

# 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

Date 19 December 2003

**Appeal No. 01.55/2003**

**Appeal Target:** CHF 2,248,507

**Programme Update No. 2**

**Period covered:** June to November, 2003

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.*

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### **In Brief**

**Appeal coverage:** 34%; See attached Contributions List for details.

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 1,492,380

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Floods and Landslides 01.23/2002; South Asia Regional Programmes 01.58/2003

**Programme Summary:** During the reporting period, the Nepal Red Cross has provided humanitarian assistance to those affected by the continuing armed conflict and to victims of floods and landslides during the 2003 monsoon season. The various community-based programmes have continued implementation according to plans and funding levels. The community development programme, the community-based first aid and the community-based disaster preparedness programme have increased the capacity of communities to respond to health risks and to natural disasters. During this year's flooding, communities, sub-branches and branches were able to respond quickly and effectively.

The breakdown of the 7-monthlong cease-fire in August has affected programme implementation to some extent. Support and monitoring visits to branches from headquarters had to be adjusted according to the security situation in some districts. However, it has been possible to implement many of the seminars and training workshops as planned within the various programmes.

The national society is taking up the challenge to adapt its programme activities and support its staff and volunteers to work in the conflict situation. Special seminars are being held for branches to strengthen their knowledge and practical understanding of international humanitarian law, the Movement's principles, security issues and management principles during the conflict situation. ICRC is supporting the society to develop emergency first aid activities in specially affected branches as well as supporting persons displaced by the conflict.

The Nepal Red Cross has finalised and published its fourth development plan covering a five-year period. Based on this plan, the society has initiated a cooperation agreement strategy process (CAS). The first step has been to ensure involvement from and ownership by branch, headquarters and governance levels of the society by learning from experiences of the past and formulating future strategies for cooperation and coordination. From early next year partners will be approached and involved in the process.

The newly appointed Federation representative began her mission in November. Her main tasks will be to support the national society in its coordination and donor liaison as well as in positioning itself within the new conflict

environment by working closely with the ICRC delegation in Nepal.

The low level of appeal funding has restricted the ambitions of the Nepal Red Cross especially in the areas of water and sanitation, and humanitarian values activities. In addition, the organisational development programme has not been able to implement many of its planned activities in areas such as finance management and gender awareness.

The Nepal Red Cross extends its thanks to the Swedish Red Cross and Swedish government, the Australian Red Cross, the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the OPEC fund, who are all major partners supporting the society through the Federation appeal. The national society would also like to thank all the bilateral partners who are supporting it to meet various objectives within the development plan. The major bilateral partners are the Japanese Red Cross Society, Belgian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, ICRC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), GTZ and UNICEF Nepal.

## Operational developments

The cease-fire which commenced in January collapsed in August following an unsuccessful third round of peace talks. Most of the districts are now affected by the conflict. However, there has not been a repeat of the large-scale armed encounters between the parties as in 2002. There have instead been a regular series of small conflicts. Reports of the death toll since the end of the ceasefire range between 900 and 1400. There are daily reports in the local media of killings and abductions of citizens. There are no immediate signs of a resolution between the parties. Various foreign embassies and some governmental donor agencies have urged the parties to resume negotiations. The political situation is fluid as major political parties are impatient for parliament, which was dissolved last year, to be restored. Due to the nature of the conflict, people in rural areas are the most affected and the number of internally displaced persons continues to increase. Exact numbers of internally displaced persons are hard to establish due to the regular seasonal migration of workers.

The Nepal Red Cross is known as a neutral organisation among the general public. At this time it is essential for the society to continue to be respected by both parties of the conflict and ensure its position as a neutral and impartial institution at the community level. Refresher training of staff and volunteers from the branches is taking place with regards to the Movement's principles, international humanitarian law, tracing as well as other aspects of working in a conflict environment. Special programmes, such as emergency first aid and support to internally displaced persons, have been established to meet the new situation. With the close cooperation of the ICRC, the Nepal Red Cross is refocusing its strategy and programmes to adapt them to the conflict environment.

The 2003 monsoon was less intense than last year. However, 300 people died due to flooding and more than 10,000 families were affected by natural disasters in various parts of the country. The Nepal Red Cross supported the flood and landslide victims from its internally mobilised resources. Altogether the society distributed family relief packages to 4,318 needy families from its relief stocks. More disaster victims were supported directly by local branches that used their own resources and raised funds locally.

## 1. Health and care programme

**Overall goal:** To improve the health status of communities and reduce their vulnerability.

**Programme objective:** To enhance the capacity of all levels of the Nepal Red Cross Society so as to empower communities and to promote positive behavior for improved health.

