

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MYANMAR: FLOODS

13 August 2001

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DREF Allocated: 56,180

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 56,180 has been released, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.

The Situation

Torrential rains caused the banks of the Mongdaing reservoir - 67 km south of Mandalay and 560 km north of Yangon - to burst on 2 June 2001. The flash floods caused destruction in the townships of Meiktila, Wundwin and Mahlaing, leaving 750 families homeless and destroying cultivated land, latrines, wells and 28 schools.

The Federation / Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) operation targeted 750 families whose homes and livelihoods had been damaged or destroyed. CHF 56,180 was released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to help the assistance operation.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Immediate Action

MRCS volunteers assisted in initial operations to rescue over 800 people from floodwaters and administer first aid treatment. The Society mobilised immediate relief assistance - clothing, soap, medical supplies and fresh water - which exhausted central stocks. Red Cross volunteers also helped distribute food provided by the government, private donors and AMDA (the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia).

The Operation

Relief

A distribution of relief items took place in July, providing assistance to 750 families in the townships of Meiktila, Wundwin and Mahlaing. Each family received one set of relief goods consisting of:

50 kg	rice
8.27 kg	pulses
6 litres	oil
1.65 kg	salt
4 cans (450 gm)	sardines
1	blanket
1	food storage basket
1	water storage tank
1	plastic sheet (6 feet x 12 feet).

The above figures have been transferred from Myanmar local measurements (viss) to kg.

The relief operation, co-ordinated by the Federation delegation and the MRCS HQ, was implemented through local Red Cross branches and volunteers. T shirts, water purification tablets and first aid kits were provided to Meiktila and Wundwin Red Cross branches.

Shelter

Plastic sheeting and blankets provided have helped many families cope with the cold in temporary shelter. The majority of affected families are accommodated in temporary thatched houses although some are in monasteries. The government has provided assistance for house construction and is co-ordinating progress.

Food

Food rations distributed are expected to be sufficient for smaller families until September 2001 but some larger families have exhausted their rations. However, combined provisions through the Red Cross, government, NGOs and public donations should ensure the overall provision of food until September.

Health

Existing health care in the townships is provided through rural health centres which are organised by midwives and assisted by the Asian Medical Association and local authorities. Since the onset of the floods, regular visits have been made to the affected villages by rural health centre workers. There have only been four reported casualties, all suffering from diarrhoea in the days following the floods.

Water & Sanitation

Activities to improve water and sanitation within the townships have been undertaken by the local authorities in partnership with WHO and World Vision. The government continues to co-ordinate these activities.

Capacity of the National Society

The MRCS Disaster Response division is still developing, so this operation received considerable support and advice from the Federation Country and Regional Delegations. There has been good co-ordination and co-operation throughout the operation at all levels of MRCS. It has provided an opportunity to develop the skills and understanding of MRCS in dealing with large scale relief operations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and MRCS made initial assessments before the relief operation to assess immediate and longer term needs. A joint Federation and MRCS monitoring team visited the affected townships from 18-21 July to assess the impact of the distributions. An internal 'lessons learnt' exercise (evaluation workshop) will be carried out in August 2001.

Conclusion / Outstanding needs

Sufficient funding has been received to pay back the DREF allocation and complete the operation. The government has taken responsibility for the provision and co-ordination of longer term rehabilitation for the affected families and there are no plans for Federation / MRCS involvement.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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