

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

18 July 2002

*Appeal No. 01.27/2002: Appeal Target : CHF 1,681,005 (USD 1.16m/EUR 1.14m)
Programme Update No. 1: Period covered: 1 January - 30 June 2002*

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 31.1 %

Related Appeals: 01.24/2002/South Asia regional programmes

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,158,218 (USD 799,322/EUR 790,053)

Update: Although the Nepal Red Cross Society has been recognized as the largest humanitarian organization in Nepal, recent challenges faced by the Society over the reporting period, underscore the tremendous need to build its capacities to play an even more prominent role as a neutral and key promoter of humanitarian values. The International Federation and the ICRC urge donors not to delay their support to the Nepal Red Cross programmes for promotion of Humanitarian Values. So far no financial support has been provided for these critically important activities.

Following a local donor meeting held in Kathmandu on June 19, the Nepal Red Cross is working with the ICRC and the Federation on devising a clear strategy and Plan of Action regarding how to address the changing needs of vulnerable communities in regard to the present situation in Nepal. Lack of funding is an obstacle towards carrying out planned activities. The NRCS is presently revising its plan of action and budget based on the changing needs of vulnerable people in the country. The new plans should be available mid August 2002.

Operational Developments:

Following the declaration of *the State of Emergency* on 26 November, 2001, the government of Nepal mobilized the army to curb violence arising from the country's recent internal conflict. Despite government efforts, violent clashes are continuing. In February 2002, the parliament met and during the session gave its consent to the declaration of *the State of Emergency*, and further extended it till May 24, 2002. *The State of Emergency* has most recently been extended until 26 August 2002. A curfew has been imposed in several district headquarters (mostly in the West of Nepal) and movement in general is difficult.

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), despite the conflict situation, has been able to continue carrying out its activities all over the country, although logistical difficulties have caused some delays with the implementation of programmes. Most of the programme delays over the past six months were due to uncontrollable external factors.

NRCS assistance has been widely acclaimed in the national press as well as by all major stakeholders in the country. Although the NRCS has been recognized as the largest humanitarian organization in Nepal, there has never been a greater need to build its capacities to play an even more prominent role as a neutral and key promoter of humanitarian values.

The current situation in the country has proved to be extremely difficult for NRCS, and at times, NRCS had been directly affected. Yet, NRCS has continued to carry out its activities, though, with increased caution exercised by its members, volunteers and staff who have become even more committed and motivated to provide effective and relevant services to the most vulnerable and increasingly conflict-affected communities.

On 19 June, the NRCS convened a multi-donor meeting in Kathmandu in order to discuss its activities in view of the changing situation in the country. The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants representing major stakeholders in Nepal such as the ICRC, Federation, donor community, international organizations, NGO/GOs, government representatives and others. The meeting was chaired by the NRCS Chairman with full participation from the ICRC Head of Delegation and the Federation's Head of South Asia Regional Delegation.

At the meeting's conclusion, it was stated that the current situation in Nepal requires shifting NRCS activities towards assisting those persons affected by the conflict. With regards to the present situation in Nepal and assistance provided by the movement and external donors, the ICRC Head of Delegation in Nepal emphasized that it is an imperative for the NRCS to maintain its neutrality and independence in order to be able to assist those affected by the current conflict in country. The NRCS will review its current objectives, and work together with the ICRC and the Federation on a clear strategy and Plan of Action regarding how to address the present situation in Nepal, and to become more involved in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict. Support is also needed from the donor community which will be presented with a plan of action against new objectives in view of Nepal's developing needs.

At present, NRCS is undergoing the process of drafting and finalizing its fourth development plan which will lead to the development of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) through a participatory process with all stakeholders.

Disaster Response

Objective 1: To conduct a hazard and vulnerability assessment in one district and the pilot installation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) at national headquarters to prepare vulnerability maps.

- In June 2002, the NRCS completed the procurement and installation of the Geographic Information System (GIS) at its headquarters in Kathmandu enabling NRCS to prepare better preparedness plans by using geographical mapping of resources and vulnerabilities.
- Training of one staff member on GIS has been carried out in India (ESRI).
- Activities related to preparations of a hazard and vulnerability map are underway, and its completion is expected by November 2002.

Due to lack of funding several other activities under this objective could not be achieved.

