

CAMBODIA: Floods

9 February 2001

appeal no. 22/2000

situation report no. 6

period covered: 7 December 2000 - 31 January 2001

Now that displaced villagers have moved back to their homes from safe areas, the relief operation's focus has moved on to rehabilitation. Relief distributions have been completed -- almost half a million people received assistance from the Red Cross -- and water distribution has ended. The repair of community wells in eight provinces is now under way, coupled with hygiene awareness sessions. Debriefings of staff and lessons learnt sessions are being held in order to improve the National Society's future capacity. Currently the chief difficulty is the low response to the revised budget, which is curtailing water point rehabilitation.

The context

Severe floods in Cambodia over a four month period during 2000 caused extensive damage in 22 provinces and affected an estimated 25% of the total population: 347 people died as a direct result of the floods and many thousands more suffered from diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. The flooding destroyed transportation and communication networks, health centres and schools. An estimated 317,975 homes were reported to be destroyed, and the loss of livestock, tools and other household items has deprived many families of their livelihoods. Extensive destruction of crops and irrigation systems has further undermined the resources of rural families. and will undoubtedly lead to food shortages following the next harvest season. The flood waters have slowly receded but some lowland areas remain seriously affected.

All previously displaced populations have returned to their villages, and rehabilitation efforts are now underway to address the priority issues of essential infrastructure development.

Latest events

Ministries of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) have now published assessment reports on the damage caused by the floods. In its 2000 Annual Report, published in January 2001, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) included a comprehensive summary of the damage in the following sectors: agriculture, education, health, rural development, water resources, public works and transportation. Detailed information is also provided on damage by province. The report puts the total cost of the floods at US\$ 156,655,500.

A FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission was conducted from 6 to 15 December. A special report issued by FAO/WFP in early January 2001 concluded that the cumulative effects of the floods have reduced overall wet season rice production in some 400,000 hectares and that recovery would be possible in only 60,000 hectares of the area lost. The medium term recommendations include the establishment of effective seed controls so that quality, purity and germination rates can be ensured, and the establishment of small scale irrigation systems to assist farmers in rice production. The report estimates the total rice needs in 2001 at 2,478,000 tonnes and foresees a deficit of 45,000 tonnes -- which can be covered by private sector stocks and partly by food aid programmes, so that rice should not need to be imported. However, a large number of people who are traditionally on the borderline of subsistence and food insecurity will become highly vulnerable to food shortages.

The report also states that the ongoing vulnerability analysis identifies three broad groups of people who will be affected by food insecurity in 2001:

- { The chronically ill and insecure in a post-conflict situation (some 2 million people)
- { The vulnerable population, including disabled, and orphans (some 500,000 people)
- { People affected by floods in 2000 -- vulnerable until the next harvest in December 2001 (some 3 million people).

The majority of those in the first two categories are assisted by the ongoing WFP food aid programme as well as by the Government/NGO institutional social sector. WFP, in partnership with the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), has already assisted the first 500,000 most vulnerable from the third category. Food-for-repairs and food-for-work activities are currently under way, using some 10,000 MT of rice.

The Asian Development Bank loan became effective in January 2001. The RGC has already begun implementing agreed strategies.

Several flood-related "lessons learnt" workshops have been held or are planned for the first quarter of 2001. The NCDM conducted two such sessions, the first on 30 December in Kampong Cham Province and the second in Prey Veng on 5 January 2001. The International Federation participated in both. The NCDM compiled summary reports on the lessons learnt in both provinces and announced that it plans to conduct a nation-wide lessons learnt workshop in early March in order to document the key lessons learnt.

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) of the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium conducted a four-day workshop from 29 January to 1 February in Phnom Penh in co-operation

with the Ministry of Health/National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) on health disaster management and attended by relevant partners from the health sector, including water and sanitation.

