

PROGRAMME 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

07 January 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.37/2001

Appeal Target 1,052,015

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: July to September (last Programme Update issued 31 August 2001;

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 105.6%

Related Appeals: South Asia regional programmes 01.33/2001

Outstanding needs: Covered

Update: Donor response has been excellent and a huge support to the Nepal Red Cross Society as it implements its community programmes in support of vulnerable people.

Progress has been made in terms of disaster response activity for refugees as well as long term development activities.

Operational Developments:

Nepal has been tense since the massacre at the Royal Palace in June, 2001. The six-year conflict between Maoist rebels and the government continues despite talks between the two sides. However broadly speaking, much of the country has been relatively peaceful.

The country experienced an active monsoon causing widespread damage by the landslides and floods. Mobility was severely disrupted as the roads were either washed away by floods or blocked by landslides.

The heavy rains limited the Nepal Red Cross Society's (NRCS) community-based activities in some rural areas but overall progress was made. Against the unstable environment, the NRCS has over the years grown to be the largest humanitarian organisation in Nepal, with its network of district Branches extended to each of the 75 districts of the country. The need has never been greater to build its capacities further, to play ever more prominent roles as a neutral and key promoter of humanitarian values, and to provide effective and relevant services to the most vulnerable and increasingly conflict-affected communities through a motivated and strong base of members, volunteers and staff.

The total membership of the Society is 788,637. The NRCS emphasises a balanced membership and adequate representation of ethnic groups, women, and youth. The Society's particular asset is its strong junior/youth groups with 696,543 members. A significant proportion of its activities are carried out by these student and youth volunteers from the junior and youth Red Cross circles which are organised in secondary schools, campuses and communities.

NRCS has 781 staff, of which 133 are officers, 627 non-officers and 21 drivers. The NRCS has focused on attracting and retaining professional staff by offering them training opportunities for career development.

Since 1989, the NRCS has based its work on five-year development plans, These are supported by a national development policy, giving the Society the advantageous position of having clear plans and strategies.

Since June 2001 the NRCS has made major efforts to further its institutional development including undertaken reviews of its existing governance and management structures; appointed a Constitutional revision committee and begun the task of revising the Society's Constitution according to the guidance in the Federation's "Guidance for National Society Statutes.

Disaster Response

Although the below described activities were not included in the Annual Appeal they are part of NRCS ongoing relief activities:

Refugee Assistance Programme (RAP):

The NRCS has been working in Jhapa and Morang districts in eastern Nepal to provide humanitarian assistance to the Bhutanese refugees. The 100,253 refugees are situated in 7 different camps. The following food commodities were distributed to the refugees during the reporting period:

Serial no.	Food Item	Unit	Distributed
1.	Rice	kg	2,417,324
2.	Pulses	„	2,41,015
3.	Vegetable Oil	„	1,53,397
4.	Sugar	„	1,28,749
5.	Salt	„	43,881
6.	WSB / Unilito	„	16,349
7.	Whole Gram	„	1,22,450
Total		„	31,23,165

The following vegetables were distributed during the reporting period:

Serial no.	Vegetable Item	Unit	Distributed Quantity
1.	Potato	kg	2,65,951.91
2.	Cabbage/Banana/Pumpkin	„	2,50,786.50
3.	Onion	„	40,192.75
4.	Green Chili	„	16,196.66
5.	Turmeric Powder	„	7,444
6.	Dry Garlic	„	7801.92
Total		„	5,88,373.74

The following non-food items were distributed during this reporting period:

Serial no.	Food Item	Unit	Distributed
1.	Can Kerosene 10 liters	Pieces.	3
2.	Soap 200 gram (Washing)	„	80,875
3.	Soap 150 gram (Bathing)	„	50,132
4.	Stoves Wicks	Sets	34
5.	Stoves Large	Pieces.	3,120
6.	Tarpaulin	Pieces.	3
7.	Utensil	Sets	3

The NRCS has conducted a series of programmes in support of the refugee population during the reporting period. It has for instance been operating ambulance service through three ambulances and a total of 312 refugees and 8 local residents have been transported to the nearest hospitals.