**Community development project objective:** To develop the capacity of the most vulnerable people, living in situations where their socio-economic security and dignity are constantly threatened.

### Expected results under this objective:

- Infant/child and maternal mortality rates are reduced by 70 per cent through the initiation of health related activities.
- Waterborne diseases and epidemics are reduced by 60 per cent as a result of the provision of safe drinking water, latrine construction and improved cooking stoves to 90 per cent of the people in the project area.

- The literacy rate is increased by 90 per cent out of the 75 per cent of people involved in other activities of community development, and partnerships with relevant organisations are established.
- Availability of food for an additional two months is secured for 30 per cent out of 50 per cent of the population involved in self-help groups through links with relevant organisations.
- The quality of service provided by Red Cross district chapters and sub-chapters is improved and the number of beneficiaries increases by 50 per cent.

### **Progress/achievements**

The general objective of the community development programme is to improve the situation of the most vulnerable communities, families and individuals; to strengthen them to enjoy fuller and more productive lives and become less vulnerable to disasters. The Nepal Red Cross Society has been implementing community development projects in nine districts of the country. In addition to the Federation coordinated partnerships, bilateral partner national societies are also supporting these projects - the Swedish Red Cross through the Federation coordinated annual appeal as well as bilaterally, while the Norwegian, Danish, and Belgian Red Cross are providing bilateral support.

#### Health related activities:

- 18 traditional healers have been trained in Rasuwa district. Altogether 42 traditional healers have provided services to 219 persons in Baitadi, Rasuwa and Dang districts.
- 35 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) have been trained in Rasuwa and Baitadi districts. Altogether 64 TBAs have assisted 267 persons in Rasuwa, Baitadi and Dang districts.
- 61 community-based first aid volunteers have provided services to 733 persons in Baitadi, Rasuwa and Dang.
- 82 toilets were constructed in Rasuwa, Dang and Baitadi districts and 557 persons benefitted.
- 12 improved cooking stoves were constructed in Rasuwa district and 108 persons benefitted.
- 92 washing platforms were constructed in Rasuwa and Dang districts and 624 persons benefitted.
- 20 persons were trained in kitchen gardening in Dang and Rasuwa districts and 167 kitchen gardens were established in Baitadi and Dang districts.
- One AIDS awareness workshop was conducted with 30 persons in Baitadi.
- One drinkingwateruserscommittee workshop was conducted in Baitadi district. One drinking water renovation and four well constructions were completed in Rasuwa and Dang districts respectively.

#### Non-formal education activities:

- One facilitator training was conducted in Rasuwa district with five participants.
- Seven adult literacy classes are ongoing providing education for 138 persons in Rasuwa, Dang and Baitadi districts.
- Three child literacy classes are ongoing in Dang districts for 79 people.
- Two post literacy classes are ongoing in Rasuwa district for 43 people.

#### Self-help activities:

- Three self-help education training courses were conducted in Baitadi and Rasuwa districts with 69 participants.
- Two skills development training courses on topics such as animal husbandry and carpet weaving were conducted in Rasuwa and Baitadi districts with 65 participants.
- Self-help groups in Baitadi have saved NRs. 18,641 (approx. CHF 320) and invested NRs. 93,161 (approx. CHF 1,600).

#### Institutional development activities:

- One district chapter and sub-chapter seminar conducted with 27 participants in Rasuwa district.
- One Red Cross dissemination workshop conducted with 58 participants in Rasuwa district.
- One Junior Red Cross seminar was conducted with 29 circles in Dang district.
- Income generating activities resulted in NRs. 93,459 (approx. CHF 1,600) of revenue.

**Impact**

The incidence of waterborne diseases and conditions such as diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera has continued to decrease after implementation of the health related project activities in the project areas. There is also continued improvement in personal hygiene habits and environmental sanitation among people in targetted communities. Reduced infant mortality has been observed and this positive impact is expected to continue.

The status of women has been enhanced by the literacy and the skills development training programmes.

The long-term impacts of the various components of the community development projects have yet to occur or become visible and measurable. Projects are at various stages of one to two years within a five-year programme cycle. Increased efforts will be made during the coming planning cycle to identify indicators to measure progress. This will be done in cooperation with the involved communities.

Institutional development continues to bear results with increased ownership of activities down to community level. Volunteers and staff managing to accomplish most planned activities despite the deteriorating security situation have evidenced this.

**Constraints**

Some planned activities and training have been postponed until December 2003 and the first quarter of 2004 due to time constraints and unavailability of appropriate facilitators. The deteriorating security situation has made it difficult to conduct large gatherings, meetings and workshops in some of the project areas. It is also difficult to continue regular supervision and monitoring in the project areas.

