

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Nepal: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRNP002do  
GLIDE n° **FL-2008-000104-NPL**  
28 August 2008

The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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.

**CHF 250,000 (USD 238,000 or EUR 153,000) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Nepal Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 60,000 beneficiaries displaced by floods caused by the breaking of the embankment of the Saptakoshi river in the south eastern part of Nepal following heavy rainfall. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Due to heavy rainfall, the Saptakoshi river broke its weakened embankment on 18 August 2008, flooding a densely populated region in Sunsari district. Approximately 60,000 people have been displaced, and the majority of them will need shelter for a longer period. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has deployed staff and volunteers for assessments, distribution of pre-stored food and non-food items (e.g. tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and clothes) and the delivery of First Aid services.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 9 months, and will therefore be completed by June 2009. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by September, 2009).

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



People displaced by the floods move towards safer areas in Sunsari district, Nepal

## The situation

Due to heavy rainfall, the Saptakoshi river broke its weakened embankment on 18 August 2008, flooding a densely populated region in Sunsari district. More than 54,000 people living along the eastern belt of the Saptakoshi river have been displaced as a result. In addition, based on government sources, some 10,000 individuals have been displaced from adjoining areas of India and are taking shelter in the Saptari district of Nepal. The district branch of the Nepal Red Cross Society has reported that eight "Village Development Committees" (Kusaha, Laukahi, Ghuski, Sreepur, Haripur, Narshimha, Madhuban and Basantapur) have been badly affected, while some others remain in danger as the river continues to flow through the damaged embankment.

Over 30,000 displaced persons have sought shelter in emergency camps set up in schools, college campuses and public buildings in Sunsari and Saptari districts. Others have taken shelter with relatives. Meanwhile, around 20,000 people remain without any shelter, squatting openly on the western bank of the river in Saptari district. An estimated NPR 300 million (CHF 4.7 million) worth of crops have been destroyed. The media reports that thousands of houses have been swept away by the floods.

A search, rescue, and evacuation operation is underway by the Nepal Army and the police. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) volunteers are providing First Aid services. According to local media, more than 22 people were found dead in the vicinity of Indian border villages. Information from the government shows that more than 5,000 people have received medical care. A situation assessment including Damage Assessment and Needs Assessment (DANA) is ongoing at the district level. DANA is being carried out by a joint team from the NRCS and local authorities. NRCS volunteers and staff have been mobilized for the registration of displaced persons accommodated in the camps, so they can be distributed beneficiary cards.

The water flow in the Saptakoshi river is not likely to subside anytime soon, as the hilly and mountainous districts have been experiencing incessant rainfall. The weather forecast doesn't predict any improvement in the coming days. As it will probably take a few months to repair the embankment, it is expected that the affected population will have to reside in camps during that period of time. There are speculations of two more possible embankment breaches, which would cause flooding of an even larger area.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation office in Nepal has been supporting the NRCS with policy decision making, as well as representation and coordination with the international community. The International Federation office is closely monitoring the situation and helping the NRCS to coordinate Movement relief support. The in-country partner national societies, i.e. Belgium (FL), Danish and Finish Red Cross Societies, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have offered their support to the International Federation office. Daily coordination meetings are being held in the International Federation office.

The ICRC sub-delegation in Biratnagar and the office in Janakpur are working in the field in coordination with the Sunsari and Saptari district chapters of the NRCS. The ICRC has offered its support for logistics, emergency water and sanitation and re-establishing family links.

The NRCS is an ex-officio member of the Nepal government's Central and District Disaster Relief Committees (CDRC and DDRC) and thus serves as an interface between the authorities and other humanitarian organisations. The NRCS has been producing situation updates on a daily basis and has shared those to all organisations concerned in-country. The DMIS has been updated regularly since the start of the floods in order to inform Movement partners.

At the national as well as district levels, UN agencies, international NGOs and community-based organisations are involved in the operation, and inter-agency meetings to be convened by the Chief District Officer are expected to start in the near future. UNOCHA is present in the field to support the coordination of humanitarian aid and to support the authorities with information management.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

More than 200 NRCS volunteers and trained staff have been mobilized to assist with the "Damage Assessment and Need Assessment" and to provide first aid services. The NRCS is heavily involved in the distribution of food and non-food items, registration of affected population and coordination at the local level. NRCS national headquarters is coordinating with all its district chapters to collect relief support for the flood-affected people.

A total of 27 temporary camps have been established with one person from NRCS present in each camp for registration of the displaced people. These "information desks" are being run together with government authorities. Currently, more than 60 per cent of the people in the camps have been registered. Beneficiary cards will be issued to the people in the camps. The NRCS aims to deploy five to seven volunteers in each camp.

The governments' DDRC has requested the NRCS to take the lead in the monitoring and supervision of the camps, as well as the collection and distribution of relief materials through the DDRC warehouse.

On the western side of river, which is more problematic in terms of accessibility, the NRCS national headquarters (in coordination with the neighbouring district chapters) has provided dry food (including beaten rice, noodles and biscuits) to around 20,000 people.

