

# ***NEPAL : Building Capacities***

***4 September  
2000***

***appeal no. 01.56/2000***

***situation report no. 01***

***period covered: January - June 2000***

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***The network of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) branches has been actively engaged in relief and development. It has continued its support to the Bhutanese refugees living in eastern Nepal as well as to the victims of fires, floods and landslides. The NRCS has been equally active in implementing development programmes aimed at building the capacity of the people in local communities.***

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## ***The context***

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world with per capita income of USD 225 and a third of the population classified as living in poverty. Health care facilities are very limited and mainly concentrated in urban areas. People living in the rural areas have very limited access to health care, resulting in high infant mortality (81 per 1,000) and low life expectancy (57 years). The country is also prone to disasters such as floods, landslides, fires and occasional earthquakes.

## ***Latest events***

The first South Asia donors meeting was held in Kathmandu in March. It was attended by the National Societies of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka along with representatives from the Federation, ICRC and participating National Societies.

Mrs. Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, paid a visit to Nepal in June to discuss the issue of Bhutanese refugees presently living in Nepal. After her visit, the ministerial level talks between Nepal and Bhutan were held in the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu. However, the talks were reported inconclusive.

The monsoon started quite early this year. It is estimated that many people will be affected by floods and landslides in the months to come.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Disaster Response •**

#### *Bhutanese Refugee Assistance Programme*

The NRCS has been providing relief assistance to 98,700 Bhutanese refugees living in 7 camps in eastern Nepal in co-operation with UNHCR and WFP. Food items such as rice, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and sugar as well as non-food items like soap, jerry cans and stoves have been provided to the refugees. Ambulance service has been made available to the population. About 2,000 persons have benefited from this service so far.

#### *Assistance to the victims of fires, floods and landslides*

Twenty four out of 75 districts were affected by fires, floods and landslides. Seven persons were killed, 96 injured and 900 families affected. District branches of the NRCS were primarily responsible for providing assistance to the victims by mobilising local resources and trained manpower. However, the NRCS national headquarters have supported the branches which could not cope with the situation.

The provided relief included blankets, plastic tarpaulins, clothes and kitchen utensils. In total, 5,400 people benefited from this assistance so far while the total value of the distributed material amounted to Rs. 2,194,500.

It is estimated that people will be affected by floods and landslides in the months to come. The NRCS has been preparing relief supplies and resources to cope with the situation.

### **Disaster Preparedness •**

The NRCS has a nation-wide network of 5 warehouses and 22 depots constructed in strategic locations with relief supplies prepared for emergencies. The NRCS also maintains a bulk fund of Rs. 17,367,644. The interest accrued from these funds is used for relief operations.

#### *Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Programme (CBDP)*

This programme is currently underway in the districts of Banke, Bardiya, Morang, Sunsari, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur and Khotang. Twenty two communities have been selected for this programme. Training courses were attended by 363 trainees so far. Co-ordination meetings were held in 2 districts. Nine communities have already started raising funds within their respective communities in order to prepare for future disasters. A community survey was conducted in the Morang district while hazard mapping was initiated in the districts of Banke and Bardiya.

#### *Community-Based First Aid Programme (CBFA)*

This programme has been carried out as a pilot project with a five-year cycle in the districts of Jhapa, Sarlahi, Saptari, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura and Bhaktapur. Co-ordination meetings with other agencies have been held on regular basis in 4 districts and refresher training courses were conducted for 48 CBFA volunteers in 2 districts. The first aid services were rendered to 700 persons.

### **Health •**

Health projects implemented by the NRCS include blood transfusion, ambulance service, eye care programme, health education and the REWARD (Reaching and Enabling Women to Act on Reproductive Health Decisions).

#### *Ambulance Service*

The NRCS has been running ambulance services in 40 districts in order to minimise morbidity and mortality. With the expansion of the road network in the country, demands for the ambulance service have multiplied. Therefore, the NRCS has been making efforts to expand the ambulance fleet. An ambulance was provided by the Federation. The vehicle is operational in the Rautahat district branch in central Nepal.

#### *Strengthening the Blood Transfusion Service Programme*

This project has attracted no donor support this far and therefore none of the objectives have been fulfilled.

#### *Health Education and Public Awareness on Preventive Diseases Programme*

The NRCS health department launched a "Vitamin A" programme in 69 districts targeting children between 6 - 60 months. This programme has been implemented with support from NTAG (a national vitamin "A" programme) and the Government Child Health Division. In this period, 160 Safe Home Delivery Kits were also distributed.

In April, an agreement was signed between Save the Children (US) and the NRCS national headquarters on the mother and child survival partnership programme in the Nowakot district.

#### *Youth / School-Based Reproductive Health / HIV-AIDS Programme*

The NRCS has been running an HIV/AIDS programme for youth in 17 districts of Nepal. This has recently been extended to another 7 districts (Surkhet, Dailekh, Arghakhanchi, Gulmi, Rasuwa, Bara and Rautahat).

