

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

NEPAL: FLOODS

19 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 17/2004; Operations Update No 9; Period covered: 11 February 2005 to 19 April 2005. Appeal coverage: 98.5% ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history: Initially launched on 27 July 2004 for CHF 2,767,360 (USD 2,193,457 or EUR 1,802,246) for six months to assist 180,000 beneficiaries. The appeal budget was revised down in operations update no. 7 to CHF 2,026,765 due to bilateral donations, local fundraising and partnerships together with the contributions to the appeal enabling the full plan of action will be implemented, reaching more beneficiaries in the rehabilitation phase than originally planned. As outlined in operations update no. 7, the appeal was extended to nine months. The appeal is now being extended to 11 months (27 June) to ensure proper implementation of the rehabilitation and capacity building phase.

Outstanding needs: CHF 30,319

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Nepal Annual Appeal 2004 \(01.58/2004\)](#) and [Nepal Annual Appeal 2005 \(05AA048\)](#)

Operational Summary: The armed conflict and the unstable political situation in the country continued during the operation. The King announced a state of emergency was announced on 1 February, dissolving the previous government. Since then strikes and transport blockades have been frequent in various parts of Nepal and this has delayed the implementation of the rehabilitation phase of the operation. Roads were closed nationwide for much of February, while in March there were regular strikes and blockades in various districts. In the beginning of April a nationwide blockade again severely disrupted traffic. This has affected delivery of construction materials from suppliers to building sites for the Red Cross. The restocking and pre-positioning of relief goods were carried out using Red Cross vehicles.

In the rehabilitation phase the Nepal Red Cross is assisting 1,800 families by supplying material for the reconstruction of their homes. A further 783 houses were completed during this reporting period bringing the total to 966 while a further 410 are partially completed. Vegetable seeds are being distributed for the new season to support production crops for consumption and/or income generation. All of the replenishment of relief stocks has been done and the pre-positioning of goods at regional and zonal warehouses has been finalized.

The time period for this appeal was initially extended by three months to the end of April. Due to the severe and regular disruption of transportation during February, March and the beginning of April the time period is being extended to the end of June.

The Nepal Red Cross, through coordination and cooperation with local INGOs and UN agencies, has been able to deliver more relief assistance than planned. Local donations have also made it possible to revise the budget and ensure that rehabilitation and capacity building activities can continue even if the original appeal budget was not fully funded.

The emergency relief phase of the operation was completed in the beginning of November. Over 30,000 families

have received family packages and 1,000 vulnerable families received food items covering their mid-term need. Food assistance was also given to families in the emergency phase of the flooding. The district branches were responsible for raising funds and in-kind food items in the first response phase. By the end of October 15,000 families had received water purification liquid, meeting the target of the appeal, though outside the planned time frame. This was due to difficulties in obtaining enough liquid from the sole supplier in Nepal.

The impact of the Nepal Red Cross disaster preparedness activities in relation to the emergency response has been reviewed in a participatory three-country action learning process led by the Federation's South Asia regional delegation. The report on the review can be obtained upon request.

The Federation and Nepal Red Cross have used a cash transfer system for many years and pledge-based reporting will therefore be provided directly by the national society.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Heavy rains which began in early July 2004 resulted in widespread flooding and landslides, affecting 800,000 people in 25 of Nepal's 75 districts with 185 people killed.

Parts of southern Nepal were submerged for over two weeks. There were numerous landslides in the hilly region with many homes swept away. At the height of the disaster, 37,000 families were displaced. A total of 68,000 houses were destroyed or damaged. Infrastructure such as schools and roads and bridges were severely affected in the flood-hit districts.

The situation normalized by the end of October and all displaced persons returned to their homes or found alternative accommodation. The rehabilitation activities under this appeal are assisting families who continue to face problems due to loss of livelihoods/homes.