**Drinking water and sanitation project objective:** To contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality in nine selected village development communities (VDCs) of six districts in Nepal.

**Expected results under this objective are:**

- A total of 50 per cent of the people in the VDC programme are made aware of personal, domestic and environmental sanitation.
- A total of 50 per cent of the households in the hills and 20 per cent in the Terai have constructed latrines and washing platforms.
- A total of 50 per cent of the households in the VDC programme are supported in getting safe drinking water.
- A total of 1,500 people (community, volunteers and staff) receive different training.
- A total of 69 management committees and 120 savings and credit groups are formed and strengthened.
- A total of 1,500 members from the management committees and savings and credit groups are literate.
- Six district chapters and nine sub-chapters are strengthened in order to sustain the programme.

**Progress/achievements**

This project has not been funded through the annual appeal. The Japanese Red Cross had previously supported the programme bilaterally but this was phased out during the reporting period. The Nepal Red Cross has built up considerable experience in this sector and this expertise will be shared with other national societies and organisations in Nepal and abroad.

**Constraints**

No funding through the annual appeal.

**Junior Red Cross drinking water supply (as a part of the above project) project objective:** To improve the health condition of the children, their families and the communities.

**Expected Results under this objective:**

- School children develop the habit of washing their hands with soap or washing after defecation and before eating.
- A child-to-child learning environment about hygiene and sanitary behavior is developed.
- Youth leaders' capacity in planning and organising of the circle is strengthened.

- Schools and nearby communities will install and improve their sanitary units (i.e. toilet, drainage, soak-pit, garbage-pit, etc.)
- Female students and community women will have increased participation in decision making in relation to hygiene and environmental sanitation activities.
- Schools and nearby communities will become familiar with international humanitarian law.
- The performance of the Junior Red Cross and the Red Cross Youth will be efficient and effective.

### **Progress/achievements**

This project has not been funded through the annual appeal. Through a bilateral partnership with the Japanese Red Cross and the UNICEF office in Nepal, the Junior Red Cross has been able to partly meet the above objectives. Four earlier drinking water schemes were renovated and a follow-up workshop regarding water and sanitation for 20 participants involved in the project was conducted. A 'training of trainers' for School Health and Sanitation with 31 new trainers was completed. The project will continue, with some revisions, on a bilateral basis next year. The new Plan of Operation and Action Plan have been completed

### **Constraints**

No funding through the annual appeal.

**Drinking water quality improvement (arsenic mitigation) p objective:** To stop the use of arsenic contaminated water above 50 ppb by providing alternative options; to investigate the adverse health effects on users; and to increase the community's awareness of water quality.

### **Expected Results under this objective:**

- Arsenic contamination in shallow tube wells is analysed.
- Different technologies for arsenic-free water options are provided.
- The use of arsenic contaminated water is stopped and the health of users (those who used heavily arsenic contaminated water) is examined.
- Knowledge and skills about environmental health and sanitation are increased.
- The capacity of community people for qualitative drinking water is enhanced.

### **Progress/achievements**

This project has not been funded through the annual appeal. The Nepal Red Cross could not carry out all the activities as planned. However, with the support of the Japanese Red Cross and the UNICEF office in Nepal the society has so far been testing drinking water from 1,500 tube wells for arsenic contamination in Terai district. Further blanket tests are ongoing in three additional districts. The UNICEF office and the drinking water sanitation department of the government have supplied 30 testing hack kits, 10 geographical positioning (GPS) units and 3,500 packs of testing reagents. A district level training workshop for 33 technical workers has been organised. All arsenic awareness and mitigation activities are closely coordinated with the government and other agencies.

### **Impact**

The water and sanitation projects have made a considerable impact on the communities where they have been implemented. Increased access to safe water has contributed to improved health as well as enhancing living conditions - of women in particular. The arsenic mitigation programme is meeting a specific health threat common in Northern India and Nepal.

### **Constraints**

There have been some delays due to timely release of funds from local partners, as well as some difficulties in ensuring cooperation and coordination among all partners involved. The project was constrained by receiving no funding through the annual appeal.

**Community-based first aid project objective:** To enhance the capacity of the Red Cross and the communities to address health priorities, prevent day-to-day injuries, and prepare for and respond to disaster and internal armed conflict

**Expected Results under this objective:**

- The risk of life threatening situations caused by injuries and priority health problems in the communities of 11 districts is reduced.
- First aid and disaster relief service are established in the community benefitting 80 per cent of its people.
- The capacity of district chapters to provide immediate care, manage training and mobilise volunteers to address priority health problems of the community is enhanced.

