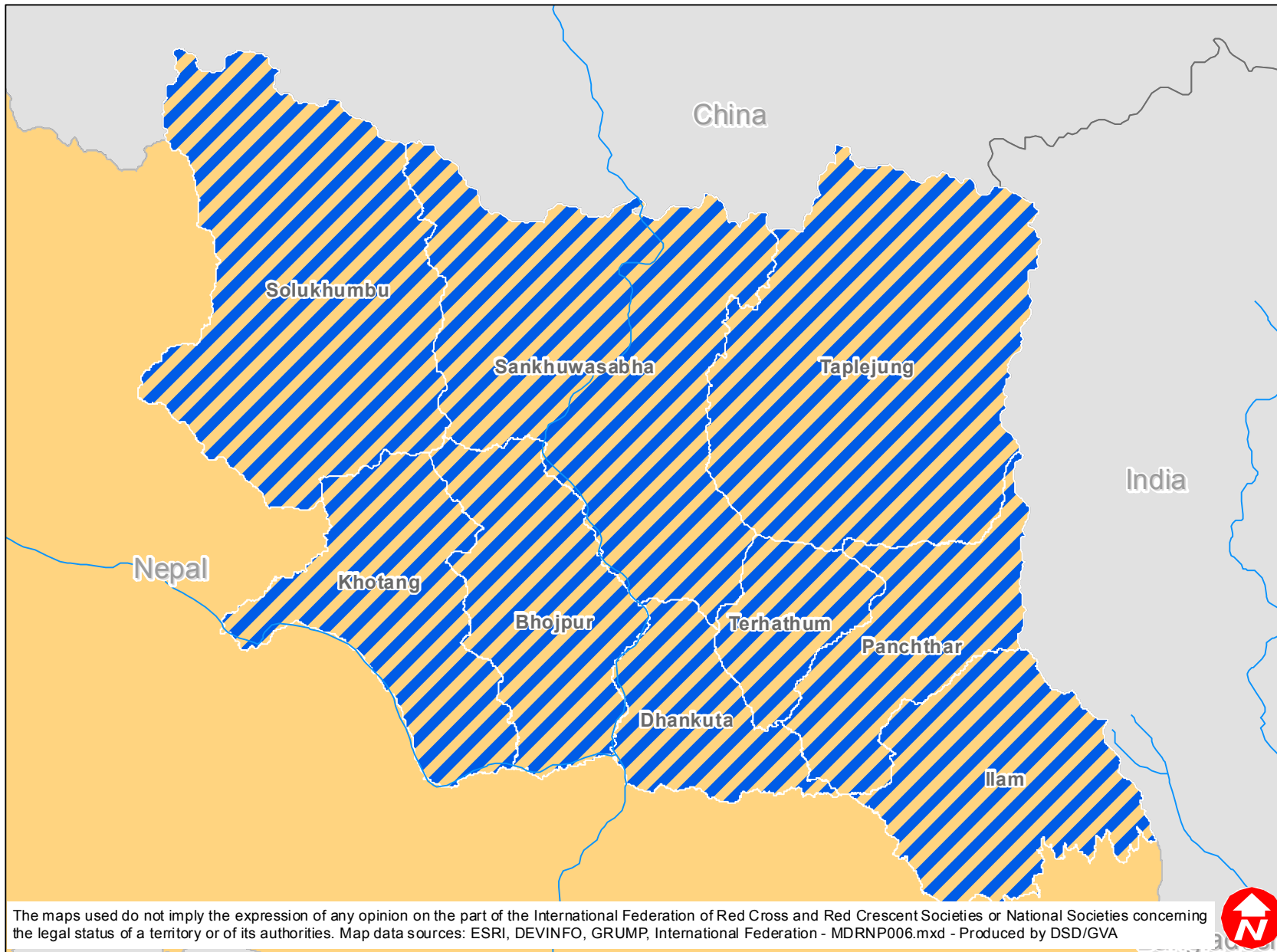
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MDRNP006 Nepal Extreme Cold

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	47,600
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	47,600
Distribution & Monitoring	2,142
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,010
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,152
Volunteers	8,568
Total PERSONNEL	8,568
Information & Public Relations	595
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	595
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,219
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,219
TOTAL BUDGET	69,134



Nepal: Extreme winter conditions



 Targetted districts