Objective 2: To continue the Community Based Disaster Preparedness Programme (CDBP) in nine districts (Banke, Bardiya, Syanja, Nawalparasi, Sunsari, Morang, Bhojpur, Sankhuwarsabha and Khotang) and expand the programme to one new district by the end of 2002.

Through the DFID supported CDBP, the NRCS successfully completed the following activities during the reporting period:

- On 30-31 December 2001 and 27-28 June 2002, a CDBP orientation programme for new district chapters' staff and volunteers was organised. A total of 40 people from ten districts and national headquarters participated.
- From February to April 2002, the selection of 55 communities and 55 community workers, who have also received an orientation for Disaster Preparedness committees, was completed.
- NRCS organised CDBP Training of Trainers (ToT) training for community workers from all of the selected 55 communities. The training was carried out from 23 January to 1 February.
- Two community level trainings on disaster management and first aid were organised for 2000 participants on two occasions (between Jan -May 2002).
- Hazard and vulnerability mapping for all 55 selected communities was completed during the period from January to April. The information collected is being used to plan effective preparedness measures and identify training needs of the local communities in disaster response.

- During the reporting period, community level disaster preparedness (DP) plans were completed in some communities, and it is still ongoing in the rest of the identified communities.
- Implementation of small mitigation/DP activities (construction of dyke, revetment, dry wall, plantation etc.) has been completed in 21 communities. The activity is still ongoing in the remaining communities in coordination with other agencies.
- Revolving funds have been created in 25 communities. The funds enable immediate relief and rescue services in communities by strengthening their capacities. Ultimately resulting in lessening property loss and the loss of human lives. Relief items are yet to be procured. The activity is ongoing in the remaining communities.
- Two half-yearly review meetings were organised with the participation of 43 people.
- NRCS continues to carry out its regular monitoring and supervision activities from the national headquarters and district chapter level.

Of note is that the percentage of female participants, in various trainings, has significantly increased in comparison to last year. A total of 280 women (out of 662 participants) from five districts of Khotang, Sankhuwasabha, Nawalparasi, Syanja and Bhojur have participated in the Basic Disaster Management training, CBFA training and Community Management training carried out from January to May 2002.

Objective 3: To improve the disaster response capacity of NRCS at national and district level.

- Not much progress towards this objective was made due to a shortage of funding.

Objective 4: To advocate for earthquake preparedness in Katmandu Valley and share NRC knowledge and experience in disaster management within and outside Nepal.

- Publication of flip charts on earthquake preparedness (IEC materials) was completed in May 2002. A total of 1000 copies were published.
- Two copies of the case study on the NRCS's learning in disaster management were prepared.

No further progress towards this objective was achieved due to a shortage of funds.

Objective 5: To coordinate and advocate initiatives for the Bhutanese refugees in coordination with other humanitarian agencies.

- Procurement and distribution of 15,241 sets of utensils among the camp refugees in Jhapa and Morang districts was completed on 19 March.
- The process of identifying the most vulnerable target group is ongoing. To date, 2,708 beneficiaries have been identified.

Humanitarian Values and Information

Donors are requested to provide more support, in particular, for the critically important area of "Humanitarian Values." The following progress was made by mid-year despite the lack of funding.

Objective 1: To develop knowledge on best practice in promoting the Fundamental Principles and combating discrimination.

- No progress towards this objective was made due to lack of funding.

Objective 2: To develop the methodology and tools to promote the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values amongst internal and external stakeholders.

- In April 2002, the NRCS Information section organised a national level Communications Workshop for NRCS personnel from 20 district chapters. The workshop was jointly facilitated by the Information section, an external resource person, the Federation's Regional Information Officer and the ICRC Information Delegate. The ICRC contributes to the cost of the Dissemination officers in the Information Unit and to their integrated programme work. The follow up to the workshops has been evident in a measurable increase in the flow of internal and external information. Among the achievements were: increased coverage in local papers, commitments from seven District Chapters to initiate their own Information Bulletins, and sending 150 photographs to the national information section showing chapter level activities.
- The communicators' guide is being translated into Nepali language.

- Two computers, one digital camera, a video camera and one mini recorded have been purchased.
- Two rooms at the national headquarters have been constructed for vertical camera and for plate design.

