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DREF final report Nepal: Extreme cold

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRNP006 GLIDE n° CW-2011-000203-NPL 29 October 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 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.

Summary: A total of CHF 69,134 was allocated from IFRC DREF on 13 January 2012 to support the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) to conduct rapid assessment and deliver immediate assistance to 5,000 families across nine districts (Ilam, Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Khotang, Terhathum, Bhojpur and Solukhumbu) who were made vulnerable by the extreme cold following the onset of winter after their homes had been severely damaged/destroyed by the earthquake in the eastern Nepal in September 2011.

NRCS, through its district chapters in the area, identified some 5,000 families in urgent need of additional blankets to protect them from the cold. The national society distributed additional two blankets to each of these families based on their immediate needs. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) country office in Nepal made an in-kind contribution of 2,000 blankets and the remaining procurement of 8,000 blankets was covered under this DREF. The DREF was also used to cover the transportation costs and deployment of over 180 trained volunteers for the assessment and distribution.

The efforts were closely coordinated with national and local authorities as well as other organizations working in the affected areas. The UN Cluster System had actively followed the situation across the different sectors, including the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item Cluster convened by the IFRC and NRCS. Several meetings were held at national and district level to discuss both the immediate relief and longer term recovery process, in line with the recovery plan developed by the Government of Nepal, coordinated by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works.

The operation was expected to be implemented over three months (until 13 April 2012). Although the blankets were delivered to the affected communities within the original timeframe, the operation was extended by two months (until 13 Jun 2012) to accommodate some unexpected delays in the procurement process. All the planned activities under this DREF operation were accomplished within the revised operation period.

Of the total allocated DREF, CHF 66,521 has been spent. The balance of CHF 2,613 will be returned to



NRCS volunteers carrying out assessment in Taplejung district. **Photo:** NRCS.

DREF. This final report is issued with the final financial report.

The major donors and partners of this DREF are the Australian government, the American government, the Belgian government, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European commission humanitarian aid (ECHO), the Irish government, the Italian government, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

IFRC, on behalf of NRCS, would like to extend gratitude to all donors and partners for their generous contributions. Details of the contributions to this DREF can be found on www.ifrc.org/dref.

[<click here for the final financial; here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Since the second week of December 2011, the temperature in most of the areas affected by last September's earthquake dropped significantly to close to freezing at night as well as intense snowfall in many parts of the districts. Of the total 7,746 families displaced by the earthquake across 12 districts, some 5,000 families were suffering from extreme cold in nine districts of Ilam, Taplejung, Sankhuwasava, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Khotang, Terhathum, Bhojpur and Solukhumbu. Most of the displaced families were still taking shelter under tarpaulin provided by NRCS.

A joint monitoring team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNHABITAT and NRCS conducted a review and lessons learnt workshop from 16 to 24 December in Taplejung, Panchthar and Ilam districts. The lessons learnt workshop report clearly identified the need for additional blanket distributions for those families still living under tarpaulin. Given the time sensitive nature of the support, the dispersed nature of the target group and the difficult terrain, it was not possible to conduct detailed needs assessment of each individual family. Nor it was possible to start a procurement process for items which were not already in stock.

Therefore, NRCS in consultation with district disaster relief committee members especially district authority determined to distribute additional blankets to the families affected by extreme cold. With support of IFRC DREF, NRCS mobilized over 180 trained staff and volunteers and distributed additional blankets (two blankets per family) to over 5,000 families affected by extreme cold in the nine districts. ICRC country office in Nepal made an in-kind contribution of 2,000 blankets and the remaining procurement of 8,000 blankets was covered under this DREF. The blankets were essential for families to protect themselves from the adverse effect of extreme cold weather.

