

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

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA048; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 30 September, 2005; Appeal coverage: 117.4%;

([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#))

Appeal target: CHF 1,157,818 (USD 964,446 or EUR 756,991).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Nepal Floods Emergency Appeal 17/2004](#), [South Asia Regional Annual Appeal 05AA051](#)

Programme summary: The activities of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in all four core areas are part of long-term programmes started in earlier years. The main focus of these programmes is on capacity building at local and headquarters levels, strategic planning in health and developing practical emergency preparedness and response plans to enhance existing capabilities. The HIV/AIDS programme and women development/gender projects received additional pledges during this reporting period. However funding is still sought for the school-based water and sanitation, reproductive health and population movement programmes as well as for the humanitarian values pilot project.

The Danish Red Cross and NRCS have started to conduct a baseline survey for the new integrated community health and development programme in Solukumbu and Sunsari districts using their own funds pending the approval of their EU grant application. The New Zealand Red Cross has made additional contribution to the community-based disaster preparedness programme, while the British Department for International Development (DFID), through the British Red Cross/the Federation, has provided funding for the blood programme and the phase two of the community disaster risk reduction programme.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Localized and national *bandhs* (strikes) continued throughout the reporting period. These *bandhs* often take the form of blockades and widespread disruption of businesses, transport and schools etc. The restriction on the movement of goods and people has collectively increased vulnerability of local communities. The country continues to be affected by the ongoing armed conflict between government forces and the Maoists which is now into its 10th year and has to date claimed over 12,000 lives. This impact has included the virtual collapse of basic local government services in some parts of the country.



Nepal Red Cross Society celebrated the fourth National First Aid Day on 10 September with the theme "First aid with vulnerable (marginalized) people".

In early September, the Maoists announced a three-month unilateral ceasefire. This initiative was seen as a window of opportunity to launch some form of negotiations between the government, opposition parties and the Maoists. Unfortunately, the ceasefire was marred by continued incidents of violence and deaths. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has significantly scaled up its presence and visibility in the country in recent months. In May, the UN set up a human rights office in Nepal to monitor and investigate violations of human rights in connection with the conflict.

Although the general security situation continues to make it difficult and more costly to travel in the country, the NRCS has made major efforts to continue normal programme implementation in all districts. A significant activity in this respect has been the ICRC-NRCS conflict preparedness and response programme based on the *safe access* principles, combined with an intensive dissemination programme in the conflict zones, which is enabling the National Society to learn how to operate more effectively in a conflict situation.

There has been a significant scaling up of programme activities over the reporting period, particularly women's development, volunteer management, resource mobilisation, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, and school sanitation.

Health and care

Background

Ambulance services, first aid and blood transfusion service are major health activities being carried out by the National Society over several years. The National Society continues to implement various community-based health interventions such as reproductive health, family planning, primary health care, drinking water and sanitation in various parts of the country. Specific components of community-based interventions have been adopted in its health programmes including community-based first aid, eye care programmes and HIV/AIDS prevention and reproductive health programme in order to empower communities.

With the technical and financial support from the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA)/Nepal, the adolescent reproductive health project has been implementing in Udayapur district since June 2004. The goal of the project is to improve the ability of low-income, illiterate girls aged 10-19, living in rural area to make informed decisions regarding reproductive health and increase their access to health services. To achieve this goal, major interventions have been initiated in the project area, such as reproductive health education through literacy and group mobilization, social mobilization and advocacy, formal schooling of literate girls and capacity building and sustainability.

Goal: Communities are empowered to cope with health problems and practise positive health behaviors through strengthened institutional capacities.

Community development project objective: The level of awareness increased and the basic health conditions of the most vulnerable improved ensuring the capacities of NRCS and communities at all levels.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Participation in social activities and enrolment and regularity of school-going children increased.

Three child literacy classes have been completed in Dhankuta with 65 children trained. Four post-literacy classes have also been initiated there for 55 adults, including 14 men and 41 women, as well as a legal literacy course for 25 women in Dang. Three persons from the project area of Dhankuta were trained as facilitators for future REFLECT classes.

Expected Result 2: Waterborne diseases reduced by provision of safe drinking water in project area.

A wide range of activities were conducted including: renovation of drinking water supplies and wells, construction of toilets, washing platforms and cattle sheds, meetings and seminars of water users' committees, training on gardening and first aid. Nine meetings of health volunteers took place during the reporting period, including traditional birth attendants, traditional healers and community-based first aid (CBFA) volunteers. Over a hundred people from project areas received services from health volunteers.

Expected Result 3: The vulnerable communities' empowerment and self-reliance ensured due to the development and expansion of sustainable social and economic activities.

The activities in the reporting period included training sessions on house-wiring and bookkeeping as well as facilitation of the self-help group meetings. The saving and credit groups formed under the self-help programme have been regularly collecting monthly savings and mobilizing the funds among the group members. Efforts were also made to explore markets for placing the products of skill development trainees. Planned account management training could not be completed in Dhankuta. By the end of the year, self help group work will be followed up on, and account management training will continue.