The NRCS' supply of non-food relief items is made from its central regional warehouses located at Biratnagar and Birgunj. So far, the NRCS has provided a total of 2,730 tarpaulins, 2,200 sets of kitchen utensils and 600 blankets. In addition, it has established 17 tube wells for the supply of drinking water.

## The needs

The emerging humanitarian needs are felt mostly in the areas of shelter, drinking water and sanitation, health and regular food. Also, special food for children, pregnant women and elderly people are needed.

In addition to its lead role in the relief distributions, the NRCS has been requested by local authorities to take the lead in rehabilitation work. The NRCS has decided to take the lead in providing shelter to displaced people. At the moment, it is estimated that the NRCS will be in charge for the long-term support of more than 30,000 persons.

## The proposed operation

As per the request of the authorities, the NRCS will mainly be involved in the camps. The national society's main request is for support related to relief and shelter, as outlined below.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide non-food relief items to the affected population and to replenish the NRCS' stocks.**

#### Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

#### Non-food relief items (estimate):

- 15,000 Mid-thermal blankets
- 10,000 jerry cans
- 10,000 non-food relief items

#### Cash support:

- Replenishment of 10,000 non-food relief items locally procured;

### Emergency shelter

**Objective: To provide interim shelter for 5,000 families in the affected area until they are able to return to their original homes.**

#### Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute shelter kits and tarpaulins to 5,000 families and control the supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Assist the government in camp set-up, planning and management – at least a relief coordinator, 2 field officers, 1 assistant, 1 finance officer and 1 director will need to be involved in the operation.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

#### Shelter items (estimate):

- 5,000 shelter kits
- 10,000 tarpaulins

#### Cash support:

- Bamboo poles for 5,000 kits (3 poles per shelter) locally procured; NPR 500 (CHF 7.8) per kit

For the implementation of the activities related to emergency shelter as well as relief distribution, the following resources will be needed:

- Operational costs (transportation, administration, volunteer mobilisation)

- Human resources (NRCS): minimum 1 relief coordinator, 2 relief officers, 1 assistant, 1 finance officer, and partial costs of staff at the disaster management department
- Human resources (International Federation): 1 international delegate for 1 months, international travel for monitoring trips, partial costs of staff at the International Federation office
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communications
- Other costs related to the emergency appeal budget format

**Partner National Society support:**

- 1 delegate from the Danish Red Cross supporting the request for relief goods from the Regional Logistics Unit in Kuala Lumpur
- 1 delegate from the Belgium Red Cross supporting the NRCS for drafting the necessary International Federation documents (information bulletin, DREF bulletin, emergency appeal)
- 1 delegate from the Finnish Red Cross supporting the NRCS communications department

The ICRC agreed to provide 2 staff from their logistics unit to support the incoming relief materials.

A preliminary emergency appeal will be launched in the next few days.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p><i>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact information</b>	
<p><b>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Nepal: Nepal Red Cross Society (Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Executive Director), email: <a href="mailto:umesh@nrcc.org">umesh@nrcc.org</a>, phone: +977.985.105.6369</li> <li>• In Nepal: Federation office (Andrea Reisinger, Federation Representative), email: <a href="mailto:andrea.reisinger@ifrc.org">andrea.reisinger@ifrc.org</a>, phone: +977.985.104.7071</li> <li>• In India: Federation South Asia Regional Delegation (Al Panico, Head of South Asia Regional Delegation, New Delhi), email: <a href="mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org">al.panico@ifrc.org</a>, phone: +91 11 2411 1125</li> <li>• In Malaysia: Federation Asia Pacific zone office (Jagan Chapagain, Deputy Head of Zone) email; <a href="mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org">jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org</a>, phone + 60 3 2161 0892</li> <li>• In Malaysia: Federation Asia Pacific zone office (Amy Garver, Head, Disaster Management Unit), email: <a href="mailto:amy.garver@ifrc.org">amy.garver@ifrc.org</a>, phone: +60 39 207 5724; mobile: +6012 2201174</li> <li>• In Geneva: (Christine South, Operations Coordinator for Asia Pacific region); email: <a href="mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org">christine.south@ifrc.org</a>; phone +41 22730 4529; mobile: +41 79308 9824</li> </ul>	

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

## **APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex 1

Nepal Koshi Flood

MDRNP002

**ORIGINAL**

### **RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	76,083
Clothing & Textiles	24,950
Utensils & Tools	24,450
Other Supplies & Services	41,667
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>167,150</b>

### **GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	46,667
Other General Expenses	19,933

### **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	16,250
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<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>82,850</b>
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<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>250,000</b>
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**Less Available Resources**

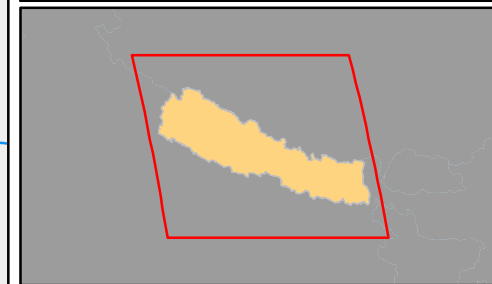
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<b>Net Request</b>	<b>250,000</b>
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- Urban area
- Sunsari district - Affected