Following the National Communications Strategy Workshop, which was held for 12 senior governance and management members and facilitated by the Federation's Regional information delegate in September 2001, a core group comprised of the Secretary General, Executive Director, and departmental heads finalised the draft NRCS Communications Policy and strategy. The draft policy will be submitted for discussion and decision to the Central Executive Committee (CEC) in August 2002, and will also form an important part of NRCS's next Five Year development Plan.

Once again, due to very limited funds no further progress has been achieved.

Objective 3: To develop strategic links with the national media to increase visibility of NRCS and the Red Cross/RedCrescent Movement.

- A good link with the media has been established.
- 25 press releases were issued during the first six months in 2002.
- The coverage of NRCS activities has risen by about 50% in the national media.
- NRCS news stories have been featured in the Federation web site.
- Two NRCS officers are presently attending web design training in Kathmandu.
- Two NRCS officers from the information and tracing section attended a week long study visit to the Regional delegation office in New Delhi.

The monthly Nepali newsletter has also helped NRCS to increase publicity for its community level work, and District Chapters have used it successfully to increase coverage of NRCS activities in their local newspapers. On average 15-20 Chapters are sending news for each monthly edition, and following World Red Cross Day on 8 May nearly all the Chapters have sent in articles. Chapters have also given feedback that it has vastly increased the knowledge sharing within the Society as well.

Health and Care

Objective 1: To further develop a national strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention, enhance care and support services and develop a planning, monitoring, evaluation and transference (PMET) system.

- A Strategy Review and Monitoring System development workshop was conducted on March 25th and 26th. As a result, a draft form of the National Strategy has been prepared in line with the Country Strategy.
- Monitoring tools have been also developed and an orientation has been provided to project staff in six districts. The technical support for this activity has been provided by recognized professionals in this sector including the Swiss Red Cross. The activity is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Nepal, which is one of the partners of NRCS in AIDS intervention. The HIV/AIDS prevention programme will continue to orient staff and volunteers in other project districts (bilaterally supported by the Swiss and Norwegian Red Cross Societies).
- NRCS has been actively involved with the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC) through a network kind of relation between the NRCS Blood test service where the NCASC focused on confirmation tests and counselling. The cooperation continues at all levels.

No funds were provided in support of Objectives 2,3 and 4:

- **Objective 2: To increase people's level of awareness on health issues and to build sustainable awareness levels of health promotion at the community level.**
- **Objective 3: To build the capacity of ten district chapters per year to promote health education and awareness activities.**
- **Objective 4: To promote positive health behaviour for health care in the community and collaborate with Government and other health care institutions to maximize such campaigns.**

Objective 5: To strengthen communities' ability to deal with health problems, including day-to-day injuries and preparing for disaster, by expanding the Community Based First Aid (CBFA) training at district levels.

The following activities were carried out over the reporting period:

- An 11-day CBFA Training of Trainers (ToT) at district committee level was carried out from 20-30 May 2002, in Jhapa. Twenty three participants from three districts: Jhapa, Saptary and Sarlahi were trained.

- During the second week of June, a five day CBFA volunteers elementary training was carried out in the same three districts.
- Ten Red Cross sub-branches have been formed in Duwaghadhi of Jhapa, Nakai Raipur of Saptari and Khairwa of Sarlahi.
- An orientation workshop covering the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the CBFA programme was held in the newly formed sub-branches.

Community Development Project (CDP)

The NRCS has been implementing the Community Development Project (CDP) in nine districts of Okhaldhunga (eastern region), Sindhupalchok and Dhading (central region), Gorkha and Myagdi (western region), Dang (mid-western region) and Baitadi and Achham (far western region) with mostly bilateral support from the Swedish, Danish, Belgian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies.

Objective 1: To improve the health conditions of vulnerable communities, and reduce mortality and morbidity rates.

The following activities have been achieved during the reporting period. All these activities were directed towards the female population.

- 16 health volunteers were trained in Myagdi district. Some 807 persons were assisted by the volunteers.
- 15 Traditional Healers (TH) trained in Dhading district. Some 304 persons have been assisted by the THs.
- 16 CBFA volunteers trained in Rasuwa districts. Some 1002 persons have benefited from this activity.
- 44 toilets constructed in Myagdi, Rasuwa and Baitadi districts assisting 308 beneficiaries.
- 50 improved cooking stoves constructed in Dhading, Myagdi, Baitadi and Achham districts assisting 300 beneficiaries.
- 45 washing platforms constructed assisting 270 beneficiaries.