Operational developments

The work to reconstruct houses of families affected by the disaster is ongoing. The rehabilitation phase started with the identification of families to receive assistance. This assistance is being provided in the hills and plains of 12 districts. The Nepal Red Cross is providing materials and technical support for the construction. By mid-April 966 houses had been completed (783 in this reporting period) and 410 more are under construction. District chapters are mobilizing volunteers for the implementation and monitoring of the rehabilitation activities.



Part of the rehabilitation activities conducted by the Nepal Red Cross is the construction of houses for affected families.

Seeds have been distributed to support food provision and income generation for the families. This has been finalized in all but three districts where they are distributing the last seeds now to coincide with the planting season. The capacity building activities funded through this appeal are also being implemented.

The time period of this appeal was initially extended to nine months and should have finished by the end of April. However, due to the increased instability of the political/conflict situation following the state of emergency announced on 1 February, an additional extension of two months is now being announced. The reconstruction of family houses has been disrupted and delayed due to the recurring strikes and transport blockades. This has also delayed the renovation and retrofitting of warehouses.

As outlined in earlier operations updates, the planned 30,000 family packages had been handed out to beneficiaries by the end of October. Distribution of food items to 1,000 families covered by this appeal was finalized in early October. This distribution targeted mid-term needs of especially vulnerable families. Additional food for distribution in the direct emergency phase was raised through local resources. Replenishment of relief stocks to the warehouses has been finalized.

The Nepal Red Cross has been coordinating closely with other organizations as it is seen as the lead agency in response to the disaster due to its extensive network. There has been regular contact with UN agencies, the home ministry and other organizations active in the disaster preparedness network. The Nepal Red Cross is working closely with agencies involved in the rehabilitation phase, such as CARE Nepal.

A regionally coordinated action learning exercise took place in the flood affected areas in September 2004. This included consultations with communities, districts and a national lessons learnt workshop. Findings underline the importance of the Nepal Red Cross' role as the only organization able to effectively bring disaster relief to people in conflict affected areas. The value of the community based disaster preparedness programmes was also highlighted. Communities who were prepared were able to respond, evacuate and save lives. The report from the action learning exercise can be obtained from the Federation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Operation goal: To meet the urgent needs of 180,000 beneficiaries of 30,000 vulnerable displaced and flood-affected families through the provision of food and family packages as well as to assist 15,000 families in the rehabilitation phase with seeds and 400 families with construction material.

Emergency relief

Objective: To assist 1,000 flood-affected families with food items for one month, to be distributed before the end of August.

Progress/Achievements

As outlined in previous operations updates, the distribution was completed but outside the planned time frame (see constraints below). By the beginning of November 1,000 families had received a full ration of food (SPHERE standard 2,100 calories), which is the same approach being used by other organizations. Each beneficiary family received a monthly ration of 73.8 kg of rice, 10.8 kg of pulse, 4.5 kg of vegetable oil, 3.6 kg of sugar and 1.35 kg of salt.

A further 8,000 families had received food assistance as a result of local resource mobilization. Villages that have been involved in the community-based disaster preparedness programme used their revolving fund and food stocks to distribute food to vulnerable community members.

Impact

The ability of some district branches to locally mobilize food assistance directly following the disaster reflected good preparedness and response capacity and greatly assisted beneficiaries who had extremely limited options for sourcing food at that time. The additional support through this and other actions funded internationally has been supplementary to what was done at the local level.

Constraints

Time over-runs in beneficiary assessment, food procurement and the transfer of funds to the districts contributed to the objective not being met by the end of August as planned. Four of the targeted districts were in remote mountainous areas with little or no road access which also led to delays. These issues will be addressed in the evaluation phase.

Objective: To assist 30,000 flood-affected families with family relief packages during the first month of the operation, including replenishment of already distributed family packages. From within these targeted beneficiaries, 15,000 families will also be provided with additional plastic sheeting for protection of goods, food and clothing.

Progress/Achievements

As outlined in previous operations updates, 30,659 family packages had been distributed by the end of October. This exceeded the target for families to be assisted, but was outside the planned timeframe. The distribution included assistance to 969 families affected by fresh floods in September. Each family package contains a kitchen set, a plastic bucket and jug, sari (clothing for women), dhoti (clothing for men), printed cloth, a blanket and a tarpaulin.