The Junior and Youth Red Cross Departments worked on the selection of districts, held consultation meetings with all stakeholders as well as progress meetings with donors. They also worked on the finalisation of TOR for a consultant in the field of information and recruitment.

### **Humanitarian Values •**

With the objective of promoting the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, workshops were held in 14 districts with 921 participants. Dissemination activities have been incorporated into various other training courses.

### **Capacity Building •**

#### *Development Programmes*

Major development programmes implemented by the NRCS include the community development project, women development and drinking water and sanitation. The environment protection programme has been also prepared but has not attracted any donor support so far. These programmes are supported by the participating National Societies as well as by various international NGOs working in the country. Drinking water and sanitation has been implemented on bilateral basis.

#### *Community Development Programme (CDP)*

The community development projects mainly aim at capacity building of local communities and at strengthening the managerial role of the local Red Cross branches. The CDP has been implemented in the districts of Tehrathum, Makawanpur, Baitadi and Rasuwa with support of the Federation and the Swedish Red Cross Society.

Four drinking water schemes have been completed in 4 districts benefiting 410 people. The NRCS has received additional support for its drinking water and sanitation project in another 6 districts. Some 630 toilets were also constructed and 3 training courses conducted for 44 members of self-help groups.

As far as literacy is concerned, the Nepal Red Cross Society has been running 15 literacy classes involving 148 participants.

The community development programmes have been implemented in additional 10 districts with participation of the Danish, Belgian, Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross Societies on bilateral basis.

#### *Women Development Programme*

The NRCS women development section has already conducted three training workshops at the district level for women volunteers. These workshops, with 30 - 40 women participants, discussed issues such as the role of women in the Red Cross Movement, accounts-keeping and various health issues. The NRCS has also held workshops on gender issues for their own staff in the headquarters as well as in the branches.

#### *Junior Red Cross / Red Cross Youth Organisational & Service Programme*

The youth programme aims at strengthening the youth department, developing leadership qualities and skills and mobilising youth members in humanitarian activities.

A national junior/youth seminar was held with participants from 46 districts. The participants reviewed their own programmes, identified problems, tried to find solutions and recommended future steps. Two competitions, in training of trainers and first aid were held. Nine mini-projects were completed by 6 youth circles while 10 literacy classes are currently underway.

#### *Development of Remote and Developing Branches*

The development of remote and developing branches of the NRCS includes institutional development and strengthening the quality of service. With the implementation of this programme, the membership has already considerably increased. The managerial capacity of the branches has improved and income generation activities have been introduced.

#### *Finance Development Programme*

With the expansion of the NRCS programmes, strengthening of the financial system became imperative. A computerised accounting system was installed a few years ago and personnel was trained. However, their skills should be further developed in order to improve reporting and budgeting and conduct refresher training. Preparations are underway to finalise a manual for internal audit. Accounting courses and warehouse management training are being prepared.

#### *Human Resource Development*

The following training courses have been conducted:

- Training in management and voluntary service was held in Kathmandu for 26 participants from 13 districts.
- Training in institutional development and sustainability was held in Dharan for 34 participants from 17 districts.
- Training in reporting was held in Kathmandu for 35 participants from 18 districts.
- Training in gender issues was held in Dharan for 26 participants from 13 districts.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Blood transfusion is a priority for the NRCS as the National Society is the sole organisation responsible for it in the country. Further development of infrastructure, logistics, human resources and a more equitable participation of women in the NRCS structure and activities need stronger donor support.

### ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The Nepal Red Cross Society continues to enjoy excellent relations with the media in the country. All major activities of the NRCS are reported in press and other media. The Nepal Red Cross Society co-ordinates its community development programmes with all major NGOs in Nepal, specially with regard to disaster preparedness and disaster relief. Health awareness programmes are well co-ordinated with the relevant government departments as they often complement the government efforts at community level. The NRCS also continues to co-ordinate its bilateral programmes with various PNS and other agencies.

### ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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<b>Nepal</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.56/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				12/09/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1,723,000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 43.5%</b>
Balance carried forward from 1999				<b>214,234</b>		
BRITISH - RC		32,000	GBP	80,000	12/12/99	NEPAL RC: HUM. RES. DEVT. PRGM.
BRITISH - GOVT				50,000	19.01.2000	DFID 1.4.2, 1.4.3
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,350,000	SEK	254,205	29.05.00	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROG.
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		300,000	SEK	56,490	29.05.00	YOUTH PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		500,000	SEK	94,150	29.05.00	CBFA
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				749,079	CHF	43.5%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				0	CHF	0.0%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PNP001, PNP002, PNP004, PNP005, PNP008, PNP010, PNP011, PNP015, PNP160						