In addition, the programme of Refugee Affected Areas Rehabilitation Programme (RARP) was restarted on 1 April 2001. A new plantation site has been identified and preliminary works have been carried out. A total of 7,035 saplings have been planted in different plantation sites in the Jhapa and Morang districts. In addition, 2321.6 kg of barbed wire was provided to the community forest user groups. 130 gabion boxes (cages to fill with rocks) were provided to Damak Municipality for river training work.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1. *To conduct hazard and vulnerability assessments and install a Geographic Information System for gathering information and preparedness in vulnerable areas*

No progress has been made on this objective during the reporting period due to lack of funds. However through a newly funded project by Belgium Red Cross (ECHO supported) this objective will be met in 2002.

Objective 2. *To revise and adopt the Society's disaster management training manual and conduct refresher training at local chapter and community levels*

Revision of disaster management training manual is in progress and at the time of writing this report, revised manual has gone to the printing press for publishing. A consultant was appointed by NRCS to help disaster management department to revise its training manual. Feedback was collected from all district branches of NRCS on the existing manual and this was shared with the consultant. Major changes in the manual are on new teaching methods, how to set learning objectives, session planning and class room management.

Planned training to introduce this new manual to district branches and disaster management trainers will be conducted in year 2002.

Objective 3. *To conduct disaster management training at national and district levels*

One ware house management workshop was organised for the volunteers and staff of the 12 districts of the Red Cross of Central Development Region from 26 to 27 September 2001. 40 concerned volunteers and staff participated in this workshop. Most of the sessions were focused on management of the relief materials during emergency and local resource mobilisation ideas for relief materials at district level and their management thereafter. This workshop enabled participants to become clear on issues related to effective warehouse management.

Objective 4. *To maintain, repair and expand warehouse facilities and stock them with relief supplies.*

During the last quarter NRCS disaster management department has procured relief items worth CHF 67,000 for its warehouses. Of this amount, CHF 45,000 has been raised internally by NRCS. Items procured through Federation support are :

Plain Cloth - 6,000 meters
 Printed Cloth - 7,000 meters
 Nepali Saree - 1500 pieces

Items procured through internal resources include kitchen utensils and tarpaulins.

Two warehouses were also repaired at the cost of CHF 1,000.

Objective 5. *To expand the existing community based disaster preparedness programme*

The NRCS is the only organisation in Nepal working actively in the field of disaster preparedness and relief. Since its inception, disaster preparedness has become a priority programme of the NRCS. Some infrastructures has been developed including a fixed fund, warehouses, relief material and trained manpower. However, the NRCS still faces difficulties in making the disaster preparedness programme effective due to geographical constraints and the country's weak economic situation.

With a view to making disaster preparedness effective, the NRCS has been implementing initiatives such as the Community Based Disaster Preparedness Programme (CBDP). This programme started in 1997 is run in 4 districts (Banke, Morang, Sunsari & Bardiya). Since 1999 the project has been supported by DFID through Federation. This programme is reported below as CBDP project (OLD). A similar programme has also been started in 2001 with new support by DFID in 5 new districts (Sankhuwasava, Bhojpur, Khotang, Syanja and Nawalparasi). This project is reported below as CBDP project (NEW).

CBDP programmes help strengthening the capacities of the NRCS units and stakeholders in the community. Through management of warehouses and depots, training and co-ordination at local level, the NS is trying to strengthen the capabilities of local units and communities.

Community Based Disaster Preparedness Project (OLD):

This project which was expanded to new 20 communities (5 communities in 4 districts) has progressed well. Community level disaster management units have been formed in all communities and basic level disaster management training has been given to most of the communities. The basic level disaster management training consists of disaster preparedness, community based first aid (CBFA) and community management. During July-September 337 volunteers were trained on disaster preparedness, 332 volunteers in CBFA and 109 volunteers in community management. 319 of these volunteers trained were women and more women are being encouraged to participate in CBDP projects. All the new communities have also created their community owned revolving funds (CHF 600 till date) for disaster management.

Regular meetings of all old communities are being conducted in all the four districts. The community level committee of Bishnupaduka in Sunsari district has decided to form a sub-committee for construction of community building. 10 old communities in 2 districts have added CHF 600 to their revolving funds. These community level meetings have contributed greatly to the sustenance of the CBDP programme.