**Progress/achievements**

With the support of DFID, the community-based first aid programme has been expanded into three new districts bringing the total to eight. The last of a series of information meetings about the implementation process, roles and responsibilities was held with the selected communities in Sarlahi district with 25 community members participating. All three districts have now completed a community survey and selected volunteers for participation in the programme. With a view to establishing trained first aid volunteers in the communities to provide first aid services and generate sanitation and disaster awareness activities, a five-day community-based first aid volunteer training course was conducted in the three new programme districts.

The three districts earlier enrolled in the programme (Rautahat, Taplejung and Panchthar) have conducted elementary community-based first aid training courses for 53 traditional birth attendants. All programme districts except one have purchased and distributed first aid materials to their volunteers. Seven districts have been using the "Community Disaster Relief Fund Manual". This manual was developed with the participation of the community. Collections for the community-based first aid fund have continued in all programme districts.

As part of the objective to reinforce the concept of community-based first aid and first aid services throughout schools, training courses for teacher sponsors have been organised by the Junior Red Cross. These teachers will then arrange training courses in their respective schools. Altogether 99 teacher sponsors took part. Refresher training for 152 students was also conducted.

On the initiative of the community, sub-chapters and volunteers, awareness activities are being conducted regularly in programme areas. These have included poster and leaflet distribution, sanitation rallies, quiz and slogan writing competitions. The trained community-based first aid volunteers are regularly conducting community level service oriented activities, such as first aid, health education, awareness of disasters and communicable diseases, relief services etc. The table below shows the activities and beneficiaries of the service oriented activities carried out during this reporting period.

District	Service activities and number of beneficiaries				
	First Aid	Health Knowledge	Red Cross Knowledge	Relief Support (families)	Disaster Counselling
Taplejung	900	411	475	77	478
Panchthar	233	133	157	1	254
Ilam	200	66	57	1	74
Mahottari	21	10	25	0	0
Jhapa	476	733	6,325	0	0
Sarlahi	1,245	530	189	3	0
Kanchanpur	1,152	846	998	0	0
Rautahat	799	1055	292	0	297
Total	5,026	3,784	8,519	82	1,103

A week-long street drama training of trainers was held in August in Banepa with 16 participants taking part. The participants subsequently organised street dramas in their communities. All eight districts within the community-based first aid programme arranged street dramas to help mark World First Aid Day. A total of 20 districts as well

as the national headquarters observed the World First Aid Day. Approximately 10,000 members of the public were reached through activities conducted by more than 2,500 volunteers. The main activities were press meetings and releases, radio interviews and talks, street dramas and simulations, and public meetings.

Rautahat district organised a one-day community level workshop to discuss sanitation awareness, sanitary unit construction and other health related topics, with 65 people participating. Rautahat and Panchthar districts have started to construct toilet sets to distribute within the community. This will help to generate income for the sub-chapters. A total of 25 sets of toilets have been produced to date. Ilam district held a one-day disaster orientation with 40 community members and a one-day Red Cross orientation with 54 participants.

Meetings have been held in two districts to inform representatives of local government and NGOs about the community-based first aid programme. Progress of the programme and activities were presented and there were discussions about coordination with the various organisations. Account and management training was held for 25 sub-branch level participants from the eight programme districts. Training on proposal writing was also provided to 20 local Red Cross unit members from 5 programme districts.

Meetings were held in July and August with staff from the headquarters first aid section and district staff to review progress, plan ahead and discuss accounting principles.

Red Cross membership has continued to grow in programme districts, boosted by the exposure the national society receives through the community-based first aid activities. Community-based first aid volunteers through their regular activities and providing first aid support at various events/gatherings to help strengthen communities. The programme has also provided support for income generation to the districts and sub-chapters of the targeted districts, promoting sustainability.

Two members of the Afghan Red Crescent visited the programme to share knowledge and learn from the Nepal Red Cross experiences in this area.

The ICRC plays a key role in enabling community-based first aid activities to continue in conflict-affected areas. ICRC delegates consult with both parties of the conflict to explain the role of the Red Cross.

### **Impact**

The number of households with newly constructed toilet facilities is increasing, helping to reduce the number of sanitation related health problems.

Communities are being strengthened through first aid training, disaster relief fund collection and the provision of relief services in programme districts.

Communities in the Panchthar district, which are affected by the armed conflict, have gained skills through first aid training which will serve conflict victims. The Nepal Red Cross is committed to continuing to provide community-based first aid in conflict-affected communities.

### **Constraints**

Delays in funding have been the major constraint.