Objective 2: To raise awareness of the health situation within communities, focusing on women.

- Three facilitator trainings for literacy classes have been conducted with ten participants in Baitadi, Rasuwa and Dhading districts.
- Five adult literacy classes started with 88 persons in Myagdi, Gorkha and Rasuwa districts. No adult literacy has been achieved in Baitadi district due to the current conflict situation. Activity in Baitadi has been postponed until better conditions are established for the implementation.
- Five post-literacy classes are ongoing with 86 participants in Sindhupalchok and Myagdi districts. (50% female).
- Three child literacy classes have been conducted with a total of 62 participants.

Objective 3: To promote self-help groups and community organizations for mutual welfare and empowerment.

- One self-help education training has been carried out in Myagdi district for 22 persons. (11 male and 11 female).
- Two sewing and cutting training sessions were carried out in Myagdi and Gorkha for 30 female participants.

Objective 4: To strengthen the capacity of the NRCS at all levels.

- Two local committee meetings have been conducted with a total of 65 participants in Myagdi and Achham districts.

The planned activities for Okhaldhunga and Dang districts were not initiated during the first half of 2002 due to uncertainty regarding approval of the project and budget. The approval of the budget was granted in June 2002, and the implementation of the project is planned to start in July 2002.

The majority of project activities are being carried out, although, not according to the time frame originally envisioned in the Plan of Action, due to the current prevailing situation in the country.

Organizational Development

Objective 1: To strengthen and improve the governance system and the management potential of the NRCS, so as to maximize its human resource mobilisation and management capacities.

- To complete the internal consultation and revision of the Constitution of the Society a national workshop was organised in January comprising 53 participants from the special Constitution Revision Task Force's Central Executive Committee (CEC) to agree on a further draft for circulation. This meeting strengthened the roles of governance and management, revised and simplified categories of membership, agreed upon formal recognition of subchapter level structures, and introduced a Code of Conduct for members. This Code of Conduct will be further strengthened as a part of the Society's new "Volunteer Management Policy" which will be presented to the CEC for adoption in August 2002.

The draft was discussed at four regional review workshops held between January and April, to enable the Constitutional Revision Task Force to collect feedback, and present this with recommendations through the Central Executive Committee to the General Assembly in early May where the new Constitution was finally approved. After submitting the document to the Joint Federation/ICRC Commission on Statutes Revision in Geneva, one thousand copies were printed and circulated to all levels.

- In May, two national workshops were held to orient governance and management into new roles, clarify the new responsibilities of the CEC and six sub-committees in policy development, and set out the election processes and mechanisms for setting up sub-chapters at community level.
- All regional programmes, District Assemblies, and subchapter level workshops will now include orientation regarding the new Constitution, as a precursor to the full election cycle which will be initiated by the CEC in August and culminate in the next General Assembly in April 2003. All five forthcoming regular regional meetings attended by CEC Chairperson, National Committee Chairpersons, 9-11 regional Coordination Committee members, and two members from each District Chapter will also include a compulsory one day orientation into the provisions of the new Constitution.
- The impacts of this Constitutional revision process have been: improved democratic authority of the CEC for monitoring the Society's overall programmes and policy development; recognition that the roles of the six policy sub-committees at national level need streamlining vis-a-vis the CEC's roles; the establishment of a new Finance Committee, which advises the CEC on accountable finance systems and reports to the General Assembly on financial planning and monitoring integrity issues; revision of election rules for approval by the CEC prior to the next round of elections at all levels; and, strengthening of the management organogram to better align the policy committees with management implementation structures in the Society.
- In the Human Resource Development (HRD) programme, the Organisational and Manpower Development Committee agreed in principle that there is a need for new policies in "Human Resource Development", "Volunteer and Staff Development", and "Training" at its meeting in March. With final amendments these policies are expected to be adopted at its next meeting on 30 July. After the adoption is completed, orientation and training programmes are planned for all departmental heads and Central Committee members on how these policies are to be implemented.
- In a new initiative, the NRCS has also drafted a "Volunteer Management Policy" following its participation in the Federation's South Asia regional workshop on HRD in December 2001. This innovative policy will propose a new Volunteer Unit at national headquarters level to strengthen the performance appraisal process, and support for all volunteers. It will also help to develop a more trained and committed volunteer base, with proper reward and recognition systems in keeping with the Federation's "Volunteer Policy" standards. The NRCS's new Code of Conduct in the revised Constitution for members and volunteers will be linked to this initiative.
- 250 Training Needs Analysis (TNA) questionnaires were sent out to key volunteers in District Chapters, as well as to Chapter Secretaries and staff in May. Fifty percent have already been returned. Processing the information will be completed by the end of June and with the adoption of the new HR policies, departmental heads and District Chapters will be trained in using the TNA records to build specific skills needed for key volunteers and staff, in a more systematic manner at all levels.