Community Based Disaster Preparedness Project (NEW):

This project which started in 5 new districts in 2001 is targeting 25 communities in first year (see annex 1 for details). District level disaster management subcommittees were established during the second quarter of the year which has strengthened the disaster management capacity of the districts. In the third quarter, two districts (Sankhuwasava and Nawalparasi) were affected by disasters but both the districts were able to respond immediately and in both cases initially with their own resources. These subcommittees have also contacted other agencies working in the district for coordination on mitigation activities and sharing knowledge on disaster management.

DP community units have also been prepared in all the communities and they have prepared their own yearly plan of action for disaster preparedness. This plan of action, is based upon a hazard and capacity map, social survey and a seasonal calendar for local disasters. During the disaster preparedness planning, communities have

also identified community based early warning system as a priority and have developed some local warning mechanisms.

Community level disaster management training for 661 volunteers (391 male and 270 female) has been finished in all 25 communities of Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Khotang, Nawalparasi and Syanja districts. 7 communities of Bhojpur and Syanja districts have also trained 200 volunteers (117 male & 83 female) in CBFA.

A revolving fund has been created in all communities. The total amount collected for this fund in 16 communities of Syanja, Sankhuwasava, Bhojpur and Khotang districts is CHF 1,050 during this reporting period. Some of this money was also used to assist community people affected by fire and floods and who lost their homes and belongings.

Health and Care

This programme includes the health service and community development project (CDP).

***Objective 1.** Review existing health policies, programmes and services, develop and clarify roles of NRCS and its relevant bodies and improve the quality, impact and management of existing health programmes.*

Community Development Programmes

The NRCS has, since its inception in 1963, been involved in various community development programmes (CDP) in health services, primary health care, safe drinking water and sanitation provision and youth initiatives. Presently CDPs are being implemented in 12 districts. They are carried out along with a chapter to chapter cooperation programme - a process of twinning - community awareness programme and primary health care based community programme. The details of the projects under CDP are as follows:

Community participation at all levels of project implementation has been emphasised. Primary health care, drinking water and sanitation, literacy classes, self-help and institutional development are the major components. Volunteers are involved at levels and they are supported by professionals to implement the programmes.

Swedish Red Cross supported Community Development Programme in Makawanpur

Literacy: During this period, one literacy class conducted in Oule community was completed where 21 female participants became literate. These women can now read and write as well as solve arithmetic problems.

Health and Sanitation: Health volunteers meeting, services rendered by health volunteers, traditional birth attendants refresher training, construction of latrine and Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) were the activities carried out during this period. 26 ICS were built during this period and 18 latrines have been constructed.

Drinking Water (DW): The renovation of existing DW schemes and training in account keeping for DW users' committee were the activities carried out under this component. This year 5 DW schemes were to be renovated. Out of them, two schemes- Baretar DW scheme and Kerabari DW scheme- have been completed. Improvement work of Lawati DW scheme is nearing completion. A two-day training in keeping accounts for 20 participants who are the members of DW users' committee was organised. The topics mainly focused on handling of daily financial activities of user's group and mobilize community for collection of fund.

Self-help (SH): There are ten self-help groups in the project area. The income and expenditures of the groups were audited during this period. Loan to the members of the group have been made available from the seed money and accumulated savings for buffalo-keeping, goat-raising, poultry-farming and fertilizer purchases. Two staff members participated in the training courses in office management and project management during this period.

NRCS Community Development Project in Tehrathum

Literacy: In August, one literacy study group was formed in Basantapur. 15 graduates of literacy and post literacy classes are the members of this group and continue their reading and writing habit.

Health and Sanitation: During the period, six latrines and seven improved cooking stoves were constructed. Health volunteers provided services to 56 people.

Drinking water and sanitation: For maintenance and repair of the drinking water schemes in Kebuk and Bhulke, the beneficiaries have decided to collect fund every month from each household.

Self-help: There are eight self-help groups in the project area. Monthly meetings are held regularly. They collect savings, make payment and provide loans. During the meetings the groups discuss the financial status, problems and solutions to solve them.