**HIV/AIDS prevention (blood safety, care and support and awareness campaign) project objective:** To introduce a comprehensive awareness campaign, voluntary counselling and testing, and care/support services for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Expected results under this objective:**

- Large-scale awareness and advocacy activities are expanded in five districts.
- Voluntary, confidential testing facilities introduced and blood safety strengthened in six districts.
- Access to care and support services to people affected by HIV/AIDS improved in six districts.
- A supportive environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families is created in six districts.
- The organisational capacity of the Nepal Red Cross Society is strengthened in the management of the HIV/AIDS programme.

**Progress/achievements**

The Nepal Red Cross, in coordination with a wide range of other organisations, staged the 9<sup>th</sup> National Condom Day in October. Education of the public about the importance of condom use in relation to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease prevention, as well as helping in birth spacing, was promoted along with anti-stigma messages. The Nepal Red Cross also organised radio programmes, press briefings, cultural programmes, competitions and rallies. Posters and education materials were distributed along with thousands of condoms. It is estimated the messages reached 1.5 million people as a result of wide media coverage.

A variety of other mobilisation activities have taken place including the formation of women's action groups at five village development committees. Community mobilisers (10 project staff in two districts) at district level have been trained to educate others regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support and how to activate the women's action group members at a community level.

Various training events have taken place within the prevention programme:

- Leadership development and communication training for 45 women action group members was held in Dadeldhura district.
- Two trainings of trainers at district level, with 75 participants including 29 women, were completed.
- Two HIV/AIDS workshops for teachers and headmasters were held.

Within the Junior Red Cross HIV/AIDS prevention programme, the preparation of a manual has been completed. Preparation is underway for a leaflet that will be published soon. Orientation programmes and related activities have been conducted in five districts according to schedule. Preparations are also ongoing to conduct workshops/seminars and youth peer training in two project districts

Efforts are underway to implement counselling services at a community level. Terms of reference have been developed, and a selection process initiated, for a consultant to develop a framework and guidelines for voluntarily counselling testing. Relevant data is being collected regarding persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Three people from policy and programme management level participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health* held in Bangkok, Thailand from 6 to 10 October. The director of the health services department contributed with a poster presentation.

**Impact**

Public attitudes to HIV/AIDS infected and affected people are improving. The programme has reached more remote communities, helping change behaviours. District chapters and youth volunteers are motivated to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS at the grass roots level.

**Constraints**

While coordination is effective at headquarters level in sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources, this is difficult to maintain at district level. The security situation has created difficulties in coordination, communication and implementation of some activities.

## 2. Disaster Management

**Overall goal:** To reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities.

**Programme objective:** To strengthen the disaster management capacity of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

**Disaster response expected results under this objective:**

- The disaster response coordinating mechanism with the government and NGOs is improved;
- The disaster response mechanisms in each region, including disaster response teams, are strengthened.
- District chapters gain learning opportunities from participating in relief operations conducted in districts other than their own.
- The disaster preparedness stocks and human resource capacity will be such so as to provide for 300,000 victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- Rules and regulations for disaster response are revised.
- A review of relief operations is carried out by the Nepal Red Cross.
- A total of 100,000 Bhutanese refugees per year are provided with food and non-food items to cover their basic needs.
- An enlarged human resource pool of skilled and experienced volunteers and staff members is available at all levels.

**Progress/achievements**

During the reporting period, Nepal experienced a range of natural disasters including floods and landslides. The monsoons affected over 10,000 families while 300 people died. The Nepal Red Cross provided relief packages to 4,318 vulnerable families. Locally collected food items were also distributed.

The Nepal Red Cross branches distributed 2,000 family relief packages to conflict affected communities in 20 districts with the support of the ICRC. An additional 2,000 family kits have been distributed to restock branches in affected areas. Stocks of family kits have been maintained in the central warehouse in Kathmandu and at the Nepalgunj regional warehouse.

An advocacy workshop was held in July to improve disaster coordination with government and NGOs. The objective was to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt from the 2002 flood disaster operation.

A similar workshop for Red Cross staff was held in July in Chitawan. Volunteers and staff from the 20 most affected districts, headquarters and members of the central disaster committee participated. The disaster preparedness delegate, disaster manager, and the information manager from South Asia regional delegation also attended.

During a workshop arranged for staff and volunteers responsible for disaster response and warehouse management, an evaluation of the current rules and regulations for disaster response was initiated. However in light of the current conflict situation, this revision has been put on hold and the national society is now formulating a policy for working with internally displaced persons.

The Nepal Red Cross is implementing a refugee assistance programme for 103,166 Bhutanese refugees in seven camps of Jhapa and Morang districts. The society has distributed food and non-food items to all refugee families. The World Food Programme and UNHCR have supported this programme bilaterally. Some funds from the Movement's partners have also been available to meet unplanned needs.