- Two innovative “Planning Together” workshops were held for a total of 34 participants in March to emphasise the involvement of women and gender sensitivity as integrated aspects of programme planning (e.g. integrating women membership drives in all District Chapter programmes etc.). The training was very well received and District Chapter representatives stated that they would integrate the tools they learned about into future District level annual planning exercises and train others in the same process.
- Two “Strategic Planning and Management” workshops for District Secretaries from 42 Chapters were completed in March and April, building skills in strategic planning, effective team building, programme implementation and monitoring, and sustainability planning within programmes. The impact will be measured when the next District level plans are developed later in 2002.
- The national HRD section has upgraded its training equipment and physical training facilities by completing the regional training centre building in Banepa and opening it in May with the national level workshop on governance and management. The 24 bed residential training facility has already been used to conduct three training programmes, and it will soon be advertised for hire to other organisations to increase the income and make it self-sustaining. The ICRC have been approached to support a further extension of another 30 bed facility and conference hall to offer expanded facilities.

Objective 2: To strengthen and expand the Junior Red Cross (JRC)/Red Cross Youth (RCY) and develop their leadership skills. To motivate and involve young people in the humanitarian services of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

During the reporting period the following activities were conducted:

- Host districts have been selected for Youth leadership development.
- Annual national seminar was organised in Pokhara in April 2002.
- Host districts have been selected for the national competition in creative arts (i.e. Poems and essays, projects, artwork).
- Implementing district chapter for establishment of First Aid training has been decided.
- Reforestation and environmental activities in ten youth circles are ongoing.
- Support to 20 JRC circles for establishment of book banks for poor students is underway.
- The company contracted to perform evaluation and monitoring tools development has completed the field research and submitted initial draft of findings. At this stage, a final draft has been submitted with one-week extension granted for refinements.
- Work has commenced on youth resource centre and income generation building activities.
- District level seminars have been carried out in June and will continue in the second half of the year.
- Volunteer exchange visits at national and international level program from 2001 will be merged with the 2002 program and expected to proceed in July-August.
- A 3-day national level policy seminar for youth leaders and members to review the youth policy and programmes and make recommendations for improvements is being carried out from 30 June to 2nd July. More than 30 districts are being represented.

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

Despite the difficulties that NRCS is facing, with regards to access to remote and developing chapters, the following activities have been carried out during the reporting period:

Increase the managerial capacity of the chapter

- One day NRCS orientation for DEC members/staff has been carried out four times.
- Eight district chapter offices have been operating on a regular basis.
- In eight districts the liability of the chapters has been accessed and fulfilled.

Membership drives and Organizational Development

- Eight membership drives have been conducted through committee formations. Within the full 12 months programme (one year program - June 01 -June 2002), 3377 new Junior members were enrolled against the target of 1200, 220 life members were enrolled against the target of 80, and 420 ordinary members were enrolled against a target of 320.
- 43 Junior RC circles have been formed in 8 District Chapters (DC).
- Cooperative committees have been formed in 8 DCs in support to wider subchapter development by conducting targeted dissemination into the RC principles etc.

- 13 subchapters have been formed against the target of eight.

Fund raising programs

- Fund raising training has been incorporated into the four day training programmes in the 4 new Districts and as a result all eight Districts have submitted proposals according to a uniform format with suggested target groups and income generating programmes. The proposals include Medi-banks, vegetable farming, sale of RC souvenirs. The NHQ department has approved some proposals and sought clarification on others based on feedback given.