The World Bank (WB) is currently conducting a Floods Emergency Rehabilitation Project (FERP) mission to review the provision of additional assistance for infrastructure rebuilding and repairs.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) will host a Consultation Workshop on the Formulation for Regional Strategy for Flood Management and Mitigation in the Mekong Basin, 13 - 14 February in Phnom Penh involving all four MRC countries namely Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Federation activities in January concentrated on supporting Cambodian Red Cross efforts to complete the distribution of essential relief items. Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, Honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross, participated in the Red Cross relief distribution in Takeo Province during the reporting period.

The CRC conducted a one-day lessons learnt workshop on 21 December. Participants included the 24 Presidents of the provincial Red Cross branches.

Similarly, a one-day workshop was organised for the National Mobile Teams and the MoH on 12 January 2001 to record recommendations for improved action in the health and water-sanitation sector in preparation for the next disaster. CRC will follow this up in February with a workshop for the health sector.

The following progress has been made in reaching the objectives defined in the Federation emergency appeal:

Emergency Relief

Objective 1: Continue to provide immediate assistance to flood victims with further distributions of emergency food, clothing, soap, plastic sheets (shelter material), ORS and some 5,000 household kits

To date, 467,932 of the most needy and vulnerable families in 21 provinces and municipalities have received emergency relief assistance from the Red Cross. All 16,000 household kits, containing 21 essential relief items, have been distributed, as well as a number of other essential relief items, as planned according to the revised budget.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 2: Minimise the risk of the wide-scale spread of infectious diseases, particularly diarrhoea and vector borne disease, by giving health education, supplying soap and ORS and improving hygiene and sanitation facilities in safe areas for both short and long term benefits.

The co-operative approach of the Ministry of Rural Development, the Cambodian Red Cross and other agencies to rehabilitating flood affected community wells in the provinces is progressing successfully. Provincial departments of rural development and provincial Red Cross branches are continuing implementation in the eight key target provinces: Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Takeo, Kandal, Kampong Chhnang, and Pursat.

Information continues to be received on other agency operations. An information matrix continually updates the water sanitation activities of all organisations involved. While the data shows that large numbers of water points are being rehabilitated, this is still not sufficient to cover all the water points assessed as damaged. The table below shows the planned repairs and work completed to date:

Provinces	Planned Repair	Number of water points repaired to date	Number of Hygiene Awareness sessions conducted
1. Svay Rieng	281	215	253
2. Kandal	145	97	30
3. Kampong Cham	120	121	45
4. Kampong Chhnang	310	214	72
5. Kampong Thom	90	138	139
6. Pursat	290	331	336
7. Prey Veng	160	235	61
8. Takeo	240	96	96
Total	1,636	1,447	1,032

Specific objective 2.1: To assist the Provincial Health Department maximise access to safe drinking water through a co-ordinated approach with other agencies.

The provision of drinking water using 20 x 3,000 litre static water tanks has been completed. The tanks were used for 31 days on Road No 5 and 41 days on Road No 6A; a total of 1,160,000 litres of water were distributed, benefiting over 11,000 people. Five of the water tanks will be installed in schools and health centres in Kandal province and can be utilised in future emergencies. The remaining tanks have been relocated to the CRC warehouse, prior to the development of guidelines for future deployments.

Specific objective 2.2: To support the Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDRD) in improving sanitation in temporary safe areas.

This activity is now taking place in the communities as families have moved from the safe areas and back into their villages. PDRD and Red Cross volunteers have conducted hygiene awareness on sanitation, incorporated in the hygiene awareness sessions organised as part of the water points rehabilitation (see 2.3 below).

Specific objective 2.3: To assist the PDRD undertake the rehabilitation and repair of affected water points in a co-ordinated approach with other agencies.

Teams from Provincial Red Cross and the Department of Rural Development (DRD) carried out assessments of approximately 4,000 water points in eight provinces. More than 1,447 water points have been rehabilitated so far and 1,032 hygiene awareness sessions conducted for 30,000 people.

Specific objective 2.4: To assist the PDRD develop permanent water and sanitation facilities in key safe areas.