A home garden and nutritional educational programme is being implemented in the camps. A total of 7,760 refugee families have access to small plots of land to use as home gardens and the Nepal Red Cross has distributed seeds and seedlings. The national society has also held various training courses to enhance gardening skills and knowledge.

A life skills training programme has been initiated by the Nepal Red Cross with financial support from the regional population movement programme. An essential component of the programme is that it targets both

refugees and persons from the local population and therefore contributes to better relationships between the two groups. The main aim of the programme is to develop the skills of the almost 600 participants in such areas as carpentry, teaching and modern agriculture. This will increase the opportunity for employment.

### **Impact**

Families affected by floods and landslides during the monsoon period and families in conflict-affected areas benefitted from both the emergency assistance and the family kits respectively.

The workshops reviewing the 2002 flood operation have helped participants realise the need to improve coordination and cooperation among districts during times of disaster to further enhance relief activities in future.

Refugee families are directly benefitting from humanitarian assistance delivered by the Nepal Red Cross. In addition to receiving food and non-food items they are improving food production capacity and acquiring skills to enhance employment opportunities.

### **Constraints**

The conflict situation has created an increased workload for the disaster management department and district staff and volunteers involved in these activities. The lack of policy to guide the national society regarding internally displaced persons has been a hindrance. A policy is now being developed to address this.

With regard to the Bhutanese refugee operation, expectations exceed resources. With negotiations between the Nepal and Bhutan governments continuing, there is ongoing uncertainty over the repatriation levels.

### **Disaster preparedness expected results under this objective:**

- The organisational and operational capacity of the Nepal Red Cross will enable it to mobilise local communities to reduce the impact of disasters by utilising and further strengthening their existing coping mechanisms.
- The 2002 programme in 75 communities in 14 districts was consolidated through the established network of trainers and volunteers and a revised two-year programme using the same network, is in place in 50 new communities in ten selected districts.

### **Progress/achievements**

The community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme has been extended to 50 more communities in 10 districts since the previous programme update. This has been achieved with financial assistance from the Netherlands Red Cross through the annual appeal and from the Hong Kong Red Cross.

Staff and volunteers in the new districts have received CBDP orientation training. For programme implementation each community has formed an 11-member disaster preparedness unit including three women.

The headquarters disaster management department held a nine-day CBDP training of trainers workshop for trainers and workers from the 10 districts.

Trainers from three of the districts also underwent a course on how to prepare a business plan. This training is essential for the community trainer and workers in preparing their preparedness plans which are necessary to sustain the programme. Similar training will be provided for the other seven districts.

Refresher training days were conducted for workers in branches in 50 communities where the programme was implemented in 2002. The refresher courses covered basic disaster management, first aid and community management.

Most of these communities have already prepared draft disaster preparedness plans while others will be finalised shortly. Thirty communities have already completed small-scale mitigation activities, coordinated on a local level with government, international organisations and NGOs.

Disaster preparedness units at community level have continued to collect cash and in-kind support to strengthen revolving funds which are operated according to policy developed by the national society.

The Nepal Red Cross has published 1,000 copies of the CBDP policy and distributed it to concerned partners as well as to current and former CBDP communities.

The Nepal Red Cross has also implemented a flood mitigation and livelihood management programme in Jaleswor, on a bilateral basis with CARE Nepal.

### **Impact**

- District volunteers and staff have gained detailed knowledge of the programme and its implementation procedure, reducing communities' vulnerability to disaster.
- Sixty community trainers and community workers have been trained as trainers within the programme.
- Nineteen community trainers have gained the skills needed for preparing and implementing disaster plans.
- A total of 815 community workers (379 male and 436 female) have received refresher training.
- Thirty community level disaster preparedness units have prepared their disaster preparedness plans. They have identified local resources and capacities in the community and defined the roles and responsibilities of the community participants within a time frame.
- Thirty community level disaster preparedness units have continued gathering funds to be used to support disaster victims.
- Over 10,000 people have benefitted from small-scale mitigation activities completed in 30 communities.
- The capacity of the communities to coordinate and cooperate with local government and NGOs has increased.

### **Constraints**

A shortage of funding has prevented expansion of the programme to further vulnerable districts.

## **3. Humanitarian Values**

**Overall goal:** To reduce tensions, violence and discrimination within communities across the country through existing programmes of the national society.

**Programme objective:** To increase promotion of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian values both inside and outside of the national society.

