

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

25 July 2000

appeal no. 18/99

situation report no. 4 (final)

period covered: 12 August 1999 - 12 April 2000

Severe floods in Cambodia in the summer of 1999 called for an emergency response but also provided fertile grounds for capacity building in local communities and the Cambodian Red Cross.

A widespread awareness campaign contributed largely to better understanding of the importance of disaster preparedness and improved coordination and delegation of responsibilities at the national level as well as between the Government and the Red Cross.

The context

Monsoon rains in Cambodia in July 1999 resulted in severe flooding in the provinces of Kampot and Koh Kong at the end of July and early August. Reports on floods were also received from the provinces of Kampong Cham, Ratnakiri, Mondulkiri, Kratie and Stung Treng.

Tropical depressions and storms streamed across Cambodia in October, again. In early November, a torrential downpour across Cambodia, caused severe flooding in the provinces of Kandal, Takeo, Pursat, Kg. Speu, Kg. Chhnang and the Municipality of Phnom Penh. The Royal Government of Cambodia reported that 25,847 families were affected by this disaster .

Large scale temporary evacuations forced local communities to seek safety and shelter on higher ground in order to avoid rapidly rising waters. The swollen rivers and streams subsided within a few days, however, as the storms abated throughout most of the affected areas. Within a few days many of the evacuees had returned to there villages and farms and were underway with the cleanup process.

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