Restocking has been finalized for all relief materials and these have been transported for pre-positioning in the various Nepal Red Cross regional and zonal warehouses in readiness for future disasters.

Since some of the family packages budget was met through local donations from NGOs in Nepal, the total budget for purchasing the items has not been used. Surplus funds have been redirected for rehabilitation and for strengthening the response capacity, especially at district level.

Impact

The family packs enabled the displaced families to cook food and boil water, helping prevent disease. Basic clothing needs were also met. The pre-positioning of relief goods at regional, zonal and district levels well in advance of the monsoon season was identified as one of the strengths of the disaster response mechanism during the lesson learned workshop. The restocking ensures that the Nepal Red Cross is in a position to respond effectively to disasters in the future.

Constraints

Civil disorder, mainly in the capital Kathmandu, at the beginning of September slowed delivery to warehouses from suppliers. The impact of these delays was reduced by using existing warehouse stocks. Restocking was delayed due to the need for re-tendering for the kitchen sets and tarpaulins.

Objective: To deliver water purification liquid to 15,000 families within the first month of the operation. To mobilize volunteers for cleaning up and sanitation activities.

Progress/Achievements

As outlined in previous operations updates, 15,000 families received bottles of water purification liquid within the first one-and-a-half months of the operation. An additional 34,000 bottles donated by UNICEF were distributed to beneficiaries. Due to local donations part of the budget for this item has been reallocated to other activities.

District chapters in affected areas mobilized volunteers from the community-based first aid programme, junior/youth Red Cross volunteers and teacher sponsors in sanitation and awareness generating activities.

The Nepal Red Cross, in coordination with CARE Nepal, is installing 500 tube wells in the districts of Mahottari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Saptari and Dhanusha. CARE will be distributing materials for reconstruction and/or rehabilitation in these districts through the national society.

Impact

The provision of water purification liquid was vital for people to have access to clean water due to contamination of water sources. Some waterborne diseases were reported during the emergency phase but there were no epidemics.

Constraints

The planned timeframe was not met due to supply problems. There is just one manufacturer of water purification liquid (Piyus) in Nepal and the national society's demands exceeded the existing stocks. In the first month, 2,500 families were assisted and the target of 15,000 was met after six weeks.

Rehabilitation

Objective: To assist 2,100 families with vegetable seeds to be used in kitchen gardens for supplementary food and cash income.

Progress/Achievements

Through this appeal seeds have been purchased by district chapters and are being distributed to 2,100 families in 12 districts. The seeds financed through this appeal will be distributed to same families that receive assistance to reconstruct their houses and to an additional 300 families. Each family will receive vegetable seeds for beans, chilli and other local vegetables.

Distribution has been completed in nine out of the 12 targeted districts. Distribution is underway in the remaining three districts of Makawanpur, Ramechhap and Sindhuli as it is now just approaching the planting season in those areas. This distribution is expected to be completed by the end of April.

The Nepal Red Cross is distributing seeds to 30,000 families. Through an agreement with CARE Nepal outside of this appeal, the national society is receiving seeds in kind for distribution in the five most affected districts in the Terai region.

Impact

Impact is not measurable at this stage. Once beneficiaries have cultivated the crops it is expected that their harvest will satisfy consumption needs and generate income. The cultivation period for vegetables differs in the country depending on district.

Constraints

None were noted.

Objective: To assist 2,100 of the most vulnerable displaced families with local construction material and technical expertise for rebuilding their houses.



Beneficiaries would live in temporary housing structures such as this while awaiting the completion of proper homes.

Each family will receive construction material and a Red Cross employed expert will give advice regarding the construction under the supervision of the national headquarters construction engineer. Communities will be mobilized to assist with the construction, which is a tradition in many of the villages in Nepal.

Progress/Achievements

Beneficiaries in the 12 most affected districts have been selected using criteria defined by the national headquarters. Targeted families are those who have lost their homes to floods and are especially vulnerable due to factors such as the lack of an extended family network or are households headed by women.