Expected Result 4: The quality of services provided by Red Cross units and number of beneficiaries ensured and increased through strengthened capacities of all Red Cross units.

The major activities carried out during this period include: a sustainability workshop, Red Cross dissemination, start-up of the construction of the income generation building in Dhankuta, recruitment of new life members, regular meeting of district chapters, sub-chapters and staff members, supervision and monitoring visit of the district, formation of nine junior and youth Red Cross circles and review meetings.

Community-based first aid (CBFA) project objective: To build the capacity of communities to promote health and manage injuries and illness as well as prepare for and deal with disasters.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: First aid service established through volunteers in the community

Three refresher CBFA training sessions were conducted for 61 volunteers. CBFA training-of-trainers at district level was held over 12 days, with 29 participants from three districts: Tanahu, Bara and Terathum. Following this training, trainers in Tanahu district have conducted a CBFA training for 25 new CBFA volunteers at community level, of which 20 were female.

In Arghakhanchi district, 18 teacher sponsors from 18 different schools were trained in basic first aid. They are expected to provide further training to their junior Red Cross circle members so as to establish first aid services at school level. Four community resource centres are established where volunteers and the community can learn about health, disaster preparedness and first aid. Thirty-nine CBFA volunteers, teacher sponsors and junior circles from four programme districts were equipped with first aid kits. Encouragingly, the First Aid Day was observed by more than 60,000 people in different districts with various activities such as radio talk programme, press conferences, speeches, street dramas, a rally, quizzes etc. The First Aid Day, combined with the second national first aid competition, has added value to dissemination and advocacy of first aid at all levels. Local branches and CBFA volunteers at various gatherings organized three first aid camps. CBFA volunteers and trainers have provided first aid services to 1,552 people in various communities.

Expected Result 2: An enabling environment to practise positive health behavior is established.

One community survey, using some of the *participatory rural appraisal* tools, has been completed in a new programme district of Tanahu. Eight coordination meetings at district and community level were organized to establish coordination and cooperation mechanism with different stakeholders working within the same districts or communities.

One toilet, three washing platforms with utensil stands and three garbage pits have been constructed in three districts: Argankahchi, Kapilvastu and Palpa, using locally available materials. Thanks to the awareness activities undertaken by the volunteers, there are now 166 toilets, 38 utensil stands, 48 washing platforms and 54 garbage pits constructed by community members.

Over 2,000 people observed six street dramas performed by CBFA and junior Red Cross volunteers, focusing on health and sanitation, first aid, the Red Cross Movement, disaster preparedness, and issues related discrimination. Community level health and sanitation competitions involving almost 400 households were also held during this period. Volunteers have conducted five meetings on HIV/AIDS in which 220 community people participated. Four sanitation orientation workshops were held and health counselling was given to 463 people.

Expected Result 3: Communities are organized and prepared for probable disaster.

A total of 13 CBFA and disaster preparedness committees are currently functioning at community level. The project has provided some 'seed' funds to these communities to get them to establish and operate bank accounts. Cash donations of NPR 16,585 (CHF 305), as well as 200 kg of grain, and some clothing were collected by volunteers of three districts. These resources will be utilized during emergencies to provide basic support and for replenishment of first aid kits. Community committees have organized interaction and orientation programmes on disaster preparedness, conducted quiz contests, and conducted surveys on disaster-prone areas and hazard mappings. CBFA volunteers reached 193 families with disaster preparedness messages and advice. As an indicator of communities involvement and mobilization, 13 communities have made their community action plans on first aid, health, sanitation and disaster preparedness.

Expected Result 4: Red Cross district chapters, sub-branches at local level are capable in promoting and managing CBFA activities towards communities.

One village of the Tanahu district chapter was selected as a new CBFA project area, and the project design and orientation meetings are underway. During this reporting period, CBFA volunteers of three districts have disseminated information about the Red Cross principles and activities to some 300 people. As a result, five new junior/youth Red Cross circles have been formed and 71 people joined as new NRCS life members. District chapters have decided to invest a percentage of their income for the continuation and expansion of CBFA activities. A five-day training on proposal writing was held for 15 people from district chapter, sub-branch and community committees to equip them with the basic skills and knowledge in this area.

HIV/AIDS project objective: To increase access to home and community-based care and support as well as to inform on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive health by the end of 2009.

Progress/achievements in the HIV/AIDS project

Expected result 1: Increased access of PLWHAs to care and support services.

As part of preparatory activities for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS project, consultative meetings with a number of different organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS are ongoing and input received from those stakeholders is incorporated in the programme for future implementation. More details are provided under the expected result 4.

Expected result 2: Young people have practiced life skills.

To date this year no activities have been implemented towards this expected result. Youth and women groups in communities and schools will be formed in January and February 2006. After completing the ongoing staffing at local level, the future plan for the year 2006 will be prepared.