Support to the chapter for service activities

- Disaster relief material support was provided to 904 families in all eight DCs. Some of materials have been mobilized locally and others supplemented by the national warehouse.
- Health camp and sanitation campaigns have been carried out. Free eye camps have benefited 355 people, free dental clinics have reached 74 people and ENT (Eye Nose and Throat) camps have benefited 200 people.
- Stretcher services in support to first aid and relief programmes have been provided to remote communities who have no road access or vehicle services.

Workshop and training courses

- Management and Resource mobilisation training courses were organised in four new DCs.
- A review through questionnaire is being carried out in four old DCs.

Provide basic office equipment

- Furniture has been provided for four new DCs.
- Installation of telephone set is also completed.
- Printing of financial and administrative rules and other formats has been completed for 8 DCs.
- Recruitment of personnel has been finalized in four new DCs.
- Purchase of office stationary/equipment and administrative support has been provided to all 8 DCs.

Objective 4: To increase women's membership and encourage women to increase participation in NRCS organization, management and activities.

- More than ten membership drives have been carried out for women in six districts. Total of 148 participants.
- Three income generation programmes introduced in districts of Morang and Kanchnpur for 85 participants.
- Two gender sensitization regional training workshops were carried out in Kailali and Banke districts for 42 participants. During the last week of June, the same workshop was been carried out in Kathmandu involving 19 district branches.
- A computer has been purchased for the Women Development Programme in national headquarters.
- Three prize distributions have been organised to three districts branches out of 75, where women in NRCS are more involved in NRCS activities and membership drives.

In order to strengthen the gains made in this programme, plans are already being developed for the next phase to undertake new initiatives in four remote areas, to continue the membership drive activities in new Chapters, and to select perhaps two women from each of the 75 District Chapters for leadership training in four regional training workshop in 2003. It is hoped to consolidate the momentum and demonstrated impact of the new women members by enabling them to play more effective roles in governance and management of the Society in the years to come.

The head of the Women's development section successfully availed of the Federation's global Gender Scholarship programme and attended the Women and Gender Development training held from 18th - 28th February in Thailand. This enabled her to learn of new tools which she has integrated into the ongoing training for NRCS volunteers and staff.

Objective 5: To further strengthen the NRCS financial management system.

- The new computerised Inventory Management System in the NHQ warehouse has been fully established. The system has generated reports against specific donor codes showing equipment and materials released for emergencies during early 2002, such as regular relief supplies to Internally Displaced People. These reports have been shared with the CEC and have improved the ability to satisfy donors that their supplies

are being despatched. The system will feed directly into the new donor audit that is just being initiated for the last financial year.

- The larger computer server which had been procured in late 2001 to strengthen the effective use of the existing Federation SCALA accounting package has enabled the Finance department to save approximately 30% of time in processing end-of-month financial information. It has also improved speedy and accurate reporting to management and governance (eg the CEC) to enable more effective decision making. However, the NRCS still cannot consolidate all financial information from Chapters and NHQ into a single consolidated account against minimum standards and discussions are being initiated at CEC level to move towards adopting uniform accounting and auditing systems to be able to generate consolidated financial information in future.
- Following the CEC's adoption of the new NRCS Internal Audit Manual in November, 150 copies have been circulated and a one day orientation workshop was held in June for 35 participants who included senior management, departmental heads, Committee Chairpersons, Secretary general, Chairman, and members of the Finance and Resource Development Committee. The workshop was followed by another two day orientation for 37 participants who included all the finance and accounts personnel from national headquarters departments and regional warehouse personnel. Both workshops achieved their objective of familiarising participants with the new Internal Audit procedures and requirements, the use of uniform preparation and accounting procedures, the responsibilities of all programme managers, and the role of the Internal Audit department.
- Training has also been conducted in March and May for a total of 49 personnel from 40 District Chapters for 5 days. Priority has been given to Districts which are not implementing national headquarters programmes, as these are more likely to have developed their own financial management systems which need to be developed further. Another 20 Districts are to be trained in September. Although it is too early to measure the impact in new financial reports to the national headquarters, there has been a considerable increase in queries from District Chapters who want to follow the financial procedures more properly. The Finance Department is recommending the development of uniform rules and procedures to be followed by all Branches. In the meantime it has also been agreed that the Internal Audit department will recommend for external audit any Chapter whose expenditure exceeds an agreed upon ceiling.
- Chapters who received the training will be monitored for the regularity and format of their financial reporting, and the effective use of the inventory system which should finally allow a national fixed assets register of all the Society's assets to be consolidated. It has been recommended by the consultant who drafted the Internal Audit manual that the Internal Audit personnel be expanded from 2 to 5 persons. This will be presented to the CEC for discussion.