The self help groups have been registered with Village Development Committee as per the Local Governance Act. This will facilitate getting external support and recognition from GO/NGOs. The saving groups have submitted their proposal for various community labour to the “Local Development Fund Program, District Development Committee- Terhathum”. The proposed community priorities are irrigation, rural tourism, community buildings, village trails etc. During this period a seven-day training on making potato chips was organised with 13 participants. The project distributed 4 sets of beehives to the participants who previously had received training in bee keeping.

Renewal of subchapters, formation and renewal of Junior Red Cross circles, Red Cross orientation seminars, distribution of relief materials and membership drive were the activities undertaken under Institutional Development component during this period. Two subchapters and five JRC circles were formed during this period. Relief materials were distributed to six families stricken by disasters.

NRCS Community Development Programme in Baitadi

Literacy: Two adult literacy classes and one child literacy class are being conducted in Sittad Village Development Committee. There are altogether 38 female participants in adult literacy classes and 18 children in the child literacy class.

Health and Sanitation: CBFA volunteers, traditional healers and traditional birth attendants provide services and advice. The services are first aid, hospital referral, immunisation and Oral Rehydration Treatment preparation, nutrition, sanitation, pregnancy and delivery-related service and family planning. During the period, CBFA volunteers provided services to 42 persons, TBAs provided services to 50 women and traditional healers (THs) provided service to 8 persons. Kitchen gardening volunteers motivated 27 households to develop kitchen garden.

The health volunteers meet regularly to share their experiences and problems. During this period, three meetings in each month were held. Traditional Healers, CBFA volunteers, kitchen garden volunteers, health and sanitation volunteers and literacy facilitators attended the meeting. Project staff and RC volunteers also participated.

Training in health and sanitation was conducted during the period. It was attended by 20 persons. Progress in construction of latrines and Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) remained low against target due to rainy season and involvement of community people in their agricultural work.

Self-help: There are four self-help groups operating in wards 3 and 4 of Nwali Village Development Committee (VDC) and wards 5 & 8 of Shree Kedar VDC. The total saving in this period is NPR 2,630. The bank balance of these groups at the reporting time is NPR 26,948.68. The groups meet regularly once a month to review their situation and to take necessary decisions about providing loan. One Self-help group at Siddhakedar in Aireegaun of Sittad has started saving activities from 17 August. Self-help education training to group members of Sittad and bamboo carving training to three persons from both communities were conducted during this period.

Construction of sub-chapter building at Srikedar, membership drive, generating income, Head-master and Teacher-sponsor seminar and participation in training are activities undertaken under Institutional Development component during this period. SC has also mobilised financial and other resources locally for the construction of building.

During this period, 30 families affected by landslides were provided with relief materials. Like past year monsoon of this year also caused landslide and collapse of houses. Similarly, 15 patients were transported to the local hospital by the ambulance vehicle made available by the local administration.

NRCS Community Development Programme in Rasuwa

The community development project began in Rasuwa in May 2000. The project has been implemented in Ramche VDC of Rasuwa district. The project covers the Grang cluster that includes ward 2,3 and 4. The total households in Grang are 137 and the population is 933.

Literacy: Adult literacy class and child literacy class are the main activities of literacy programme. Two adult literacy classes and one child literacy class are being run. There are 31 and 18 participants in adult literacy class and child literacy class respectively. Two literacy management committees formed separately for child and adult literacy classes are managing these classes.

Health and sanitation: During this period, 133 persons received services of trained health volunteers. Two new pit latrines have been made and 15 toilets are under construction. There is still a problem of roofing material in Rasuwa. No new Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) could be installed during this period. The construction of 10 washing plates is also underway.

Drinking water and sanitation: The renovation of Grang water supply system will begin shortly as the design and estimate of the work have been recently completed. Existing drinking water scheme needs renovation. This scheme was constructed by another project but there was no provision for its maintenance.

Self-Help: Two skill development training courses were organised during this period; veterinary training and woolen knitting training. There were 14 and 9 participants respectively in these trainings. Animal husbandry is one of the major sources of local people. The aim of the training has been to enable the participants to treat animal diseases properly in order to ensure animal husbandry as a reliable source of family income. Similarly, the aim of the woolen knitting training is to improve the skills of women for ensuring it as a source of family income.

