

CAMBODIA: FLOODS

Information Bulletin no. 4

31 October, 1996

The disaster

As the flooding recedes in the six provinces and districts of Phnom Penh along the Mekong river, four other Cambodian provinces have become inundated. In Svay Rieng 10,453 people were affected by floods caused by a freak combination of receding flood waters from upstream provinces and high tides in Vietnam that forced water back into Cambodia. In Takeo a heavy thunderstorm caused flooding affecting 60,506 people. In Banteay Meanchey in the NW, heavy rains and water run off from Thailand have affected 5,555 people, while in Pursat water run-off from the swollen Tonle Sap has affected 1,465 people.

The floods have reportedly claimed 59 lives, damaged 130,577 hectares of rice fields and left an estimated 584,700 people in need of assistance. Emergency distributions are continuing to the flood victims while full vulnerability assessments of the affected areas are ongoing, but remain constrained by difficulties in accessing some of the severely flooded areas.

Once the waters have subsided, the rehabilitation phase will begin, focusing on crop and infrastructure damage as well as the health conditions of those affected by the floods.

Government Action

In response to the government appeal, US\$ 3,541,953 in cash and kind has been pledged or donated by local and international donors.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Emergency Flood Working Group chaired by CRC/NDMC continues to have responsibility for ensuring the effective co-ordination of the emergency operation. The Federation regularly visits the affected areas and assists the CRC/NDMC with distributions.

Distribution Lists are constantly being updated and regularly submitted to the NDMC by the central data base established at CRC for dissemination to donors. A total of 1,740.7 MT. of rice has been distributed by WFP/CRC/NDMC to 235,394 beneficiaries in 8 provinces and the Municipality of Phnom Penh. In addition 675 mosquito nets, 3,870 kromas, 675 sarongs, 100 boxes of dried food, 4,040 plastic sheets, 4,295 mats, 43,460 packs of noodles, 210 cartons of biscuits, 40,000 tins of meat, 5,610 tins of fish, 485 Kg. of salt and 28 cartons of used clothing have been distributed to approximately 6,500 beneficiaries in 3 provinces and the municipality of Phnom Penh.

Given the generous response of local and international donors to the government appeal and the fact that the operation will soon move into the rehabilitation phase, it was agreed with the CRC that the launching of a RC emergency appeal not be pursued. However, CRC/Federation will continue to closely monitor the situation and if there are vulnerable groups affected by the flooding who are in need of assistance and have not received any, an appropriate appeal will be considered.

Xusheng Yang
Desk Officer
Asia & Pacific Department

Jerry Talbot
Director
Asia & Pacific Department

T:\APPEALS\RPTS96KH004.SAM
31/10/96