Due to its location and variable climatic conditions, Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and remains a priority for emergency preparedness and response. Every year, more than 1,000 people in Nepal are killed by landslides and floods during the monsoon season. According to the United Nations, Nepal is the 11th most vulnerable country to earthquakes, and Kathmandu is the most at-risk city. In April 2015, central Nepal was struck by the most devastating earthquake in decades, which claimed close to 9,000 lives and destroyed more than half a million homes.

In August 2017, the worst rains in 15 years struck Nepal, triggering widespread large-scale flooding and landslides in 31 of the country’s 75 districts. Highly vulnerable to climate change, Nepal has already experienced temperature changes at a faster rate than the global average. Millions of Nepalese are estimated to be at risk from the impacts of climate change including reductions in agricultural production, food insecurity, strained water resources, loss of forests and biodiversity as well as damaged infrastructure.

Since its formation in 1963, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been leading humanitarian assistance and community-based action in Nepal to help people in need during emergencies and peacetimes. In its auxiliary role to the government, it has grown to be the largest humanitarian entity in the field of disaster response and recovery in the country. It also leads and supports in the areas of disaster risk reduction (DRR), health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), first aid, gender equality and social inclusion.

In a two-year plan for 2019 and 2020, IFRC will focus on strengthening the organizational capacity NRCS with an aim to review and implement the recommendations of NRCS’ Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC) – an internal assessment tool, effective to measure the gaps that exists in any given Red Cross Red Crescent Movement’s capacity to deliver most current and relevant humanitarian assistance and ensure accountability of the National Societies.

NRCS will also be supported to enhance preparedness for emergency response and also strengthen its capacity in the areas of logistics, information management, and communication. Additionally, strategic and sustainable engagements will be scaled for Shelter Cluster Coordination, civil-military relations and community-based disaster risk management. Through IFRC’s coordination of an in-country integration agreement, there are 13 Red Cross Red Crescent partners in-country. All actors work in partnership with IFRC and NRCS either on bilateral, multilateral or consortium models.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Nepal’s Hampered Development Goals Progress

Constant disasters caused by natural hazards reset Nepal’s development progress. The Human Development Index ranks Nepal 145th out of 189 countries. The World Bank indicates that while the country has halved the poverty rate in a span of seven years and witnessed a significant decline in income inequality, Nepal remains one of the poorest and slowest-growing economies in Asia, with its per capita income rapidly falling behind its regional peers and unable to achieve its long-standing ambition to graduate from low-income status. For Nepal to achieve its aspirational development goals by 2030, Nepal would need significant investments and support.

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Community resilience remains the core programme thrust for NRCS to which IFRC will continue its support for the implementation of integrated community-based DRR project in 11 communities in five districts. A focus will be on addressing multi-hazards identified through vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) exercises in target communities. NRCS district chapters, community volunteers will be at the forefront to implement DRR interventions through local government structures.

- 45,212 people to be reached with disaster resilience messages.
- 908 people to be trained on DRR training.

SHELTER

Shelter intervention will be implemented as part of the integrated community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) programme. As NRCS does not have an established structure for shelter, focus will be mainly on providing trainings to selected semi-skilled mason, promoting safe shelter awareness in communities.

- 5,000 people to be reached with safe shelter awareness.
- 98 masons to be trained on safe shelter construction.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The integrated CBDRR project will also target livelihood activities to the families living in hazard zones as identified through the VCA outcome(s). IFRC will support youth employment intervention and diversify livelihood opportunities for target families through skill-based trainings and start up support to families based on pre-defined criteria

- 1,519 people to be reached with livelihood interventions.

HEALTH

IFRC will support NRCS emergency health, first aid and road safety initiatives through training; development of knowledge sharing and advocacy; and technical guideline development for trained volunteers to link with public health care services in the country.

- 51,999 people to be reached with NRCS health care services.
- 9,109 staff, volunteers and people to be trained in psycho-social support, first aid and CBHFA.
- Seven provincial capitals to be reached with intensive road safety and first aid education.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Providing safe drinking water through renovation/construction of water supply system in a water scarce community, ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and hygiene as well as the promotion of gender equity and capacity building of community and NRCS local units.

- 8,560 people with improved or increased access to safe water.
- 22,466 people to be reached with personal and community hygiene activities.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) is IFRC’s cross-cutting approach to ensure the dignity, access, participation and safety for all individuals across all activities and programming. It is based on a thorough and ongoing analysis of how gender, disability, age and other diversity factors affect people’s vulnerability to harm before, during and after a disaster.

- NRCS FDRS data on people reached is disaggregated by sex and age.
- Promotion of gender equity and social inclusion throughout the programme areas.
- 11,100 people reached with GESI and PGI interventions.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

In line with OCAC recommendations, National Society development support will be given to bridge any existing gaps within the NRCS Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

- 450 staff and volunteers to be trained in National Society capacity building and organizational development.
- Above 1 million people reached with humanitarian messages through mass and social media.
- Roll out of Youth Engagement Strategy of National Society through innovative initiatives.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IFRC support to NRCS on cash-based interventions will aim to establish NRCS as a partner of choice for humanitarian response.

- 5,000 crises affected people to be reached with cash-based interventions.
- Promote civil-military relations for coordinated humanitarian response and preparedness.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Engagement with government and DRR actors through community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) Platform.
- Advocacy for Disaster Law and finalization of international disaster assistance.
- Shelter Cluster Coordination.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC reinforces its commitment to compliance of highest accountability standards, amenability to key management performance indicators, full adherence to IFRC’s Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control policy, strict concession to IFRC’s Prevention and Response of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy, and highest commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive working environment towards greater diversity and gender equality.

- IFRC office readiness plan is in place.
- IM and data management is in place.

CONTACTS

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