### **Expected results under this objective:**

- Knowledge on best practices in promoting Fundamental Principles and combatting discrimination is developed.
- The methodology and tools to promote Fundamental Principles, IHL and humanitarian values among internal and external stakeholders is developed.
- Key areas of vulnerability are identified and addressed.
- Strategic links with national and international media are developed, and there is increased visibility of the national society and the Movement.
- Internal communication and networking is strengthened.
- The positive profile and image of the national society, in-country and externally, is further increased as a country-wide humanitarian organisation.
- Humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles are included in national training programmes.
- Country-based training carried out in BPI, Reach Out and SPHERE are integrated into programme planning and implementation.
- The Nepal Red Cross has implemented the global campaign to reduce stigmatisation and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS through targetted communications activities.
- Reduced tensions in targetted areas.

**Progress/achievements**

The programme was not funded through the annual appeal. However some activities in support of the objective have been carried out with ICRC funding, local resources of the Nepal Red Cross and support from the South Asia regional delegation.

The Nepal Red Cross has carried out various workshops and seminars for dissemination of IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles. The main target groups have been national society staff and volunteers, including youth. These activities have been given high priority due to the conflict situation. During the reporting period, three conflict preparedness workshops have been held.

The monthly Nepal Red Cross bulletin and the quarterly English-language news bulletin have been published according to schedule while the national society website ([www.nrcs.org](http://www.nrcs.org)) is regularly updated.

The third phase of the emblem campaign has been completed and 20 districts have now been declared emblem misuse-free.

To strengthen communications, strategic links with national and international media have been developed through press conferences and media briefings. Three journalists are engaged as Red Cross 'fellows' to learn more about the Movement and at the same time contribute to communication about Red Cross related issues. Communication training for 17 districts was held in October 2003 while information contact persons have received photography training.

**Impact**

The programme has been able to proceed to a degree due to the cross-cutting nature of humanitarian values in other programmes such as disaster management and health and through activities carried out with the support outlined above.

There is an increased awareness among Nepal Red Cross staff and volunteers of IHL activities involved in Condom Day under the health programme, and enhanced public understanding of issues relating to people living with HIV/AIDS including promotion of anti-stigma messages.

**Constraints**

There has been no funding through the annual appeal. While some activities did proceed through assistance from other sources, there is an ongoing need for funding for this programme.

## 4. Organisational Development

**Overall goal:** The country's millions of vulnerable people will receive increased and sustainable community-based support to reduce their vulnerability through the increased capacities of the Nepal Red Cross, needs assessment at all levels, and the development of relevant and focused programmes to meet those needs.

**Programme objective:** The Nepal Red Cross will move towards being a well-functioning national society, offering high quality assistance with greater impact and relevance to the most vulnerable people in each of the communities it serves.

### Expected results under this objective:

- Management potential of the national society is strengthened, maximising its human resource mobilisation and management capacities, and further strengthening its volunteer base and service delivery to vulnerable communities.
- The Nepal Junior Red Cross and Red Cross Youth contribute to the promotion of Red Cross humanitarian values and strengthened participation in the Movement.
- The foundation, capacity and resources of the remote and developing branches of the national society is strengthened, leading to more effective service delivery.
- There are increased numbers and participation of women members in the national society's organisation, management and activities.
- The national society has a sound system of financial management, budgeting, accounting and effective financial resource mobilisation strategies that will lead to sustainable programmes at the community level.

### Progress/achievements

Only the second expected result concerning the development of the Junior and Youth Red Cross was financed through the annual appeal. Some activities under the last expected result relating to financial management have been carried out through the support of the regional organizational development programme.

The Swedish Red Cross, through the annual appeal, has financed the Nepal Junior Red Cross and Red Cross Youth project. The objectives are to promote Red Cross humanitarian values and strengthen participation of youth in the Movement. The following activities have been implemented during the reporting period:

- A basic leadership training course was held to stimulate young people's involvement and skills to implement humanitarian activities. Four districts have arranged Junior Red Cross camps with the same objectives.
- Ten youth circles have implemented reforestation and environmental activities.
- Fifteen district level planning seminars were held.
- The child literacy programme for the school year 2002/2003 has been completed and the activities for 2003/2004 are scheduled to start at the end of this year.
- Twenty districts have sent their proposals regarding the start up of book banks by selecting an appropriate circle that will implement the project.
- A training course of first aid trainers was held.
- Five districts have established additional first aid units to provide services for at least one year in the Red Cross circle concerned.
- Five Junior Red Cross camps were held with a total of 200 participants.
- Volunteer exchange project (national/international) continued. Volunteers are sent for a one month period to assist districts in areas such as conducting training courses, orientation meetings, district seminars, setting up new circles and other secretarial assistance.

Through the regional organisational development programme the Nepal Red Cross has received support to develop its resource mobilisation capacity. At present the society is defining its policy, strategic plan and procedures for this area. In December software for a donor database will be installed. The project will continue during the coming year.