This operation was necessary due to the delayed implementation of the post-earthquake recovery plan of the Government of Nepal which was developed to provide affected families with cash grants for the repair or reconstruction of houses, together with training of masons and earthquake preparedness awareness activities in affected village development committees.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against outcomes

Overview

The onset of winter resulted in extreme cold in some of the mountainous regions of the country, including areas which had been affected by an earthquake in September 2011. There were serious humanitarian concerns about the living conditions of earthquake affected families who were still living under tarpaulin in difficult conditions. NRCS, through its district chapters, closely monitored the situation and identified some 5,000 families in urgent need of additional blankets to protect them from the cold in nine districts.

In close coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) and other agencies, NRCS distributed blankets to 5,042 families (two blankets to each family) based on their immediate needs. The cost of volunteer mobilization, transportation of the blankets from regional and central warehouses to the

distribution point and procurement of 8,000 blankets were covered by the IFRC DREF. The ICRC country office in Nepal made an in-kind contribution of 2,000 blankets.

A 'one-door' distribution system was followed in most of the districts whereby NRCS took the lead role in distributing relief materials. The Ministry of Home Affairs, as the focal agency for disaster management in Nepal, coordinated national level meetings, including meetings of the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) meetings, also joined by NRCS as an ex-officio member of CNDRC.

The DREF operation was concluded on 13 June 2012 and all the planned activities under this operation were accomplished within the operation period.

Outcome: 5,000 displaced families (approximately 30,000 people) who have been suffering from extreme cold in earthquake affected areas will benefit from the provision of blankets to meet their immediate needs.
Outputs (expected results): Families receive blankets to better protect them from the cold environment and adverse health conditions.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of staff and volunteers in nine districts for assessments and distribution. • Dispatch and transport of 10,000 blankets from the NRCS national warehouse and the regional warehouse in Biratnagar, to the distribution sites. • Distribution of blankets (two per family) at unit level by trained staff and volunteers. • Monitoring and reporting of distributions. • Procurement and storage of replenishment of 8,000 blankets, according to IFRC/NRCS standard procedures (2,000 blankets have been donated by ICRC). • Ongoing monitoring by the national headquarters and IFRC.

Achievements

Dispatch of and transport of 10,000 blankets to the distribution point

A total of 8,000 blankets were dispatched from the central warehouse in the NRCS national headquarters to regional warehouse at Biratnagar. Meanwhile, the regional warehouse also received 2,000 blankets from ICRC. The regional warehouse then dispatched all 10,000 blankets to the nine districts respectively based on the needs assessment reports.

Distribution of relief items

The district chapters distributed two blankets to each of 5,042 families affected by extreme cold in the nine operation districts. The blankets helped the families to protect themselves from the adverse effect of cold. As a result, no adverse health effect was observed among the target people due to cold weather during the operation period. NRCS mobilized over 180 trained staff and volunteers for assessment and distribution of blankets during the operation.

The following table shows the number of families benefitted from relief distribution in the operation districts.

SN	District	No. of families		No. of blankets		Remarks
		targeted to reach with additional blankets	reached with additional blankets	planned to distribute	distributed	
1	Ilam	1,089	1,089	2,178	2,178	-
2	Taplejung	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	-
3	Sankhuwasava	300	300	600	600	-
4	Panchthar	1,075	1,077	2,150	2,154	-
5	Dhankuta	541	541	1,082	1,082	-
6	Khotang	85	85	170	170	-
7	Terhathum	530	536	1,060	1,072	-
8	Bhojpur	300	273	600	546	From re-assessment, only 273 families were found with real need of additional blankets

9	Solukhumbu	80	141	160	281	-
Total		5,000	5,042	10,000	10,083	Additional 83 blankets were distributed from the NRCS's own stock

Procurement

Procurement of 8,000 blankets was completed by NRCS within the operation period.

Reporting, monitoring and supervision

NRCS district chapters had the overall responsibility for the relief distribution and monitoring of the operation. The district chapter and sub-chapter governance volunteers monitored the situation and distribution activities closely.