Districts have followed the Nepal Red Cross tendering process to purchase construction materials and these have been distributed to selected families. During the reporting period 783 houses were completed bringing the total to 966; a further 410 are under construction.

Rehabilitation activities have been completed in two of the 12 targeted districts (Rautahat and Khotang). Construction in the remaining districts is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Of the completed houses, 929 houses have been handed over to the beneficiaries and 37 houses constructed in Mahottari district will be handed over on 23-24 April.

The following table shows the progress per district.

District	Planned number of houses	Completed	Partially completed
Makwanpur	234	200	34
Rautahat	54	54	-
Sarlahi	216	-	85
Mahottari	220	37	-
Dhanusha	214	116	98
Sindhuli	31	29	2
Siraha	258	166	92
Udaypur	61	56	5
Saptari	183	150	33
Ramechhap	150	40	-
Khotang	76	76	-
Okhaldhunga	103	42	61
Total	1,800	966	410

Note that as outlined in previous operations updates, the number of targeted families increased from the original 400 to 2,100 due to a modification of the approach. Initially it was planned that families would receive construction materials such as cement, iron bars and bricks for rebuilding an entire house. However since the majority of the houses was only partially damaged it has been decided to provide families with construction materials to ensure that each family has at least two rooms. Local construction materials, such as thatch, bamboo, stone and wood will be used. Local construction experts will be assigned to give advice to the families rebuilding their houses.

In addition to this appeal funded activity the Nepal Red Cross, with the support of CARE Nepal and using the approach described above, is distributing construction materials for 3,100 houses in Sarlahi, Siraha, Mohattari, Dhanusha and Saptari.

Impact

A total of 966 families are now in possession of fully rehabilitated homes. In some areas the houses have been constructed on new land which is less prone to flooding.

Constraints

The political/security instability following the events of 1 February has slowed the delivery and distribution of construction materials. As outlined in operations update 8, the unexpected increase in value added tax meant that the number of beneficiary families could not be increased by as much as had been planned.

Capacity Building

Objective: Disaster response capacity and disaster preparedness programmes will be further enhanced and developed based on lessons learned from this flood operation.

Progress/Achievements

Through the action learning exercise done in September 2004 some areas of the response system were identified for further capacity building. Staff and volunteers at district level were targeted for more training. Lessons learned workshops have been organized in all affected districts to better prepare for the future. Training courses in response at the district level will be held in May.

As outlined in operations update 8, three regional warehouses and the central warehouse have been repaired and renovated to increase storage capacity. Another Federation programme has financed a computer system for warehouse management which will increase efficiency in delivery and coordination. Plans for retrofitting the

central warehouse have been finalized and construction will commence at the end of April. However, due to the blockades and problems of obtaining building materials there are delays in finishing this part of the capacity building plan.

The community-based disaster preparedness programme (not funded under this appeal) is being expanded to include more communities.

In addition to the above a selected number of districts will be equipped with a disaster kit. Plans to include mobile evacuation centres in the kits have not been possible due to changes in the budget and the increase in valued added tax. Communication systems including the geographic information system (GIS) will be enhanced. A disaster management plan will be printed and contingency planning for major disasters elaborated and published.

Impact

Capacity building at local level increases the effectiveness of local- and district-level coping mechanism to respond to disaster. The action learning exercise showed the ability to respond at grassroots level is fundamental to an overall effective response to disaster. Good networking and coordination among all involved in the field will produce better results before, during and after disasters.

Constraints

The frequent strikes and blockades have delayed the retrofitting of the central warehouse and have forced a postponement in additional training courses planned for the districts.