The construction of the income generation building is completed. There are two blocks with three rooms in each designed for business purposes. As per the agreement and understanding made between the DC and the landowner, one bloc is possessed by the landowner and another block including land covered by it is registered in the name of DC. As project support did not cover the estimated cost, DC Raised local NPR 80,000 to complete the building. Income from photocopy and fax services was NPR 7,173 in this period.

Similarly, the subchapter building with four rooms has been constructed at Ramche. Project contribution for this was of NPR 275,000 and the subchapter mobilized local resources worth of NPR 40,000 to complete the building.

Out of 19 high and secondary schools in the district, 18 schools participated in a Red Cross JRC/youth seminar. During this period ten new JRC circles have been formed and eight renewed.

Objective 2. *To promote health care and reduce morbidity and mortality through a community based health programme and particularly by implementing and expanding CBFA programme.*

Health Service Project: Community Based First Aid Programme

Since 1996, NRCS has been running Community Based First Aid (CBFA). It focuses on injuries as a result of day-to-day accidents and common health problems such as diarrhea, dysentery and fever. Unlike traditional accident-based first aid, CBFA program deals with preventive aspect of the community health problems by mobilizing local resources through the selected community volunteers. In order to assess its impact, the process of evaluating CBFA programme has started. The evaluation is to be completed in December 2001.

As confirmation of the financial support for the CBFA programme from the Swedish Red Cross was received a bit late, the training courses planned during this period could not be conducted. However, these training courses are

planned to be organised in the first quarter of 2002. Similarly, some district level activities postponed during this period will be carried out later.

At the initiative of the local Red Cross Sub Branches and CBFA Ward Units, 38 toilets, 38 washing plate-forms and 36 Garbage pits have been constructed by the communities in four out of six districts. The communities have constructed those sanitary units by using their own resources. The details are given below:

Serial no.	Districts	Toilets	Washing plate-forms	Garbage pits	Remarks
1.	Jhapa				
2.	Saptari	3	2	8	1 Temporary latrine
3.	Sarlahi	13	36	28	1 Temporary latrine
4.	Kanchanpur	2			
5.	Dadeldhura	20			
6.	Bhaktapur				
	Total:	38	38	36	

In Dadeldhura district, one of the six districts where the CBFA program is being implemented, relationship with an NGO; namely Community Based Economic Development (CBED) has been developed. Such a cooperation will improve the sustenance of the programme.

According to the strategy of the CBFA programme, it has been scheduled to hand over the programme to the local community by December 2001. With a view to discussing the roles and responsibilities of the sub-branches, CBFA Ward Units and CBFA volunteers after handing over the programme, one-day meetings at various levels of the community were held in all six districts. Members of local Red Cross sub-branches and CBFA ward units along with CBFA volunteers and field staff of the CBFA programme took part in the meeting.

At community level, each community has first aid service activities being provided by the trained CBFA volunteers. Such service activities have been established in 162 wards of all 6 districts. Through the First Aid and disaster preparedness activities, 446 persons of the community benefited during this period. Other details are given below:

Serial no.	District	No. of beneficiaries & services provided by local RC units.					
		First Aid	Health Knowledge	RC Knowledge	Relief Support given to household	Disaster Counseling	Fund Collection -NPR
1.	Jhapa	128	104	12		116	300,00
2.	Saptari	88	55	31	8	109	794,00
3.	Sarlahi	66	47	38	10	46	669,00
4.	Kanchanpur	17	30	13			
5.	Dadeldhura	92	86	20	7	33	
6.	Bhaktapur	55	31	2		47	
	Total	446	353	116	25	351	1,763

During the period, 35 persons were enrolled as RC members in Sarlahi district and one Junior Red Cross circle was formed in Dadeldhura.

Institutional and Resource Development

Capacity Building Programme Goal and Objectives

Goal: To strengthen the Nepal Red Cross through a programme of organisational and managerial development as well as diversified resource mobilisation and human resource development.

The following is a report of progress against the objectives and activities in the original work plan.

Objective 1: *To further strengthen and clarify the governance system and to strengthen the management potential of the society, so as to maximise its human resource mobilisation and management capacities.*

In May NRCS appointed a national Constitutional Reform Committee as a Task Force of 5 members to revise the present Constitution of the Society. In June an initial national Constitution review meeting was held which included members of the Central Executive Committee, District Executive Committees, and key senior staff members from the NHQ. The meeting compared the existing Constitution to the Federation's "Guidance for NS Statutes" and included presentations from the Federation and ICRC representatives. It also took suggestions on the strengths, weaknesses and constraints of the existing Constitution.