Some provincial authorities have expressed concern about the development of permanent facilities in safe areas, such as temples and schools. If these facilities are not generally used by the community, supervision and maintenance may become a problem. Alternatives are being considered, such as the installation of

static water tanks and the training and equipping of Provincial Red Cross staff and volunteers to provide supervision and maintenance.

Health

Objective 3: Assist with the provision of clean water, and in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, through the Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross youth network, provide mosquito nets and insecticide, Vitamin A/ORS, de-worming tablets and health education.

Items distributed to Provincial Red Cross Branches

No.	Province	Alum (MT)	Chloramine	Chloramine Poster	Chloramine Leaflet	Alum Poster	Alum Leaflet	Hygiene Poster	Diarrhoea Prevention Leaflet	Diarrhoea Treatment Leaflet
1	Takeo	5,000	5,000	1,750	52,500	1,750	52,500	7,290		
2	Pursat	7,000	14,000	1,400	42,000	1,400	42,000	5,835		
3	Kg. Chhnang	4,500	5,000	2,100	63,000	2,100	63,000	2,505	1,679	1,679
4	Kg. Thom	8,000	15,000	2,800	84,000	2,800	84,000	7,230		
5	Siem Reap	9,250	10,000	1,050	31,500	1,050	31,500	9,240		
6	Kratie	4,000	8,000	1,400	42,000	1,400	42,000	3,135	666	666
7	Prey Veng	21,000	7,000	3,500	105,000	3,500	105,000	9,750	10,545	10,545
8	Kampot	2,150	7,000	1,750	52,500	1,750	52,500	1,530	1,682	1,682
9	Kandal	10,000	2,000	3,500	105,000	3,500	105,000	10,035	1,401	1,401
10	Kg. Cham	10,000	4,000	3,850	115,500	3,850	115,500	9,840	1,508	1,508
11	Stung Treng	2,000	2,000	1,400	42,000	1,400	42,000	1,635		
12	Phnom Penh	4,200	4,000	1,050	31,500	1,050	31,500	915		
13	Svay Rieng	7,500	12,000	1,750	52,500	1,750	52,500	4,290		
14	Battambang							1,095	692	692
15	Ministries			5,400	162,000	5,400	162,000		3,000	3,000
	TOTAL UNITS	94,600	95,000	32,700	981,000	32,700	981,000	74,325	21,173	21,173

The health situation in the affected provinces remains stable, and no epidemics have been reported. Regular monitoring visits have confirmed that the main problems are diarrhoea in children under the age of five, scabies and typhoid in some areas. The biggest health issue in the coming months will be food security. As yet, no nutritional surveys have been conducted; however, there have not been any confirmed reports of malnutrition.

Monitoring visits have contributed to strengthening the local co-operation between the CRC and MoH, and have enabled the identification of any problems impeding successful implementation. The monitoring has also included, where possible, site visits to villages that have received distributions of both Vitamin A/ORS and alum/chloramine. Informal interviews with beneficiaries have been carried out to ensure that the essential health education messages have been delivered and understood, and that the planned items have been received. As this joint collaboration has been a new initiative for all stakeholders, it has been crucial to identify any problems and look for creative solutions.

Access remains problematic in some areas, with some villages still only accessible by boat. While most provinces have now completed their planned activities on schedule, there have been delays in some provinces -- Kandal, Prey Veng and Stung Treng -- related to both transportation difficulties and a less developed capacity of both the CRC and MoH in these areas. As these provinces were severely affected by the floods, extra support to the provincial Red Cross branches has been required to implement the remaining distributions. The CRC national headquarters has assigned additional disaster relief/logistics personnel to these branches, and it is now expected that all activities will be completed by early February.

ORS/Vitamin A and Alum/Chloramine Distribution

These distributions have now been completed in 10 of 13 provinces targeted for chloramine/alum, and 9 of 11 provinces targeted for Vitamin A/ORS.

In one province, the Vitamin A/ORS was delayed at the request of the provincial MoH, since earlier distributions had been carried out by health staff. During the monitoring phase, some shortages of ORS were identified at district level, which reduced the quantity received by some beneficiaries.