Federation coordination

The Nepal Red Cross, through the earlier established disaster preparedness network, has done most of the coordination and liaison with other organizations involved in the flood response. Many of the INGOs and also some of the UN agencies have cooperated closely with the Red Cross. They have chosen to adapt their interventions to the Nepal Red Cross standards - for example the Red Cross family packages became the model used. Other organizations have also donated their in-kind contribution to the Red Cross for distribution to beneficiaries. The Nepal Red Cross is the only humanitarian organization with the network needed to execute the distribution to all districts including those affected by the conflict. All 25 of the affected districts are caught up in some degree by the conflict situation. The Federation's office has supported the Nepal Red Cross in this work according to the needs of the national society.

The appeal was shared with all major embassies and local agencies. In combination with the launch of the *World Disaster Report* the Nepal Red Cross presented the results of the relief part of the flood operation. Several partner NGO and UN agencies attended along with the media.

National society capacity

Branches in all affected districts mobilized volunteers and members to participate in the flood response. Youth, community first aid and disaster-trained volunteers have been especially active. District committees and secretaries have coordinated the operations with the district-level disaster committees and kept in close contact with the authorities and other organizations.

The society has two 3.5-tonne trucks and a number of other vehicles. These trucks are being used to deliver the supplies in various locations. More than 27 warehouses/depots in different strategic locations have also been essential in the operation. Well defined procurement procedures, relief operation guidelines and experienced, motivated staff as well as the national society's own relief fund are strengths of the Nepal Red Cross.

The Nepal Red Cross has implemented community-based disaster preparedness programmes in 13 of the 25 affected districts. Communities involved in this programme mobilized their volunteers for rescue and relief activities. Community-based first aid programmes have been implemented in five of the branches. The first aid volunteers have also participated in the response to the flooding, such as raising local resources for food aid.

Communications – advocacy and public information

The national society has maintained a high visibility during the operation. Progress in programme implementation as well as in the financial situation of the operation has been shared transparently with the media and other

stakeholders. In the field district chapter volunteers and staff are disseminating Red Cross principles and the correct use of the emblem. All volunteers are using Red Cross aprons for visibility as well as security.

The Nepal Red Cross continues to collate information from the field via its extensive branch network. The national headquarters is liaising with various media to share information about the emergency operation and highlighting various activities. The national society's website (www.nrccs.org) is updated regularly. The Nepal Red Cross's activities are also outlined in its fortnightly national radio programme.

Impact

The Nepal Red Cross has strengthened its position as the leading disaster management organization in the country. At the field level its neutrality and independence has facilitated the Nepal Red Cross in carrying out planned activities effectively. At the national level all stakeholders have appreciated the leadership the national society has shown. INGOs and UN organizations have showed concrete interest in continuing and institutionalizing their cooperation with the Nepal Red Cross in the area of disaster preparedness and response.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/04/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,026,765		TOTAL COVERAGE		
			98.5%		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	69,300	USD	87,630	27.08.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES
AUSTRIAN - RC	35,000	EUR	53,935	30.07.04	
BRITISH - RC	25,000	GBP	57,150	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATION NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID	98,040	GBP	224,119	29.07.04	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH - RC	24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	RELIEF NEEDS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH - RC	24,510	GBP	56,030	23.08.04	
CANADIAN - RC	25,000	CAD	23,450	03.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA	250,000	CAD	234,500	03.08.04	
DANISH - GOVT			9,539	17.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC	100,000	EUR	152,900	10.08.04	
IRANIAN - RC	15,000	USD	18,968	01.11.04	
KOREA, REP. - RC			30,000	27.07.04	
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH	132,000	HKD	21,358	24.09.04	EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS
JAPANESE - RC	106,500	USD	134,669	06.08.04	
CHINA - MACAU RC BRANCH			10,000	30.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,157,497	NOK	393,743	11.08.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			636	16.09.04	
PRIVATE DONORS - IMPM	540	EUR	838	04.10.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC	1,000,000	SEK	167,500	28.07.04	
SWISS - RC			53,476	06.08.04	
UNITED STATES - EMBASSY	50,000	USD	63,225	30.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			1,849,696	CHF	91.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Nepal - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/04/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				146,750	187.08.04	3,000 KITCHEN UTENSILS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146,750	CHF	7.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	