Expected result 3: Access to safer blood has increased.

To date this year no activities have been conducted.

Expected result 4: Institutional capacity of NRCS units has strengthened

The South Asia regional delegation facilitated a workshop for the National Society programme representatives from district chapters, NRCS headquarters, and external stakeholders, on the design of the NRCS' five-year HIV/AIDS operational plan. The workshop produced recommendations for incorporating into the operational plan. As per input given by the participants, a draft health policy and five-year operational plan have been developed and forwarded for feedback and input. The two documents will be finalized by the end of December 2005.

As part of preparatory activities for the project implementation, a project advisory committee and project support committees have been formed at central and district levels respectively. They will be responsible for the effective management of the project. Necessary equipment and communications materials have been set up in the two district offices. A baseline study was conducted in to gather information on HIV/AIDS, and to investigate the needs and capacities of district chapters to manage HIV/AIDS care and support interventions. The report of the study is yet to be received. As per the indicators identified in the report, a logical framework, monitoring and evaluation plans will be developed accordingly.

Consultative meetings with representatives of organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS were held, in order to develop effective and needed care and support activities. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the NRCS and organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS so as to strengthen their partnership and facilitate the implementation of various project components, such as training.

Reproductive health project objective: At the end of the one-year project, access to information and services for reproductive health increased.

Progress/achievements

Expected result 1: Adolescents/women of reproductive age have adequate information and opportunities to make informed decisions.

Since the beginning of the year, a total of 15 courses have been conducted for 367 out-of-school girls, of which 312 successfully completed the courses. Of them, 116 girls enrolled in formal schooling.

Local health structures have been mobilized to provide reproductive health and family planning services to girls and women, in addition to other ongoing services. This was achieved through regular meetings with health facility management committees and district and local reproductive health coordination committees in project areas.

Expected result 2: Contraceptive prevalence Rate (CPR) increased in the project areas.

There have been no activities towards this expected result, due to the lack of financial support for the project.

Expected result 3: Immunisation coverage increased among children in the project areas.

There have been no activities towards this expected result, due to the lack of financial support for the project.

Expected result 4: Enabling environment created to promote awareness & practice RH services.

A national reading campaign was held to raise awareness of children and parents about the empowerment of girls and women through education. Even to mark International Women's Day and the local Teej festival were also organized in the project area, with participation of some 5,000 girls and women. The event focused on the empowerment of women against social discrimination and family torture.

Weekly career advice discussion sessions were held with girls, both those in and out of school. These sessions also included topics such as reproductive health and life skills.

Expected result 5: HIV/AIDS, STI services are available and practised.

There have been no activities towards this expected result.

School-based drinking water and sanitation project objective: Ensure access to child-friendly water and sanitation facilities and promote safe hygiene practices through an empowerment process.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: Access and use of child-friendly water and sanitation facilities in schools and nearby communities.

Toilet construction in a number of schools was accompanied by construction or purchase of water storage facilities where such facilities were lacking. This has brought about an improved hygiene practices of schoolchildren. Junior Red Cross circles were active in the construction of toilets in their communities, following local community mobilization campaigns.

Efforts were made to improve waste-management in school areas, by placing dustbins in classrooms, constructing pits for dumping or burning solid waste, and, in some cases, establishing systems for sorting of bio-degradable and non-degradable waste. As a result, nearly all project schools are free of waste in school compounds. Toilets and drinking water areas were kept relatively clean.

By the end of the year, the plan is to complete toilet construction in nine schools, water source protection in six schools and renovation or construction of other sanitary units.

Expected result 2: Development of life skills and positive practices among school-aged children through hygiene promotion and child-to-child education / peer education.

Over the reporting period, a series of training sessions were held at school level, covering the topics of sanitation, life skills and first aid. Members of junior Red Cross circles were active in disseminating this knowledge to their peers, and, overall, an upward trend in their sense of commitment and responsibility has been observed by teachers, sponsors and the community. Routine sessions of cleaning classrooms, school compounds and toilets were a good opportunity for the circle members to create a child-to-child learning environment about hygiene and sanitary behaviour. Awareness on oral rehydration solution, environmental cleanliness and other aspects of community health was also raised through various rallies. Participation of girls was found to be higher in schools where there were female teacher sponsors. A training handbook will be published by the end of the year, which will facilitate consolidation of this important education.

Expected result 3: JRC/RCY members work as a peer educator in hygiene and sanitation promotion and also represents in the design and construction of sanitation facilities.

As reported above, basic health, sanitation and hygiene education activities of school-children and junior Red Cross circle members was found to have lasting impact both on master trainers (teacher sponsors) and the trainees (school students).