A further half-day national consultation was organised to accept further recommendations after the initial meeting. At this meeting CEC members and staff members also agreed a first draft of the proposed revised Constitution. After more suggestions, this draft was circulated in July to all 75 District Branches, Executive members, and departmental managers at NHQ.

The National Human Resource Development section completed the draft of a national "Volunteer and Staff Development Policy", a "Training Policy" and guideline, and a national "Human Resource Development Policy". These draft policies were submitted to the Central Organisational and Manpower Development Committee in August, and next meeting in March will be asked to approve or amend the draft Policies. Prior to the March meeting all heads of departments at NHQ will be consulted for their views and suggestions on the draft policies.

In September the Human Resource Development section also developed the Terms of Reference for a Training Needs Analysis approach for NRCS. The objective of the activity will be to identify the overall training requirements of the volunteers and staff members of the Society. In 2002 the HRD section will develop specific courses to meet the identified needs.

In September the HRD and Women's Development sections developed the curriculum and session plans for a future Gender Training workshop to be held in March 2002. The aim of the workshop is to provide an alternative approach that recognises gender planning as a way of helping a team manage its work more effectively.

The national HRD section has upgraded its training equipment and physical training facilities by purchasing 2 multimedia projectors, a photocopying machine, two overhead projectors, and one desktop computer. The equipment is also bringing income to NRCS by renting it out to other NGOs, and to in-house departments.

Objective 2: *To ensure an optimum contribution of Nepal Junior Red Cross and Red Cross Youth to the promotion of Red Cross humanitarian values and to strengthen their participation in the Red Cross Movement.*

The Junior/Youth Red Cross Department is drafting the Terms of Reference for a consultant to help NRCS evaluate the previous activities and impact of its Junior/Youth Red Cross Development programme. Questions to be addressed include how far the activities under the existing programme have helped Junior/Youth RC members to provide effective and relevant services to vulnerable people; to recommend further effective activities for the future. The evaluation will be completed by February 2002 and will be presented to the national Central Committee of Junior/Youth Red Cross in a national workshop of 60 participants to assist in the revision and adoption of new policies and activities.

The national Central Executive Committee of NRCS has agreed to provide land for the construction of a National Youth Development Resource Centre in Pokhara. The purpose of this centre will be to provide a focal point for the national activities of the Junior/Youth Red Cross, by having training facilities, national youth camps, and workshops to improve the skills, knowledge and capacities of youth members. A technical consultant has been approached to design and estimate the costs of the building. A team from the national Youth Committee visited the proposed location to undertake a feasibility study in September, which concluded with a joint meeting with local Branches, sub-Branched and local government and the population. As a result the CEC has agreed to provide the land.

Part of the national Youth Resource Centre building will also be used for income generation schemes to help make the running of the Centre and other national Youth/Junior Red Cross activities sustainable. The ground floor of the building will be hired out as a shopping complex to generate rental income. This project has already involved the close co-ordination between the Youth/Junior Red Cross department, Finance Department, and the Resource Mobilisation section at the NHQ level. At the local level the District Branches, and particularly the youth, are providing support in agreeing to look after the project area, and by agreeing to supervise the local construction work.

Objective 3: *To strengthen the foundation, capacity and resources of the remote and developing chapters of NRCS.*

Since the beginning of September 4 the Red Cross one-day orientation and three-day management training meetings have been conducted for all the 4 District Branches in this programme. Participants included all the Executive Committee members with 15 members and staff attending each one. The training oriented participants in the RC/RC Movement, and then provided guidance on the effective management of the Branch as part of the overall "Remote and Developing Chapter Development Programme" of NRCS. The training also included a strong understanding of the legal liabilities of each Branch such as the organising of annual General Assemblies, annual audits, and bi-monthly committee meetings with regular reports to the NHQ. The impact of the training has been felt with the Branches reporting on the fulfilment of these liabilities, including those related to delivery of programmes.

The formation of at least 3 school level Junior Red Cross Circles has been completed in each of the above remote Districts, contributing approximately 50 new junior members in each Circle.