The NRCS headquarters developed a standard reporting format and shared with all operation district chapters to ensure the quality and consistency of the reports. The district chapters documented the distribution data and reported regularly to national headquarters in the given format.

The national headquarters coordinated and monitored the operation through the regular information received from district chapters as well as through additional monitoring visits. The IFRC country office also monitored the operation closely through the regular internal reporting from NRCS as well as visits to the field.

The operation progress/achievements were shared with other internal and external partners through regular sharing and coordination meetings as well as publishing DREF operation updates.

Challenges/constraints

- Due to a lack of transportation facilities, blockages of highways due to landslides in some areas and lack of reliable communication facilities in affected districts, the district chapters and field responders faced many complications to gain access to affected areas for the assessment and blanket distribution. The district chapters were required to hire mules or porters to transport blankets up to distribution points in remote VDCs in some districts
- There were some delays in the procurement process due to the time taken by the Nepal Bureau of Standard and Metrology in providing quality check reports for the procured blankets. This delayed the placement of orders to the suppliers and therefore led to delays in the final delivery of the blankets. Hence a no-cost extension of the operation was granted for two months (until 13 June 2012).

Lessons learnt workshop

In the last week of March 2012, NRCS conducted a lessons learnt workshop in Biratnagar to discuss the lessons learnt, challenges and best practices from the overall earthquake and extreme cold DREF operations. The NRCS chairman, vice chairman, treasurer general, president of disaster and crisis management committee, district executive committee members from the operation districts, and director, deputy director, other concerned staff from disaster management department, as well as the operations coordinator from IFRC AP zone disaster management unit, attended the meeting. The meeting intensively discussed the strengths and gaps of the overall response and some of the major findings were as follows:

- NRCS needs to facilitate its organizational units such as district chapters, sub-chapters and volunteers to develop a better understanding about the NRCS disaster response operational manual and to improve response skills, which will substantially improve the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations in future.
- Communication and documentation needs to improve at sub-chapter and district chapter levels to ensure consistency and timeliness in reporting. This was recognised during the operation and NRCS headquarters developed a structured reporting format and circulated to all district chapters which helped improve the quality of reporting.

Recommendations for future operations

- Establish emergency operation centres at district level
- Enhance district level knowledge about efficient relief distribution and improve documentation

- Maintain at least minimum non-food items stock at national headquarters and district chapters
- Improve warehouse management at district level

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

MDRNP006 - Nepal - Extreme Cold

Appeal Launch Date: 13 jan 12

Appeal Timeframe: 13 jan 12 to 13 jun 12

FINAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/01-2013/01
Budget Timeframe	2012/01-2012/06
Appeal	MDRNP006
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	69,134					69,134	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	69,134					69,134	
C4. Other Income	69,134					69,134	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	69,134					69,134	
D. Total Funding = B +C	69,134					69,134	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	69,134					69,134	
E. Expenditure	-66,521					-66,521	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	2,613					2,613	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/01-2013/01
Budget Timeframe	2012/01-2012/06
Appeal	MDRNP006
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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination			
A								B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		69,134						69,134	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies									
Clothing & Textiles	47,600								47,600
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	47,600								47,600
Logistics, Transport & Storage									
Distribution & Monitoring	2,142								2,142
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,010								6,010
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	8,152								8,152
Personnel									
Volunteers	8,568								8,568
Total Personnel	8,568								8,568
Consultants & Professional Fees									
Professional Fees		1,500					1,500		-1,500
Total Consultants & Professional Fe		1,500					1,500		-1,500
General Expenditure									
Information & Public Relations	595								595
Total General Expenditure	595								595
Contributions & Transfers									
Cash Transfers National Societies		60,961					60,961		-60,961
Total Contributions & Transfers		60,961					60,961		-60,961
Indirect Costs									
Programme & Services Support Recov	4,219	4,060					4,060		160
Total Indirect Costs	4,219	4,060					4,060		160
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	69,134	66,521					66,521		2,614
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,614							2,614