**Impact**

This programme is engaging young people in the Nepal Red Cross and is motivating them to become involved in humanitarian work. The Junior and Red Cross Youth members are the main group of volunteers in the districts and are implementing programmes as outlined above, as well as a variety of other programmes.

**Constraints**

The Junior Red Cross department has faced some difficulties in organising large gatherings due to the current conflict situation. Logistics management is difficult in remote areas.

**5. Federation Coordination**

**Overall goal:** The Nepal Red Cross will receive optimal support for the implementation of its priority programmes through a coordinated response by partners from inside and outside the Movement.

**Programme objective:** To establish long-term strategic partnerships between the national society and partners from within and outside the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

**Expected results under this objective:**

- A new cooperation agreement strategy is developed establishing new partnership principles, using the strategy for the Movement as a guideline.
- A partnership meeting of the main stakeholders to review the strategic plan of the Nepal Red Cross and to coordinate the programming/support of various partners takes place.
- The cooperation agreement is signed between the Nepal Red Cross, the Federation and the ICRC outlining the roles which the three Movement partners will undertake to further strengthen and develop the national society.

**Progress/achievements**

The fourth Nepal Red Cross development plan for the next five years was finalised and published. Based on the development plan, the society has initiated a process to develop a new cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). The Nepal Red Cross has taken a participatory approach involving district members, governance and headquarters staff in this process. The first step has been to gather background documents, general information and mobilise support and understanding for the CAS concept within the society. In October a brainstorming session was organised together with the organisational development delegate of the South Asia regional delegation to define the main issues of the CAS and the process to use.

In November a meeting with governance and management learned about CAS experiences in other societies, discussed the benefits of CAS and defined the aim and objective for the Nepal Red Cross CAS process. After this a team started to draw up a first preliminary draft document. To ensure involvement of districts leaders a seminar was organised in November for further input to the process. Headquarters staff under the leadership of the CAS team is currently developing the document further.

A meeting with governance to discuss and approve the CAS document from the point of view of the Nepal Red Cross is planned for the end of December. After this partners within and outside the Movement will be invited to discuss, comment and provide input. A partnership meeting is planned for the end of the first quarter or beginning of the second quarter.

**Impact**

The ownership and a clear understanding of the objectives of the CAS process are now ensured through the participatory nature of its development. This provides for a good basis in future discussions with partners.

**Constraints**

The CAS process was planned to start earlier in the year. However, it was essential for the society to first finalise the national development plan.

## 6. International Representation

**Overall goal:** The role and policies of the Federation at the national level are understood and supported by key stakeholders within the international community, enabling the Federation to provide a greater degree of support to the most vulnerable in Nepal.

**Programme objective:** To enhance partnerships with diverse external stakeholders through increased representation, information sharing and advocacy at the country (Nepal), regional (New Delhi) and international levels.

### Expected results under this objective:

- A country advocacy strategy which reflects the Federation's global advocacy priorities for HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness is developed with the national society to highlight Nepal's needs.
- Good relationships are developed and maintained with national authorities and donor governments.
- Advocacy materials are produced and disseminated to counterparts, agencies, organisations and partners.
- Regular meetings are held with relevant counterparts in targeted diplomatic missions in Kathmandu and New Delhi to market the annual appeal, emergency appeals and provide operational/policy updates.
- The Federation's delegate consistently participates in relevant fora and NGO/INGO coordination mechanisms (This should include international fora which are included in the South Asia regional appeal).
- A creative country marketing plan based on the Asia and Pacific communications strategy is developed.

### Progress/Achievements

The Nepal Red Cross has regular contact with key diplomatic missions, government aid agencies, UN organisations and the government. During this year's monsoon season regular contacts were maintained and an information meeting organised with participation from the South Asia regional delegation in New Delhi. The ICRC, which has the lead role in Nepal according to the Seville agreement, promotes the work of the Nepal Red Cross to diplomatic missions, UN agencies as well as with both parties of the conflict.

The Nepal Red Cross communication department regularly issues media releases regarding general information and advocacy issues. Nepali and English-language media regularly cover Red Cross events, activities and programmes which help promote an understanding of the role of the Movement among various stakeholders in Nepal.

### Impact

The Nepal Red Cross is a well known organisation among its counterparts and stakeholders in Nepal. The work of the ICRC in the conflict situation is also becoming well known and understood.

### Constraints

Due to lack of funding and no direct Federation presence in Nepal, some of the expected results have not been achieved. A Federation representative has been appointed and started her mission in November. Further progress on the above objective is therefore to be expected in the coming months.

### For further information please contact:

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

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