Objective 6: To enhance the resource development capacities of NRCS headquarters and enhance skills and knowledge of the NRCS's volunteers and staff members.

- The Task Force created by the Finance and Resource Development Sub-committee completed its visits to eight Districts with the objective of reviewing the effective and optimal use of existing property and land assets. They provided guidance to targeted Chapters on optimal use of land and assets, and produced a consolidated list of all land and property assets owned on freehold or leasehold basis by NRCS across the country. This list was recently discussed with the Prime Minister in the hopes that the land titles and freeholds of the properties currently in government ownership can be transferred to the NRCS. A reply is awaited.

Recommendations have also been made by the Task Force to the NRCS Marketing Unit to produce a diversified range of goods for sale as internal recharges (eg Red Cross badges, stationery, pens etc.) and to external groups. Other income generating options are being actively considered including NRCS running training courses for external organisations for fees raising.

- As follow up to two earlier funding training workshops in October and November, some Chapters have increased the diversity of their resource mobilisation activities. One Chapter encouraged its life members to contribute to a deposit fund and raised 600,000 rupees. Another has started a handicrafts income generation scheme. The report from the November training workshop will be edited before it is circulated. The South Asia Fund raising Group as external facilitators showed many possibilities of diverse fund

collection. First, however, NRCS needs to complete its draft national “Resource Development” policy at a review workshop to be conducted in late July.

Objective 7: To strengthen the capacity, foundation and resources of the subchapters for sustainability.

During the reporting period, due to lack of external funding, using internal resources very limited activities have been achieved .

- 18 District Chapters have completed district level subchapter seminar.
- 30 branches participated at the first national level subchapter seminar organised in Mahadevsthan, Kabre.
- The second seminar planed for 10-11 July 2002 will be hosted by Tanahun District Branch at Damauli. 64 District Chapters are expected to participate.
- Printing of 200 copies of Subchapter seminar report.

NRCS is still seeking funds in support so Subchapter Empowerment Program (SEP).

Outstanding needs

Slow donor response and the prolonged *State of Emergency* in the country has necessitated NRCS programme adjustments, and a scaling down of activities. Considering the current situation in the country, one vital core area of Strategy 2010 in particular, the Promotion of Humanitarian Values requires substantial additional financial support. Funding also is needed for a more extensive HIV/AIDS programme, disaster response and health capacity building programmes. NRCS has also experienced delayed delivery of funds which also required readjustments in the plan of actions for the second half of this year.

As mentioned earlier in the report, on 19 June 2002, the Nepal Red Cross Society convened a multi-donor meeting in Kathmandu in order to discuss its activities in view of the changing situation in the country. During the meeting it was stated that the current situation in Nepal clearly requires reorientation of the Nepal Red Cross Society’s activities towards victims of the conflict. The NRCS will review its objectives and work together with ICRC and Federation on developing a clear strategy and Plan of Action on how to tackle the present situation in the country, and to get more involved in providing humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict. Support is needed from the donor community in order to provide necessary assistance to the affected population.

NRCS is presently collecting all necessary information from its district chapters, and consequently revising its budget and plan of actions. In normal circumstances, it would take at least a month to collect the information and with the present conflict situation and some restrictions in movement it could be expected that it might take longer than anticipated. It is anticipated that the new plan of action and budget would be available by mid August 2002.

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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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Nepal						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.27/2002				PLEDGES RECEIVED		17.07.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'681'005		31.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				158'227		
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	16'120	30.04.2002	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	16'120	30.04.2002	ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	16'120	30.04.2002	CBFA WITHIN HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'400'000	SEK	221'340	30.05.2002	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	31'620	30.05.2002	RC YOUTH/JUNIOR
SWEDISH - GOVT		400'000	SEK	63'240	30.05.2002	CBFA
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				522'787	CHF	31.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%