

# **CAMBODIA**

**CHF 2,945,000**

**Programme No. 01.24/2000**

## ***National Context***

Cambodia is emerging from two decades of warfare, internal disputes and political instability. The devastation inflicted by the Khmer Rouge, internecine war and civil strife and prolonged international isolation have taken a serious toll on the population and left a country ill-equipped to deal with the most basic needs of its people. In addition, the regional economic crisis and poor harvests over the past two years have severely impacted social development. Cambodia's most vulnerable face major issues of food security and malnutrition, decreasing access to affordable health care and declining standards of living.

Signs of political stability and peace sufficient to enable the government and its development partners to move beyond a rehabilitation mode into a long-term development strategy have appeared only recently.

The coalition government established after the July 1998 elections has agreed on a platform of strengthening democracy, bolstering the rule of law, government transparency and accountability, encouraging economic growth and reducing poverty. Former Khmer Rouge forces have been reintegrated into society and most refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have returned home or are being resettled. The country has regained its seat at the United Nations; the international community resumed its assistance and, in April 1999, the country became the tenth member of ASEAN.

Besides its economic woes, Cambodia is also highly susceptible to flooding. Each year, floods of varying intensity affect the country along two major watersheds, making disaster preparedness and mitigation crucial.

## ***Country Assistance Strategy***

The Federation's overall aim is to continue supporting the structured institutional development process that was begun by the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) in 1996, in order to establish a well functioning National Society in the coming six years – 2000 to 2005. Its input will cover capacity building at both central and provincial level, with a special focus on disaster preparedness and response and, in a country where only 20% of the population has access to a health facility, community level health care.

The Society, the largest humanitarian organisation in the country, has a network of 24 Red Cross Branches covering all provinces/municipality/cities, and over 3,600 trained and active Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs). In 1998 it adopted a three year development plan, 1998 - 2000, that forms the basis for all planning within CRC and is the framework that guides all external support. All Federation supported development programmes reflect its priority areas. The plan was to be reviewed at the end of 1999 and extended to cover the next five years 2001 - 2005.

The Federation will develop a joint strategy in 2000 with the ICRC, PNSs and other partners, in order to effectively co-ordinate and use resources from within the Movement and from outside supporters. Because of the extent of outside support it will pay special attention to information sharing and networking with all stakeholders.

## ***Programme Objectives***

### ***Disaster Response***

Following up on assistance to returnees and the local population in 1999 in four north-eastern provinces, support will be provided to strengthen new provincial branches in these provinces, to enable them to respond to local needs related to reintegration and rehabilitation.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

In 2000 one of the Federation's main objectives will be to develop the CRC's capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters at national, provincial and community levels in seven target provinces. Support to three pilot provinces will continue and be expanded to four more provinces. It will focus on capacity building of the provincial Red Cross Branches and promote integration of the CBFA and CBDP programmes.

### ***Health***

In 2000, the second key Federation objective will be to strengthen the CRC response to primary health care needs at the community level in 16 target provinces through the Red Cross Volunteer (RCVs) and Red Cross Youth (RCY) networks.

As part of the Community Based First Aid Programme, the Federation will provide refresher training to more than 3,500 RCVs. Within the Community Based Primary Health Care programme, the Federation will support Community Based Primary Health Care Projects in two districts, one rural, one urban, aimed at improving the communities' health and well-being through a focused and integrated volunteer-based outreach programme.

### ***Humanitarian Values***

The Red Cross Youth Programme, which is an important means for promoting humanitarian values, currently covers 11 provinces. Support in 2000 will focus on awareness raising, and training in leadership, first aid skills, environment and health. Support to disabled children is under consideration.

## ***Capacity Building***

Institutional development has been the backbone of the CRC's development plan introduced in 1998 and will remain a priority when the plan is reviewed and updated in 2000 before being extended until 2005. Federation support will continue in the areas of human resources development; national and branch development; and communications and resource development.