

CAMBODIA

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CAPACITY BUILDING

CHF 1,217,000

Programme No. 01.27/98

Political instability and insecurity continue to plague Cambodia. Simmering tensions within the coalition government of FUNCINPEC and the Cambodian Peoples Party (CPP) finally erupted in factional fighting 5-6 July 1997 in Phnom Penh as both sought to build up alliances with other political parties, including present and former Khmer Rouge leaders, in preparation for national elections scheduled for May 1998.

Although this fighting resulted in the ousting of co-prime minister Prince Ranariddh, leaving Hun Sen and the CPP firmly in control in Phnom Penh, clashes and skirmishes between CPP forces and troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh continued in the far north and west of the country, resulting in a large number of internally displaced people and driving an estimated 50,000 persons across the border into Thailand. It also led to the laying of more landmines in a country where an estimated 8 to 10 million landmines continue to maim or kill daily, and vast areas of agricultural land remain unsafe for cultivation.

The fighting triggered real concerns of a return to the civil war that preceded the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991 and precipitated a loss of donor and investor confidence, including the suspension of World Bank and IMF support. The withdrawal of aid will inevitably have a long term negative effect on the Cambodian economy and workforce and lead to further political instability and social unrest within the country.

The situation is severely affecting the Cambodian people, most of whom live and work in rural areas. A disproportionate number of these people are women and children (one in four households is headed by a widow or single mother) who have little or no access to schools, safe drinking water and immunisation. In addition Cambodia remains prone to annual floods and drought.

The Operation

Since the reunification of the CRC in 1994, the Federation has assisted the National Society (NS) to strengthen its capacity through the creation of a network of over 4,500 trained Red Cross volunteers (RCVs) and the development of a three-year strategic and operational plan (1997-2000) which puts

special emphasis on disaster preparedness and relief activities, along with the institutional development of the National Society.

Objectives in 1998

- | ***Disaster Preparedness and Relief.*** In the prevailing climate of insecurity and political instability the Federation will continue to work closely with the CRC as a partner in relief programmes in Cambodia and to assist the NS in effecting appropriate responses to any major disasters in the country. Special effort will be made to develop further the Society's disaster preparedness.
- | ***Capacity Building.*** The Federation will also support the institutional and structural development of the CRC through organisational and programme development. This will have the following main objectives:
 - v To assist CRC implement its three-year development plan and adjust its structures to reflect the plan's priorities, with particular reference to the strengthening of management and organisation at both central and provincial levels;
 - v to consolidate well selected and planned programmes/activities in Community Based Disaster Preparedness, Response and Mitigation, Community Based First Aid, and Red Cross Youth.

Plan of Action

Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP), Response and Mitigation

Cambodia is prone to flooding on an annual basis, which has led to an increased awareness of the need for integrated Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation programmes.

The CBDP programme will be a multi-year process, focusing on seven provinces in 1998. CRC launched a CBDP programme in November '96 and targeted three pilot provinces in 1997. Future and on-going plans include: clarification of CRC's roles and responsibilities with regard to national disaster management structures; development of a CRC Disaster Preparedness plan, policy, strategies and materials; further development of training courses for CRC staff and volunteers; and the strengthening of CRC's capacity to help RCVs in assisting communities design and implement strategies to mitigate the effects of flooding in their communities.

Beneficiaries in 1998 will be 294,000 vulnerable people in 7 target provinces; training will be given to 1,500 CRC staff and volunteers and 10,650 students.

Community Based First Aid (CBFA) aims to develop awareness and increase the use of preventive health care practices, including MCH care, immunisation, sanitation, use of clean water, improved nutrition, and first aid amongst 10% of the women with families in target communes.

This programme will be expanded from 10 to 13 provinces in 1998 and include further development of the CBFA policy and procedures, revision of the curriculum, 112 CBFA training courses (including training of trainers), revision and updating of the follow up system for the CBFA programme, development of first aid training and services policy, development of a course curriculum and provision of 63 basic first aid training courses for non-Red Cross target groups, development of mini projects (backyard farming, tree planting) for RCVs, and the introduction of income-generating

projects to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable. In 1998 training will reach an estimated 5,000 RCVs, and 1,260 persons from non-Red Cross groups.

Red Cross Youth (RCY) aims to develop leadership skills amongst youth in targeted schools in order to initiate preventive health care projects and local disaster mitigation/prevention measures, and to develop Red Cross ideals and knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The CRC Youth Programme was launched in August 1996 in 18 schools in three provinces. It has the full support and involvement of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports (MEYS) and has already been incorporated into the Cambodian school curriculum. The programme will be expanded in 1998 to include leadership training, recruitment of members, improvement of the course curriculum, first aid training and specialised training courses (accident prevention, blood donation, landmine awareness etc.), mini projects, and the organisation of special events relevant to the Red Cross in 13 target provinces (78 new schools). It is expected to cover 150 RCY leaders/teachers & advisers, 14,000 RCY members/students.

Institutional Development will consist of the following components:

Organisation and Management: To propose a Human Resource Development programme to enable CRC to recruit and develop appropriate staff for its programmes and services at all levels.

National and Branch Management: To develop clearly defined and functional structures, roles and responsibilities for CRC's management and governing bodies, HQ and provincial branches, and improve links between all CRC structures and groups.

National Financial Management: To develop and implement CRC policy on financial management.

Promote/strengthen co-operation within the region: To establish CRC as an active partner in key regional and international initiatives and issues.

Public Relations and Fund Raising: To enable CRC to be financially self sustaining for core activities by the year 2000, to activate the membership and to raise awareness of the Red Cross Movement and CRC activities.

Capacity

National Society

The Cambodian Red Cross has a branch in 21 of the country's 22 provinces and employs a total of 294 persons at HQ and Branch level. Although its membership is small there are 4,515 trained Red Cross Volunteers in the 10 target provinces. Most provinces have their own Red Cross office and a few have their own logistics compound. At present the CRC is mainly dependent on outside funding, including The World Food Programme, through a contract to transport rice for its Food For Work (FFW) programmes, bi-lateral National Societies, and NGOs, although it has a successful annual fundraising event.

Federation

The planned Federation Delegation will consist of a Federation Head of Delegation, a Finance Development Delegate, a Disaster Preparedness Delegate — all Phnom Penh based — and three Regional Branch Development Delegates.

Co-operation

A co-operation agreement was signed with the Federation in December 1995. ICRC is currently assisting the CRC in implementing a Tracing Programme and, in co-operation with the Federation, is supporting CRC dissemination programmes. Several National Societies are providing substantial support for CRC health services.

The Federation and OXFAM funded CRC's institutional strengthening and disaster preparedness activities in four north western provinces from 1993 to 1997. CRC is assisting Handicapped International (HI) to assemble data on landmine and UXO injuries, gathered in four provinces by Red Cross volunteers. Other agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP and several NGOs are assisting the CRC through the Emergency Response Group (ERG) which meets bi-weekly, chaired by CRC.