In the construction and maintenance of school facilities, emphasis has been put on the sanitation practices. Toilets, drinking water sources, garbage pits, hand-washing basins, soak pits and other necessary facilities for sanitation promotion were constructed or improved in school premises and communities. Transportation of construction material, collection of gravel, sand, stone and all the work have been done through local participation. Expenses including wages and transportation costs were borne by the project. A total of 29 school toilets and 458 community toilets were constructed in the project area.

As planned for 2005, district and national level review workshop and exchange visit are planned for the next reporting period.



Junior/ Youth Red Cross members are supporting schools in providing safe drinking water, sanitary kits and education as well as making the nearby communities aware of the necessity of keeping the environment clean and healthy.

Impact

The community development project has contributed to an increased literacy rate of schoolchildren. Parents are better informed about the need to secure basic education for their children and the school enrolment has been more regular. In addition to this, there is an increased number of people with access to safe drinking water and the incidence of water-borne diseases has noticeably decreased in project areas. People have started to adopt better sanitation practices at home and in communities. Involvement of women in self-help groups and income generating activities has helped them improve their position in the household-level decision making process. Volunteer services in communities have resulted in women's improved awareness about safe and healthy pregnancies, as well as timely first aid treatment in injuries.

The CBFA project has had an important role in view of the current conflict situation in the country. CBFA volunteers, together with existing community volunteers, are the only humanitarian actors in many conflict areas. Their role in first aid, referral services, health awareness, disaster preparedness, Red Cross dissemination, reproductive health, and environmental and social issues, is seen as vital. They influence positive health practices in the targeted communities, as well as improved sustainability of the project through local fundraising efforts. Close coordination with government health institutions and local actors during the implementation and activation of local Red Cross network is encouraging. Community action plans, establishment of resource centres, fundraising and mobilization of trained personnel at community level are all practices which are contributing to building the capacity of communities to deal with primary health problems and to prepare for disasters.

The junior and youth Red Cross circles are the backbone of the programme. They are involved in community mobilization and have had particular impact in the improvement of sanitation practices in schools and institutions. The circles are also an important agent in resource mobilisation efforts, through collection of registration fees.

Constraints

The HIV/AIDS project is only just getting underway due to late arrival of funding. Nevertheless, the preparatory work has now been completed, and the project is starting, with first results expected by the end of the year.

There is a lack of regular health personnel and sufficient stocks of drugs in all local health posts. Exacerbating the situation has been the success of awareness campaigns leading more women to seeking reproductive health services. To address this, local health facility management committees will need to be strengthened by providing effective health facility management training and performing regular supervision/monitoring visits from concerned authorities.

The unstable security situation in many areas and frequent strikes are hampering monitoring in certain project areas. Due to the lack of resources, the school-based water and sanitation project has not been able to address the issue of water quality in schools.

Disaster management

Background

The Nepal Red Cross Society's disaster management programme is implemented through three projects - community-based disaster management, disaster response and population movement. Over the reporting period, the community-based disaster management project has been extended, thanks to good donor support, and a number of partner agencies, including DFID and European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) have shown additional commitment to working with NRCS in other areas of disaster management.

Goal: Livelihood of people affected by disasters and conflicts sustained to assisting them promptly through effective preparedness and response system.

Programme objective: Strengthen the disaster management capacity of Nepal Red Cross in order to provide effective response to disasters as well as enhance capacities of vulnerable communities.

The community based disaster management project objective: Disaster management capacity of Nepal Red Cross as well as the most vulnerable communities further strengthened in order to provide effective response to save lives and properties.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: Local level disaster management capacity of vulnerable communities strengthened gradually and threats/effects of disasters in the community reduced through mobilization of community disaster action groups by further expanding community-based disaster preparedness in coordination/collaboration with movement partners and others.

NRCS has implemented community-based disaster preparedness (CDBP) projects in 17 districts this year, with the following achievements:

