

NEPAL : FLOODS

23 June, 2000

appeal no. 28/98

situation report no. 3 (final)

period covered: 8th April - 21st May 1999

The relief operation, which comprised relief aid to 10,000 families, restocking of emergency warehouses and community training in disaster preparedness, has been completed according to the intended plans and schedule.

The context

Exceptionally heavy rains in mid-1998 created serious flooding and landslides in 73 of Nepal's 75 districts leaving 260 dead and some 10,000 families homeless and destroying large areas of arable land.

The district branches of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) with their staff and volunteers undertook needs assessments and provided assistance to the most affected people. A Federation appeal was launched on September 18, 1998, seeking CHF 525,000 in cash to provide assistance to 10,000 very vulnerable families. It also covered, in a second and third phase, the urgently needed restocking of relief items as well as some systematic community-based disaster preparedness training.

Donor response to the appeal was positive, enabling NRCS to complete the distribution to the targeted 10,000 families within the initial time frame and to carry out the other two appeal objectives essential restocking and community-based training activities among the flood-prone communities. The training component was completed, after an extension of the time frame.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Distribution •

The distribution of essential relief items was completed during the emergency phase, September – November 1998. However, due to the inaccessibility of many of the districts and the impaired communication infrastructure, the last of the final distribution reports arrived only in early 1999. These reports indicate that the distribution was successful and reached the most vulnerable 10,000 families in good time.

Region	District	No. of families	Relief Items
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			Tarpaulin (pcs)	Kitchen Set (set)	Blanket (pcs)	Ladies Saree (pcs)	Men's Dhoti (pcs)	Assorted clothes (pcs.)
Eastern	16	3,823	2,222	2,172	2,352	6,906	2,152	39,030
Central	19	1,801	2,014	1,329	1,611	1,801	825	24,554
Western	13	3,739	989	1,787	1,098	3,739	2,030	35,207
Mid - Western	14	230	91	104	173	230	133	2,999
Far - Western	7	366	144	176	344	366	0	7,175
Total	69	9,959	5,460	5,568	5,578	13,042	5,140	108,965

Procurement •

The following items were procured :

120,000 metres cloth.

6,500 sets of kitchen utensils.

6,500 tarpaulins.

6,000 blankets.

3,000 picture books on disaster preparedness.

All procurement was done strictly according to NRCS procurement rules and regulations, including tendering.

Community-Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Training among flood-prone communities •

The following training activities were completed as follows :

- Feb. 1-14, 1999: Disaster Management Training
- April 18-22 1999: Community-based DP training for 25 participants from selected districts.
- April 18-22, 1999: Women's Involvement in DP training for 25 participants (selected districts)
- April 28-30, 1999: Fire and Flood Management for 25 participants from selected districts.

These training initiatives were planned to link in meaningfully with the wider scale CBDP training programme of the National Society.

Outstanding needs

Although response to this appeal has been sufficient to replace the society's disaster stocks, the country's vulnerability to disasters and its communication difficulties make disaster preparedness a permanent concern. The Emergency Appeal 2000 for Nepal seeks funds the disaster preparedness training of the staff, volunteers and communities, and donors are encouraged to support these activities.

In view of the recent introduction of the first cellular phone facility in Nepal, the NRCS was encouraged to use part of the funds for the procurement of mobile phones to improve its communications facilities.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Co-operation with Government authorities and other NGOs remains excellent.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The immediate emergency response by the NRCS helped the most affected members of the population to return to their villages as early as possible and begin re-establishing themselves. ECHO funds were spent for the procurement of relief items. Other donors' funds were used for the procurement of relief stocks, ensuring that the NRCS has at least replenished those stocks distributed during the emergency, while the structured disaster preparedness training at community level fits meaningfully into the National Society's disaster management strategy.

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