

At Kang, the main distribution center, immediate medical treatment was given to those people who needed it and the relief supplies were distributed. The Secretary General met the victims of the floods and conveyed the great sorrow and sympathy of H.M. King Zahir Shah, the Patron of the Society, and of H.R.H. Prince Ahmed Shah, the High President of the Society. Dr. Anwary also conveyed the greetings and concern of Dr. Mohammed Yusuf, the Prime Minister. The people of the Kang area were heartened by these messages and were appreciative of the aid sent them in their need. The distribution of supplies in Kang took two days.

The relief team next went to Char Birja by helicopter, while the supplies for this area were flown there by plane. The Secretary General again conveyed the sympathetic messages of H.M. the King, and H.R.H. the Prince, as well as that of H.E. the Prime Minister. Supplies and first aid treatment were distributed and, as at Kang, the people expressed their great gratitude.

On the following day, the team went to Khabagh, 50 kilometers from Char Birja, to aid the families who still remained there because they could not be evacuated in time. These people were in great need, since their food supplies had been exhausted. They were greatly relieved by the gifts of supplies.

The team then flew to the old Chackansoor and camped at Qaloi Fatah Khan, where they again distributed supplies and first aid treatment.

The relief team returned to Kabul on May 20th, after having successfully carried out the most important single relief operation of the Society this year. Thousands of people received the relief supplies and medical treatment, valued at over Afs. 3,000,000, at a time when they had lost their homes, as well as all of their possessions¹.

Ethiopia

This year the Ethiopian Red Cross celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation². To mark the event it published a

¹ *Plate* : The Afghan Red Crescent Society distributing relief supplies to the victims of the floods.

² The ICRC officially recognized the Ethiopian Red Cross in its Circular No. 310 to all Central Committees on September 26, 1935.

booklet in English which, *inter alia*, relates the dramatic circumstances of its beginning.

The booklet starts with the text of an 8th May message to the Ethiopian people from H.I.H. the Crown Prince, President of the National Society, as part of a large drive for new members. "I wish", he concluded, "all Ethiopians to be aware of these principles that are dedicated to the relief of human suffering. Red Cross members of all ages are needed in order to enable the Ethiopian Red Cross to carry out its humanitarian work, and therefore I advise and urge all of you to think of your Red Cross Society and participate in furthering its noble services."

For this appeal to have a wide response, it is important that the public to which it is addressed should be informed about the Red Cross and its organization. For this purpose, the booklet includes a brief description of the activities of the ICRC and of the League, as well as an outline of the foundation and development of our movement. A brief history of the Ethiopian Red Cross and its rebirth in 1947 is followed by an account of topical activities.

Hardly had it been founded on July 8, 1935—by Imperial Proclamation—when the Ethiopian Red Cross had to contend with the situation created by a war in which it performed remarkable work, both in Addis Ababa and on the battlefields, in spite of the suddenness of the outbreak, the Society's inexperience and the lack of resources.

But international assistance soon proved its value. The Society received help from a considerable number of countries in all parts of the world. Completely equipped and staffed ambulance units were sent by several countries. The National Society itself had five ambulances.

The rebirth of the Ethiopian Red Cross occurred in January 1948 at an inauguration meeting when H.I.H. the Crown Prince accepted the Presidency. Everything had to be started all over again and the first few years were a period of organization and programme development.

One of the most immediate projects was to remedy the shortage of nurses. The first school of nursing was set up with the help of the Swedish Red Cross and later the Swedish Technical Assistance Committee gave financial support. In addition, Ethiopian and foreign doctors assisted the school as voluntary teachers. Sub-

sequently many of the graduates were sent abroad for further training and in order to specialize. Some of them are now directing the educational activities of the school and the first-aid training programmes. Others served with the United Nations forces in Korea and the Congo.

In 1952, the Society started a free ambulance service on a 24-hour schedule. A blood donor service was also organized. First-Aid posts were set up along the main roads and the Society made free beds available at the Haile Selassie I hospital for poor patients and emergency cases.

The work of the Society also included a "Missing Persons Service" after the war. This still operates in close co-operation with the ICRC Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Specialized courses in first-aid, home nursing, road safety, and water safety were continuously given to the public, and first-aid teams were organized within the Boy Scout troops.

Besides the continuous assistance to individuals and institutions, including distribution of clothing, medicines, vitamins, gift parcels, foodstuffs and milk powder, the Ethiopian Red Cross has intervened effectively in a number of natural disasters. One of such relief operations, in 1961, in the flood disaster areas of Kellafo and Mustahil, went on for several months. The Society often co-operated with the Ministry of Public Health in vaccination campaigns against communicable diseases and with the hospitals in providing blood plasma and ambulance services.

The Annual Report for 1963-64, which is given in the last section of the booklet clearly shows that the Ethiopian Red Cross provides permanent services of immense value. Some examples are given.

At the School of Nursing, in the Haile Selassie I Hospital, students follow three and a half year courses prior to the State examination. A good many nurses graduating from the school, desirous of devoting themselves to their Society, offer their voluntary service; in this way the Association of Ethiopian Red Cross Nurses was formed.

Free Ambulance Service.—Small ambulances serve the capital, while two well equipped Landrover ambulances operate in the provinces.

Relief Service.—The Society was on the spot during the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia at Ogaden in 1964. It gave medical attention to the wounded and sick and distributed relief supplies to the civilian population. Considerable help in cash, medical supplies and foodstuffs was received at the time from sister Societies.

The Junior Red Cross.—The Junior Red Cross activities have been intensified during the past year by the extended First-Aid Teaching programme. In close co-operation with the Ministry of Education, plans are being worked out to reach the school students for enrolment in the Junior Red Cross Section.

An Anti-epidemic Service has been set up to co-ordinate hygiene campaigns in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Health.

Tracing of Missing Persons is still carried on, in close co-operation with the ICRC.

As can be seen, an immense task has been accomplished in a short time. We express the wish that the Ethiopian Red Cross will carry on, ever more extensively and in ever better conditions.

Nepal

“ I am very glad to know that the Nepal Red Cross Society is bringing out a journal to commemorate World Red Cross Day today. I hope the journal will serve to popularise the ideals of selfless service to suffering humanity, which the Red Cross Society was born to practise. I am happy to know that Princess Princep Shah and other Nepalese are trying their best to achieve the cause through it in Nepal. I wish the Nepal Red Cross Society all success.” It was with these words that H.M. the King of Nepal, on May 8, 1965, expressed his welcome of the publication of a well presented illustrated commemorative booklet edited in English ¹.

May 8, 1965, was also an occasion for Princess Princep Shah, the King's sister and Chairman of the Society, to express her views on the scope of this publication. After explaining the significance of World Red Cross Day, she stated : “ It is a matter of great joy that on this occasion the first issue of the journal of our Red Cross Society is being published. I wish wholeheartedly that the journal

¹ *Nepal Red Cross*, Kathmandu, 1965, 62 p.