- Community management training: three-day community management training sessions were conducted in 23 communities of eight districts. The training topics covered bookkeeping, property management and project management. A total of 822 people from the community were trained, (56 percent women, 44 percent men).
- Refresher training in communities: training has been conducted in 26 communities in districts where the project is supported by DFID. A total of 687 people who had previously been trained on disaster management were trained and more than 50 percent of them were female.
- Training of women on disaster response leadership: a five-day training session was held for 21 women from seven CDBP project districts, with the overall goal to empower women for increased participation in NRCS disaster response mechanisms. Participants included Red Cross volunteers, teacher sponsors, youth Red Cross members and members of district level disaster management committees.
- Collection of revolving fund: All communities under the CDBP project have been fundraising for a local revolving fund. To date, NPR 1,177,205 (CHF 21,500) has been collected from all communities. The fund is utilized in relief operations and small-scale mitigation work.
- Collection of food grains: Similar to the revolving fund, all concerned communities and schools have been collecting food grains on a regular basis. Community level disaster preparedness units and junior Red Cross circles are responsible for collection and storage in drums provided by the project. To date 1,980 kg of grain have been collected in programme districts. Some of the grain was provided to local communities affected by flooding and landslides during the reporting period.
- Provision of equipment to communities and schools: in addition to food storage drums mentioned above, the NRCS distributed 72 megaphones to new CDBP communities and schools in 17 districts, to be used for disaster management awareness raising and as a warning system in emergencies. First aid kits and stretchers were distributed to 20 communities and 40 schools in seven districts.
- Implementation of mitigation activities: Community level disaster preparedness units and junior Red Cross circles in 30 communities and 20 schools conducted small-scale mitigation activities, such as building dry walls along river banks, embankment strengthening, dam checks, maintenance of school buildings, junior Red Cross rooms etc. In addition to NRCS nominal support of NPR 25,000 (CHF 450), efforts were made locally to generate resources and involve communities in the mitigation work. The total cost is calculated to be NPR 3 million (CHF 56,000), which is nearly three times the support provided by the programme.
- Training on disaster preparedness planning: the training targeted 73 community workers, trainers and school teachers, who then facilitated community level workshops resulting in community-level disaster preparedness plans. A total of 111 communities and 40 schools have already prepared their plans and more are currently in this process.
- Organization of half yearly review meetings: the NRCS organized meetings for all stakeholders in 14 project districts, to assess the progress and impact and resolve outstanding issues.
- Production of dissemination materials: NRCS headquarters produced 500 copies of audio cassettes with disaster preparedness folk songs for disaster management awareness-raising in communities. These songs were prepared by the CDBP project communities themselves. The cassettes will be distributed to all programme running communities, schools and district chapters, and other units of the National Society. Video cassettes are also being produced.
- A series of disaster management training sessions: these include CDBP training-of-trainers and refresher training for schools in three districts, community and school level disaster management/first aid training in 111 programme communities and 40 schools, and a disaster management simulation exercises for four schools in Bhaktapur on the topic of fire.
- Disaster management course standardization workshop: the workshop was held in September at NRCS headquarters, with the aim to develop a curriculum for basic disaster management training and obtain recommendations for standardization process. As a result, standardized training modules have been developed.

Expected Result 2: Capacity of vulnerable populations living in flood-prone areas strengthened to minimize the impact of flood.

The NRCS had implemented the flood mitigation programme in eight communities in Chitwan and Jhapa in 2005, with financial support of the Swiss Red Cross. The programme has phased out and completed.

Expected Result 3: Vulnerable groups including school going children gained skills and knowledge on disaster management through information, education and communication materials, exposure visits and trainings and their understanding level have been increased in comparison to the past.

The school-based disaster preparedness project started in 2004 with 20 schools, and has been expanded this year to a total of 40 schools in three districts (Chitwan, Syangja and Bhaktapur). During this period, disaster management training, peer learning sessions, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) mapping, disaster preparedness competitions, disaster response simulation exercises and small scale-mitigation work have been carried out in the respective schools and communities. This project component is supported by the Finnish Red Cross.

Expected Result 4: The disaster management capacity of the national society and vulnerable communities enhanced through generating awareness on earthquake preparedness of vulnerable population living in KTM valley.

This project component was implemented in ten wards in Kathmandu Valley with support of the American Red Cross. The project has been phased out from June this year and efforts are being made to secure support for the continuation/startup of the second phase, as well as to expand the activities.

Disaster response project objective: Effective response service rendered to victims of disasters in order to save lives and assist victims of disasters through strengthening disaster management capacities of the Society.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: Basic needs of those affected by disasters are fulfilled through effective timely relief from NRCS.

Unlike 2004, this year has not been marked by major disasters. Flooding and landslides have occurred in some parts of the country, particularly the southern Terai districts, affecting an estimated 6,000 families. The National Society carried out relief work through mobilization of its district chapters and volunteers. The floods 2004 emergency operation has been completed successfully ([emergency appeal 17/2004](#)).

Expected Result 2: Disaster preparedness and logistic capacity of the society has been further strengthened.

The NRCS conducted training on basic disaster response in 32 districts, targeting more than 800 volunteers and local community people. As part of the earthquake preparedness in Kathmandu valley, basic search and rescue training was conducted for local communities, volunteers and ward level volunteers in ten wards of five municipalities of the valley. A total of 262 people have been trained to provide this service in case of an earthquake.

The NRCS is in the process of finalizing the National Society draft disaster management plan. Also, a monsoon preparedness meeting was held, involving key partners and other DP-Net members, and a draft response plan for floods prepared.

Population movement project objective: Livelihood of displaced population sustained and vocational skills developed of a mixed group of refugees and local population.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: The lives of refugees and affected host population further improved in comparison to past years.