The distributions of chloramine and alum were delayed in some areas by a lack of transport, and a limited capacity to implement. This situation has been rectified: with additional support the outstanding distributions are underway and were scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2001.

A formal debriefing workshop was conducted for the National Mobile Teams who were responsible for training for these activities at provincial level. Organised by the CRC health sub-department and attended by representatives of the MoH, it provided very useful feedback as to the strengths and weaknesses of the planning and training process. Specific recommendations were made for future emergency response.

Malaria Prevention and Treatment

In response to requests from the National Malaria Centre (NMC), the Federation provided additional supplies of anti-malaria drug treatments and impregnated bednets to address the high incidence of malaria in the post-floods phase. An initial 250,000 units of artesunate, together with 30,000 bednets and 2,400 L of permethrin were provided to the NMC on 27 December 2000. The remaining 750,000 units of artesunate were scheduled to arrive in January.

Intestinal Parasite (deworming) Campaign

In response to advice from the NMC and UNICEF, the Federation and CRC will provide additional anti-parasite drugs to the national deworming programme. An order of 1 million units of mebendazole arrived to Cambodia on 30 January 2001. This consignment will be handed over to the MoH to supplement existing stocks for the national schools deworming programme underway in the severely affected provinces of Takeo, Kampot, Kompong Speu, Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, Kratie and Stung Treng.

Capacity building efforts through an emergency

4.1 Water Sanitation and Emergency Health Delegates and other staff

Objective 4: Improve the CRC's implementation and monitoring capacity through the recruitment of a water and sanitation delegate, a health-in-emergency monitoring officer (HEMO) and other essential staff.

The Federation is supporting the CRC health sub-department in strengthening its capacity to manage health emergency issues. The Federation Water and Sanitation Delegate and the Emergency Health Delegate continue their work with the CRC national headquarters and provincial counterparts. A Health

Emergencies Monitoring Officer (HEMO) has now been appointed and will work closely with the Federation Emergency Health Delegate to analyse the data from the monitoring of floods-related health projects, and to prepare final reports on activities.

As part of the ongoing operational review process, the CRC and the Federation will conduct a debriefing workshop for all CRC personnel involved in the floods-related health project. The aim will be to document the lessons learned, in order to formulate recommendations for future emergency response. The findings will also contribute to a national review of the floods response.

4.2 Red Cross Volunteers

Objective 5: Strengthen or establish networks of Red Cross volunteer leaders and Red Cross volunteers in the affected areas by training a total of 200 new volunteers in four provinces (Koh Kong, Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Svay Rieng), and by giving refresher training to 2,000 existing volunteers and MOH field workers in hygiene, the use of ORS and the dissemination of health, hygiene and preparedness information.

Insufficient funds are available to implement this activity.

4.3 Red Cross Youth

Objective 6: Strengthen or establish a network of Red Cross youth in four affected provinces by training 52 new Red Cross youth advisors and 1,200 Red Cross youth members in 24 schools in four provinces (Odtar Mean Chey, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, Koh Kong).

Insufficient funds are available to implement this activity.

Outstanding needs

Donor response to the revised budget published in Sitrep 5 has been every low. Although the immediate emergency relief needs have been met, some medium term rehabilitation activities cannot be implemented due to lack of funds. Of these, the biggest priority is the rehabilitation of water points which, at present, is only 60% covered. The presence of a Water Sanitation Delegate in-country and the excellent co-operation between the Provincial Red Cross bodies, the Ministry of Rural Development and other partners ensures that this activity can make a valuable contribution to the lives of a significant number of people in rural areas.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Despite the efforts by some key players in disaster management in Cambodia, information sharing and co-ordination of the overall rehabilitation efforts remain a challenge. The *Flood Core Group*, comprising the NCDM, CRC, UN-DMT and the Federation, has met only once during the reporting period as has the *Emergency Response Group*.

