

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 & LANDSLIDES

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2007) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Floods and landslides caused by torrential monsoon rains have affected Nepal, most seriously the Southern districts of Banke, Bardiya, Dhanusa, Siraha and Saptari. So far, 56 people have died and over 235,000 people in 28 districts are affected. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is the main interlocutor for relief operations in Nepal, and has been conducting rescue and relief operations in the affected areas, along with assessing the situation, identifying the needs of the affected families and distributing relief items to them. Regular coordination meetings with the Government of Nepal and Partners, such as UN Agencies, are taking place on the national and district level.



Aerial view of floods in one of the affected areas

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on page 3.

The Situation

Heavy and continuous monsoon rains during the past two weeks have caused serious floods and landslide in 28 districts of the country resulting in loss of lives and destruction of property and livelihoods. While the districts in the Southern plains (the Terai) have faced heavy flooding, those districts in the hilly region have suffered from landslides.

Preliminary assessments carried out by NRCS district chapters have recognized that 235.000 people are affected by the disaster, whereas 56 people died and 9 are still missing. More than 3.800 families are displaced and approximately 15.000 houses were either damaged or destroyed by the floods.

Preliminary assessments have highlighted the immediate need for shelter, clean drinking water and food. Due to the problem of water-logging, health issues, such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, cholera and viral infections, arose in the districts of Rauthaut and Dhansua.

Assessments, relief and rescue operations have been hampered in several of the affected parts due to the fact that communication systems are down, transportation networks are affected or destroyed and bad weather conditions continued. Some areas are still inaccessible due to ongoing and heavy rainfall.

The worst affected districts are in the Central Terai and Mid Western region (districts of Banke, Bardiya, Dhanusa, Siraha and Saptari):

Central Terai districts of Dhanusa, Siraha and Saptari

144 villages and approximately 112,000 people are reported to be affected by the floods in the Central Terai district. 11,000 of the families' houses are damaged, some even destroyed by the water. Food stocks and livelihoods have been lost. NRCS - in coordination with other stakeholders on the district level – is currently conducting an in-depth assessment of the situation, which is hampered due to ongoing heavy rainfall.



Aerial view of floods in the affected area

Mid Western Districts of Banke and Bardiya

The Banke district capital Nepalganj is under water. It is reported that 65,000 people in the two districts are affected by floods, 4 are dead, 5 injured, and 1 person is missing. People located at the Rapti River are at high risk and some of them are out of contact. 217 persons were rescued by the Army and Red Cross volunteers and moved to safe places like schools or public buildings. Coordination on the district level amongst the concerned stakeholders is ongoing and a rapid assessment is being carried out.

Nepal Red Cross action

The Government of Nepal has given NRCS the responsibility of being the main interlocutor for the relief operation. NRCS networks for rescue and relief operations are in place and all affected district chapters have immediately mobilized their staff and volunteer teams for the distributions of food and non-food relief items (NFRI). Within the past days, NRCS district chapters have provided 8,100 kg beaten rice, 645 kg sugar, 580 kg carton noodles and 200 kg ready-to-eat food items for more than 6,000 families. In addition, sets of non-food relief items, like clothes and plastic sheets were distributed for 1,250 families. UN Agencies are supporting the NRCS distributions with dry food rations and water purification tablets for the provision of drinking water.

Relief distributions are ongoing on a permanent basis and are expected to last for the upcoming three months based on assessments and the needs of the flood-affected population.

NRCS Headquarters also deployed 11 of its technical staff to the affected districts to support assessments, coordination, distribution and reporting. In addition, NRs. 15,000 was provided by the NRCS Headquarters to each affected district chapters for mobilization of volunteers, coordination of activities, distribution of goods, and communication.

At the same time, in-depth assessments are being carried out by NRCS in order to plan further relief and recovery activities. Due to the loss of houses, food stock and livelihoods, long-term recovery activities, such as the support for sustainable income or the reconstruction of houses are envisaged.

Coordination

The Central Disaster & Relief Committee at the Home Ministry and District Disaster Relief Committees are coordinating all relief activities. NRCS is part of these committees and has been actively coordinating with government authorities and other stakeholders to run the relief operation in an efficient way. NRCS was given the responsibility of being the main interlocutor for the relief operation.

See map of affected areas on last page of this bulletin.

How we work

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

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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Nepal: Floods and landslides