The National Society has been rendering relief services to over 105,000 Bhutanese refugees by providing food and non-food items in seven different camps located in Jhapa and Morang districts, with support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme. Over the reporting period, the following items were distributed:

Food Items	Units	Quantity
Rice	Kg	3,912,747
Pulses	Kg	391,269
Vegetable oil	Kg	247,528
Sugar	Kg	195,659
Salt	Kg	73,362
Unilite (locally-produced fortified blended food)	Kg	370,630
Whole gram	Kg	195,634
Vegetables	NPR	482,256

Non-food Items	Units	Quantity
Washing soap	Pieces	82,736
Bathing soap	Pieces	51,939
Plastic buckets	Pieces	5
Kerosene	Litres	6,828,155
Water can (10-litre)	Pieces	11
Stove	Pieces	14

In addition to relief distributions the NRCS conducted three vocational training sessions for refugees and members of the host population. The training included topics such as electronics, computer training, cutting and stitching, cosmetic treatment, etc.

With support of the ICRC, the National Society has been providing tracing services in conflict-affected districts. During this period, one tracing workshop was held in the eastern district of Chitwan, with participation of 25 representatives from 22 central and eastern districts. The NRCS has also been providing non-food items to families displaced by the conflict. Over 700 families (4,000 people) benefited from those distributions during the reporting period.

Expected result 2: Advocate and inform about internally displaced persons (IDP) situation and other population movement issues.

Apart from the above-mentioned direct support to IDPs, in cooperation with ICRC, no other related activities were carried out during the reporting period.

Impact

Most of the projects which form the NRCS disaster management programme have been running smoothly, in part thanks to sufficient funding and long-term partner commitments for most aspects of the programme. The programme is focusing on building local communities' capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters through training, simulation exercises, awareness raising, as well as standardization of policies and training methodologies. There is a demonstrated motivation, commitment and preparedness of Red Cross volunteers and community members in targeted areas to take a more proactive role in disaster management at the local level. Through relief distributions and training, the NRCS is hoping to improve the living conditions of the Bhutanese refugees, but also to empower them to lead more independent lives in economic and social terms.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The humanitarian values programme, with specific emphasis on anti-discrimination activities, started in 2004. It has shown good impact, with raised awareness levels, especially among NRCS programme managers. As a result, the issue of discrimination and other humanitarian values issues are now being incorporated in most National Society programmes.

Goal: Bring about changes in people's behavior, increasing mutual understanding and respect for human dignity through promotion of humanitarian values and Nepal Red Cross activities

Programme objective: To train Red Cross members and the general public on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and by promoting these, bring positive changes to selected communities.

Promotion of Red Cross Principles and humanitarian values project objective: To train Red Cross members and the general public in humanitarian values and encourage the fight against discrimination to bring changes in behavior.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: NRCS project managers and volunteers will have a better understanding of humanitarian values as well as issues of discrimination and tolerance. They will have started to integrate humanitarian values into their programmes.

The NRCS ran a national essay competition with the objective of sensitizing youth on the issue of discrimination. The competition was announced through the NRCS radio programme and monthly bulletin. A total of 42 essays from 25 districts were received, and the winner received awards on the occasion of the Nepal Red Cross Day, on 4 September.

A follow-up youth camp on discrimination was organized for the participants who had attended a similar camp last year. The camp was organized in Chitwan district on 26-27 September. Thirty participants from four districts shared their knowledge and experiences following the initial youth camp and prepared action plans for the coming year. Under the leadership of district-level volunteers and teacher sponsors, the participants have committed to fighting all types of discrimination in their communities. They will organize awareness campaigns, competition, and perform street dramas.

In the last quarter of the year, the NRCS will hold a workshop for programme managers and volunteers, as well as a youth camp on discrimination for youth in four districts of the Far Western Development Region.

Expected Result 2: Examples of better social harmony will be seen in selected communities of the “end discrimination” pilot project.

The proposed pilot project has not yet started due to lack of financial support. During the reporting period, the proposal for funding was submitted to the European Commission through the Spanish Red Cross. As reported in [programme update 1](#), project locations have already been determined and preparatory work for the implementation done.

Communications project objective: To strengthen communication work of NRCS, increasing support to its activities and raising awareness of humanitarian issues.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: To strengthen communication work of Nepal Red Cross increasing support to its activities and raising awareness of humanitarian issues.

The NRCS communication and humanitarian values department has been actively supporting the programmes and activities on dissemination and publicity. To improve efficiency the department has formed a team of representatives from each department who will be communications focal persons for the concerned department/programme. The team will coordinate promotion and communications activities with the humanitarian values and communications department.

Expected Result 2: NRCS communications and publicity will result in increased support, enabling the society to carry out more humanitarian activities, and bring behavioral changes in society.

The NRCS radio programme is aired weekly on the state-run national AM network. It covers major National Society initiatives and activities and has more detailed feature stories in each show. The radio programme is also being utilized for advocating non-discrimination. Regular NRCS publications, quarterly bulletins in English and monthly ones in Nepali have been published. The NRCS website (<http://www.nrccs.org>) is regularly updated. In June, two journalists were taken to the field to observe National Society activities. Their stories appeared in the national dailies Rajdhani and Samacharpatra. Another similar visit has been planned for the last quarter of the year.