The food security, health & water-sanitation and small scale infrastructure sub-groups each met for the first time in mid-January. Unfortunately, invitations were issued late and were not widely disseminated, so

that many the key stakeholders were either not able to participate or to prepare a presentation. Subsequent meetings for the sub-groups have not yet been planned.

There is so far no formal co-ordination mechanism for disaster management in Cambodia and no centralised disaster information service. Initiatives to establish a temporary data management team have not been successful. It is therefore crucial to strengthen the capacity of the NCDM. In this regard, the CRC and Federation are currently supporting a Capability and Capacity Assessment aimed at assisting the NCDM to develop a Five-Year Strategic Plan and a more detailed Two-Year Workplan.

Media coverage of Red Cross actions is continuing during the post-flood phase. Specific donor reports with extensive photographic and video records were being compiled in December - January. Informal meetings with relevant partners are continuing, especially in the health and water-sanitation sectors.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The emergency phase is now complete and current activities are focused on rehabilitation, in particular on preventive health through the de-worming initiative and the wells rehabilitation project, and on future preparedness for the forthcoming dengue epidemic season.

As many of the activities were new initiatives for the National Society, the operation has been a capacity building exercise in terms of the invaluable experience gained. With support from the Federation, it should strengthen the ability of the Cambodian Red Cross to prepare for and deal with future flood emergencies.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

Cambodia floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 22/2000			PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/09/01
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5,952,281		84.3%
AMERICAN - GOVT		290,350	USD	497,224	22.09.00	5'000 HOUSEHOLD KITS, 5'000 PLASTIC SHEETS, 5'000 BUCKETS, PACKING & TRANSPORTATION,
AMERICAN - 2 PRIVATE DONORS		725	USD	1,264	10.01.01	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		66	USD	118	21.11.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		785	USD	1,314	19.12.00	DIRECT TO THE DELEGATION
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		200	USD	335	16.01.01	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250,000	AUD	249,600	16.09.00	
AUSTRIAN - RC		48,860	AUD	44,966	22.12.00	
AUSTRIAN - RC		25,000	EUR	38,933	20.09.00	
BRITISH GOVT/RC DFID		245,098	GBP	634,803	15.09.00	RELIEF ITEMS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
BRITISH GOVT/RC DFID		294,118	GBP	735,295	17.10.00	RELIEF ITEMS
CAMBODIA - DAILY NEWSPAPER		833	USD	1,427	26.09.00	
CAMBODIA - DAILY NEWSPAPER				7,334	17.10.00	
CANADIAN - GOVT		49,000	CAD	58,368	22.09.00	
CANADIAN - RC		5,000	CAD	5,767	14.09.00	SUPPORT RELIEF OPERATION
DANISH - GOVT		250,000	DKK	52,200	27.09.00	4'400 PLASTIC SHEETS
DANISH - GOVT		2,850,000	DKK	595,080	28.09.00	
ECHO		400,000	EUR	611,120	15.11.00	TPS/210/2000/18005
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	51,391	28.09.00	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		282,556	DEM	220,704	29.09.00	18'500 PLASTIC SHEETS
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
IRANIAN RC		30,000	USD	53,205	29.10.00	
JAPANESE - RC				82,000	20.09.00	
KOREA, REP. - RC				50,000	25.09.00	MEDICAL SERVICES
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		495,049	NLG	343,164	27.09.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC				25,000	27.09.00	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		50,000	NZD	37,345	04.10.00	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	NOK	192,647	27.09.00	
SINGAPORE - PRIVATE		16	USD	29	21.11.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,500,000	SEK	280,650	26.09.00	RELIEF & OPERATIONAL NEEDS
SWISS - GOVT		30,000	USD	53,205	07.11.00	MEDICAL ACTIVITIES
SWISS - RC				80,000	26.09.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5,008,783	CHF	84.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN - GOVT		15,000	DEM	11,717	29.09.00	3'300 FOLDABLE PLASTIC WATER TANKS (10L.)
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				11,717	CHF	0.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PKH517,						