

NEPAL: FLOOD RELIEF

30th July 1996

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The disaster

Unusually heavy rains during the monsoon season have caused havoc and serious losses in many parts of the Kingdom of Nepal, starting as of 11 July. Most damage is being caused by either flash floods in the hill districts or drainage floods in the lowlands. The badly affected districts include: Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Rupandehi, Saptari, Siraha, Udaya- pur, Bardiya, Bhojpur, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, and Bajhang.

Key facts and figures: *(based on information collected by Nepal Red Cross and by UNDP-Disaster Management Secretariat, Kathmandu)*

Deaths	92
Missing persons	126
Injured persons	21
Houses Damaged	5,145
Livestock lost (heads)	142
Displaced persons	7,700
Total population affected	85,900

- Many bridges, schools, culverts, embankments have been or are being washed away, and so far countless hectares of arable land have been damaged by the floods.
- During a series of flash floods between 12 - 15 July near the Refugee Camps of Damak, 4 hectares of newly planted forest (15,000 trees protected by dam, fences and concrete pillars) were washed away. They represented 2 years of work under the Refugee Assistance Programme.
- Serious flooding on 23 July in Sindhupalchowk, north of Kathmandu near the border with Tibet, destroyed several bridges, 18 houses, a police station and killed over 70 people.
- The situation is aggravated by a large number of landslides caused by flash floods in the hill districts, namely Taplejung, Panchthar, Ilam in Eastern Nepal.

Government action

His Majesty's Government currently focuses its effort on (a) search and rescue operations, (b) the possible control of further land losses and damages through flood control measures, (c) evacuation of affected communities, and (d) distribution of relief items. These efforts are being supported by local communities, the Police Force and 160 Army Personnel. So far, some 760 persons have been evacuated from Morang District. Basic food distributions take place in Morang, Bhojpur and Nawalparasi.

Red Cross action

All District Chapters in the affected areas are involved in assessments, identification of the most vulnerable groups and basic immediate relief response. Distributions include food items (e.g. beaten rice), tarpaulins for temporary shelter, as well as other relief items such as clothing, blankets, and cooking utensils. To date, the Nepal Red Cross Society has distributed for over CHF 83,000 worth of goods from its own relief stocks, to some 1,700 families.

Immediate needs

Based on initial surveys, the following items will be immediately required:

- 3,000 pieces of tarpaulin for temporary shelter,
- 4,000 cooking sets
- 6,000 blankets,
- 6,000 sets of clothing

The monsoon will not end before mid-September. Further and heavier damages could easily occur until then. It is therefore anticipated that the Nepal Red Cross will need financial support to cover all the needs.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit Price (NRs)</i>	<i>Total Price (NRs)</i>	<i>Total in CHF</i>
Tarpaulin	3,000	700	2,100,000	46,670
Cooking Utensils	4,000	350	1,400,000	31,120
Blankets	6,000	350	2,100,000	46,670
Clothing	6,000	825	4,950,000	110,000
T O T A L			10,550,000	234,460

The Federation has decided to meet the needs listed in the above table by allocating CHF 235,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

Conclusion

The National Society has largely exhausted its relief stocks in the country. The Society and His Majesty's Government are, so far, hesitant to issue an international appeal. It is however important that Sister National Societies are made aware of the situation, particularly at a time when most of the media attention is focused on neighbouring countries.

Donor National Societies are urged to assist the flood victims by making cash contributions to finance the assistance outlined in this report and enable the DREF loan to be reimbursed.

Information on developments relating to flood relief in Nepal will be provided.

Further details as to flooding in the Asia & Pacific region caused by current weather systems will be available shortly in a separate information bulletin.

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