Impact

The humanitarian values programme has mainly focused on the issue of discrimination, although it has recently started incorporated other humanitarian issues into a broader advocacy mission. The programme activities carried out so far have raised awareness on humanitarian values among the programme managers and NRCS high-level volunteers. Young people have been sensitized on the issue of discrimination through the youth camp, essay competition and radio programme. The youths who gathered in Chitwan have prepared action plans which are a concrete achievement that will bring positive changes in their communities.

The radio programme has become a good means of disseminating knowledge on the Red Cross and its activities. The programme has also supported raising the profile of the NRCS and the Movement as a whole that will hopefully result in increased support to the humanitarian activities of the Nepal Red Cross.

Organizational development

Background

The NRCS has made a major shift in approach in its organizational development effort in order to strengthen various levels of its organization, covering both governance and management system through programme consolidations. The Society has been continuously working to improve the ability and capacity of branches and sub-branches to make the most effective and efficient use of their available human resources so that the humanitarian purposes of the Movement can be achieved in a better way.

The capacity building framework is an integration approach in all core areas. It has linked the mission, principles, programme, characteristics, policies and strategy into coherent conceptual basis to support the branches' and sub-branches' capacity building. It has given an ample emphasis on financial resources development, human resources development (with Junior/Youth Red Cross) and programme and services as the key components of capacity building.

Goal: Nepal Red Cross makes an effective difference in the lives of vulnerable people in their respective communities. The communities will receive sustainable community-based support to reduce their vulnerability through increased capacities of the national society.

Programme objective: Strengthen the volunteer capacity of NRCS at all levels by enhancing the managerial and resource mobilization capacity towards self-reliance to be able to better serve vulnerable communities.

Volunteer management and service project objective: The Nepal Red Cross develops a volunteer framework and increases the managerial capacities of volunteers at all levels.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: Increased managerial competence of volunteers for developing and implementing effective and relevant services/activities in armed conflict-affected areas.

In addition to a series of training sessions for Red Cross volunteers through other programmes, the organizational development programme conducted a number of orientation workshops for volunteers including school teachers, pupils, members of different community groups and members of NRCS chapter committees. The workshops covered topics such as volunteer management, the Fundamental Principles, humanitarian values and the Geneva Conventions. On the occasion of the Nepal Red Cross Day (4 September 2005), fundraising camps were organized with the participation of more than 700 people, and a total of NPR 35,279 (CHF 650) was raised.

Expected result 2: The volunteer framework used by all branches for better utilization of volunteers.

Translation of the volunteer management handbook into Nepali is in final stage, as well as the development of the volunteer management training curriculum.

Women and gender-development project objective: Increased participation of women in all levels of the structure and development programmes.

Progress/achievements

Expected result 1: Increased level of awareness and skills of staff and volunteers to improve gender balance in the different levels of the structure within the Society.

A gender needs assessment study is underway, covering all 75 district chapters of the country. The national headquarters has received completed questionnaires from all branches. In the next stage, the data analysis will be carried out, as well as identification of barriers and the development of recommendations for a better participation of women in the work of the National Society. The study will guide not only the women development section, but will also assist all other programmes and departments to launch appropriate initiatives for inclusion of women.

The NRCS district chapters have started conducting skills-based training for the survivors of conflict, specifically vulnerable and single women. So far, 110 women have received training on animal husbandry and vegetable farming. The districts have coordinated their training with various government organizations, including the agricultural development office and the district veterinary office. In the next quarter, the skills-based training will be completed and the financial support will be provided to all the targeted women.

Expected result 2: Review of the institution's procedures to put in place gender analysis as part of National Society programming

In each programme district, a gender workshop was conducted for the members of the district chapter, women development sub-committee and the sub-chapter of the project area. The workshops covered the concept of gender, the current situation of female volunteers and recommendations for improvement. A total of 140 participants attended the workshops. Before conducting the gender training and workshops, programme orientation for the stakeholders was also conducted at central, district and community levels. In the next quarter, a central level gender and women development review meeting will be held for the five project districts and a gender development guideline handbook will be produced.

Youth development project objective: Junior/youth volunteers trained and mobilized in organizational development for service activities.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: Junior/youth Red Cross programme strengthened and increased Junior/ youth members' involvement in humanitarian activities.

During the reporting period, a series of national seminars, junior Red Cross camps, and youth leadership development training sessions were held, and the junior/youth policy translated into English.

The junior/youth national seminar, held in June in Kabhre, gathered more than 250 representatives from 51 districts and national headquarters, as well as representatives of the Federation and ICRC. The youth leadership development training was also held in this period, with participation of 28 youth Red Cross representatives from 25 districts.

Expected Result 2: Service provided to and through junior/youth Red Cross.

The main activities included the establishment of first aid training units in five districts; plantation of trees in ten districts as part of the forestation initiative, as well as the educational support initiative reaching out to 20 Red Cross circles. In the last quarter of the year, first aid training for teacher sponsors will be conducted.