In one District the formation of a subchapter has also been completed. It is proposed to have 10 subchapters in each District to increase the geographical coverage of the Branch and to provide more direct and effective services to the community level.

In September each of the 4 new Branches received disaster preparedness stocks to cover the needs of 25 potential families. The materials included clothing. Blankets, cooking utensils, and tarpaulins. Some of the materials have already have been used for landslides which occurred in August/September.

To strengthen the weak infrastructure in remote Branches one telephone set has already been installed, with 3 more being planned. This will improve the communication with remote Branches. Funds have also been used to recruit from July onwards one Office Assistant in each of the 4 District Branches.

Objective 4: *To increase the number of women members in order to increase their participation in the society's organisation, management and activities.*

The Women's Development section of the NHQ sent a questionnaire to all 75 District Branches in August asking how many women members there are in the Executive Committee, general and life membership, as well as how many women are involved in programmes such as disaster preparedness and relief, health, community development etc. The questionnaire also asked whether there is an existing Women Development Committee at District or Sub-district Branch levels, and what the Branch plans are for involving more women in the Executive Committee, conducting training for women in leadership, dissemination programmes, women's empowerment programmes, and income generation.

25 Branches replied and the other Branches are being followed up, with a prize to the 10 best Branches who have the most participation of women in governance, programmes and membership. Although there is no target for increased women members for these Branches, it is hoped that each Branch may increase its women's membership by approximately 5 per cent which will contribute to an increase overall of 2 per cent of new women members at a national level over the next twelve months.

One more staff member has been recruited to the national Women's Development section to improve the administrative support for this programme, and increase the communications with District Branches by attending and assisting with workshops etc.

Objective 5: *To diversify and increase financial resources to meet organisational and programme development needs; organise structured discussions with the government and NGOs on ensuring dependable and regular resources for Red Cross programmes.*

The Resource Development Subcommittee has formed a Task Force which has already visited six Districts with the objective of reviewing the effective and optimal use of existing property and land assets; conducting feasibility studies into further investments; and reporting back to the Committee with suggestions for overall improvement. Some visits are also involving staff from the national HQ Resource Mobilisation and Income Generation section. In order to strengthen this section the motorbike and computer in the budget have also been procured.

Preparations are underway to organise a one-day workshop in October with participation of key members of Central Executive Committee, all members of the Finance and Resource Mobilisation Committee and its Resource Development Subcommittee, and the representatives from the Federation and ICRC. The objectives of the workshop is to review the existing resource development activities at all levels, identify the technical and practical ways of improving resource development, formulate sustainable plans for the resource development programme and identify some guidelines for policy and procedures for the future.

Objective 6: *To further strengthen the NRCS financial management system.*

In order to strengthen the inventory management system in the NRCS NHQ warehouse the computer has been purchased and the software has been installed. The new inventory system has been implemented on a pilot basis and four personnel in the warehouse have been trained. This will enable clearer reports to be made to the Central Executive Committee, donors and the Federation, based on the provision of much quicker management information in times of disaster. Other improvements through this new system will include more specific reports to the auditor, backed up by physical verification systems, as well as having information on the shelf life of stocks in the warehouse to better control quality and replacement.

Letters have been circulated to 25 District Branches advising them of forthcoming training to be conducted and completed by end of January 2002. This is to strengthen account keeping and inventory management at the Branch level. Priority has been given to those Branches who do not have projects directly implemented by the NHQ. These Branches have small projects run by their own internally generated funds, which require stronger accounting and reporting procedures. This is also in preparation for disaster times when it has been found in the past that reporting has not been as quick as required from these Branches.

Objective 7: *To establish a comprehensive information development programme, consisting of a viable publicity and marketing strategy for the NRCS.*

In June the Information section at NHQ recruited an additional Information officer making a total of four personnel in the section, two of who are responsible for ICRC funded tracing and dissemination programmes. This enabled the section to start a quarterly English language Newsletter (to add to the previous Nepali monthly newsletter) targeting audiences such as the donor community, other NGOs, sister National Societies, and some national Governmental offices. NRCS plans to post the newsletter on the NRCS website.