Resource mobilization project objective: To ensure dependable and regular financial resources through the implementation of improved systems and by developing fundraising skills at all levels.

Progress/achievements

Expected Result 1: Diversified fundraising activities have been implemented and more resources are generated.

NRCS donation boxes have been placed in three new locations in Kathmandu. To make direct mailing more systematic the National Society hired a Nepali marketing agency and an advertising agency to help redesign the mailer. Some 10,000 new mailers were sent out during the national festivals of Dashain and Tihar.

Expected Result 2: The presence and operation of a national resource mobilization policy, strategy and procedure.

The Nepali version of the resource mobilization policy, strategy and procedure has been finalized. The national headquarters are continuously following up with district chapters and encouraging them to carry out local fundraising campaigns. A copy of the final version of resource policy will be sent to each district chapter in the coming quarter.

Expected result 3: Learning from resource mobilization activities has been systematized and is continuously shared at all levels of NRCS to enhance community level and programme sustainability.

The resource mobilization consultant, hired by the South Asia regional delegation, visited NRCS together with a software expert, who conducted training on the use of the *supporter management software*, which is especially designed to be used as a data-base of donors. Currently the software is used only to keep a record of supporters of direct mailing, but the plan is to include other types of supporters and partners.

Expected Result 4: The level of understanding of general public and specific target groups increased through the publicity of NRCS programs and support to NRCS activities and services increased.

As mentioned above, a wide range of fundraising initiatives is underway.

Impact

Since the beginning of the year, the NRCS has been focusing on reviewing its organizational development approach in order to consolidate its activities and strengthen local capacities. Maintaining good relationship and coordination among the district chapters has been particularly strongly emphasized. Different resource mobilization and fundraising activities have been initiated that deliver increased sustainability in local communities, as well as within the organization, have been initiated or upgraded.

Volunteer and youth management efforts have resulted in improved cooperation and coordination with internal and external stakeholders, and increased support to the vulnerable people at the community level. Both units are essential for implementation of most NRCS activities at local level, and work will continue on consolidating their commitment, knowledge and role within the National Society and in the communities. The revised junior/youth Red Cross policy will help clarify and strengthen the organization and the programme.

Implementation and management**Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

Regular coordination meetings have taken place between the NRCS, ICRC and the Federation office to share information and discuss the security situation in the country, programme implementation and coordination of assistance to the National Society. ICRC, supported by the Federation, has launched a programme of conflict preparedness and response based on the principles of *safe access* starting with NRCS senior governance and management committee.

With the Federation's assistance, the NRCS has been following up with all partner national societies involved in the cooperation agreement strategy for Nepal regarding their future commitments. It is hoped that a clear picture will emerge by mid-November. Further efforts will continue to be made to initiate a coordinated audit process among all NRCS partners in the reporting period.

Various routine coordination meetings were held with UN partners including UNDP, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO as well as with the European Union, USAID and NGO partners. The National Society is the key partner in a UNDP funding application to ECHO for emergency preparedness and enhancing the capacities of DP-Net. The NRCS is also included in the UNOCHA consolidated appeal process (CAP) for Nepal. In the light of the conflict situation and risk of earthquake, there is now a strong focus on expanding cooperation with UN partners in the areas of emergency preparedness and response.

During the meeting of the Federation's South Asia team in September, the support of the regional delegation to Nepal was discussed and plans were drawn up for future assistance of technical delegates and staff to NRCS programmes.

Effective representation and advocacy

The NRCS is maintaining close contacts with the donor community and is active in fundraising for projects and positioning the National Society within the humanitarian and development sectors. The society received good coverage from local media for specific events such as HIV/AIDS, youth and local disaster response interventions. The NRCS involvement in both national and international disaster response operations continues to be widely reported and has helped raise the profile of the National Society.

At present, preparations are being made for the *Federation of the Future* consultative meeting in October and the launch of the World Disasters Report in early November.

Delegation management

The Federation office in Nepal consists of a Federation representative only. A new representative arrived in September. Together with the regional delegation for South Asia, technical and other support continues to be provided to the National Society in its core activity areas.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 05AA048

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,157,818	TOTAL COVERAGE 117.4%	
OPENING BALANCE				63,801		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				192,500	01.01.05	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, CB FIRST AID, INFORMATION
BRITISH - RC				20,000	12.05.05	WOMEN & GENDER DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC				402,200	01.05.05	DISASTER REDUCTION PHASE II
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				45,015	17.01.05	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		62,888	EUR	98,137	22.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
KOREA REP. - RC				30,000	18.08.05	VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT
NEW ZEALAND - RC		150,000	NZD	134,400	22.09.05	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - RC		400,000	SEK	68,400	29.03.05	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	171,000	29.03.05	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		660,000	SEK	112,860	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,338,313	CHF	115.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			20,600		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				20,600	CHF	1.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	