On 10 and 11 September the Information section of the NHQ organised a national level Communications Workshop for the Heads and Information contact officers from 21 units at NHQ. The workshop was jointly facilitated by the Information section, an external resource person, and the Federation's Regional Information Delegate. The objectives of the workshop were to recognise the importance of a well-functioning internal and external communications system as an organisational necessity, to acknowledge the importance of strategic media relations, and to improve the journalistic writing styles.

A follow-up meeting with the Information contact officers was held which agreed that all sections and projects would provide a regular stream of reports to the Information section. The programme staff would also be asked to collect good communications materials for use in NRCS's bulletins and publicity.

On 12 September a national Communications Strategy Workshop was held for 12 senior governance and management members, facilitated by the Regional Information Delegate. The objectives were to formulate a draft NRCS Communications Policy and Strategy. A draft Policy is currently being discussed and will form an important part of NRCS's next Five-Year development Plan which is also being drafted simultaneously. When consultations are completed on draft Policy, it will be submitted to a Central Executive Committee meeting in February 2002. In the meantime the communications strategy will also be drafted and consulted on.

Outstanding needs

The Appeal is covered thanks to excellent response by donors.

For further details please contact: Ewa Eriksson, Phone : 41 22 7304252; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: eriksson@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higiashiura
Head
Asia Pacific Department

Annex-1
Community Based Disaster preparedness Program (CBDP)
The name list of program implemented communities (new districts) 2001

1. Sankhuwasava District:

S.N.	Name of Community	Name of Community Worker
1.	Boharatar	Mr. Dipendra Bohara
2.	Goth gaon Kartike	Mr. Deep Bahadur Rai
3.	Jyamire	Mr. Devendra Adhikari
4.	Hutikhim	Mr. Badri Guragai
5.		Mr. Bharat Bahadur Khadka

2. Bhojpur District:

S.N.	Name of Community	Name of Community Worker
1.	Taksar Community	Mr. Govindaraj Udash
2.	Aamtek Community	Mr. Ramesh Khadka
3.	Chyangre Community	Mr. Tirtha Karki
4.	Bastim Community	Mr. Narayan Karki
5.	Syamshila Community	Mr. Bal Kumar Pandey

3. Khotang District:

S.N.	Name of Community	Name of Community Worker
1.	Arkhaule	Miss. Parmila Shrestha
2.	Mahure Dhaulang	Mr. Suresh Rai
3.	Nirmali danda	Miss. Pratiksha Rai
4.	Diktel, Maticore	Mr. Prem Acharya
5.	Diyale, Dipkharka	Mr. Bishnu Bhakta Rai

4. Syanja District:

S.N.	Name of Community	Name of Community Worker
1.	BhairavDevi, Pauwegauda	Mrs. Sunita Hamal
2.	Janasewa, Thuladihi	Mr. Nirmal Hamal
3.	Bhayaesthan, Bahakot	Mrs. Tulsi Shen
4.	Durgadevi, Putalibazar –2	Mr. Kamal Prasad Parajuli
5.	Birendranager, Putalibazar-1	Mr. Nikola Shrestha

5. Nawalparasi District:

S.N.	Name of Community	Name of Community Worker
1.	Jiwanta, Narayani	Mr. Bhola Ram Mahato
2.	Kohalwa, Nandapur	Mr. Ram Chandra Sharma
3.	Prasaunee	Mr. Kishun Lal Thanait
4.	Khadauna	Mr. Ram Samujha Kurmi
5.	Kujauli, Rajahar	Mr. Bir Bahadur Shrestha

Nepal						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.37/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				03.01.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'052'015		105.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				125'476		
AUSTRALIAN - RC		1'575	AUD	1'422	06.06.2001	
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				68'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				142'296	30.04.2001	DPP
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	17'370	28.02.01	JUNIOR RC
SWEDISH - RC		150'000	SEK	26'055	28.02.01	HEALTH SERVICE PROJECT (FORMER CBFA)
SWEDISH - RC		400'000	SEK	69'480	28.02.01	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'100'000	SEK	186'890	21.05.2001	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	33'980	21.05.2001	JUNIOR RC/RCY
SWEDISH - GOVT		350'000	SEK	59'465	21.05.2001	HEALTH SERVICE PROJECT
SWITZERLAND GVT				380'000	12.07.2001	ID PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'110'434	CHF	105.6%