

RED ALERT

YOUR SUPPORT, OUR WORK, REAL DIFFERENCE

page 4 Mission Ready

page 6 Myanmar

page 8 Sudan

redruk
people and skills for disaster relief



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Not for the first time in our charity's history, the world we are working in is proving turbulent and challenging. In recent months, we have watched conflicts and crises across the globe develop and deepen, from Syria, to Yemen, to South Sudan.

The forthcoming exit of the UK from the European Union is a cause for concern, as we wait to see the effect this will have on our partnerships. But throughout our history, RedR has proved extremely resilient. I am proud of our continued ability to adapt, evolve, and rise to whatever challenges we encounter.

This update illustrates the wide range of ways RedR is supporting those on the front lines of humanitarian response. Whether we're strengthening WASH capacity in Sudan, training staff managing teams in Syria, or developing online security training that's accessible from anywhere in the world, RedR is doing what we have always done: providing life-saving skills and knowledge where they're needed most.

Thank you for your support.

Martin McCann
Chief Executive

Thanks to our Patrons Why we print Red Alert

AECOM
Arup
Association for Consultancy and Engineering
Atkins
Black and Veatch Ltd
BP
BT
Elliott Wood LLP
Griffiths & Armour Group
Laing O'Rourke
Mace Foundation
Mott MacDonald Group Ltd
MWH
New Civil Engineer
Sandberg LLP
The Institution of Chemical Engineers
The Institution of Civil Engineers
The Institution of Engineering and Technology
The Institution of Mechanical Engineers
The Institution of Structural Engineers
The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Worshipful Company of Engineers
Tony Gee and Partners LLP
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Red Alert is produced twice yearly to keep our supporters informed about RedR's activities and achievements, and to encourage others to support our work. All RedR publications, including Red Alert, are printed on FSC accredited stock.

Tell us what you think! We're always keen to hear your thoughts about issues raised in Red Alert. Letters to the editor should be sent to: rachel.erskine@redr.org.uk

RedR UK
250a Kennington Lane
London SE11 5RD
t +44 (0)20 7840 6000
e info@redr.org.uk
www.redr.org.uk

Charity Number: 1079752
Registered in England and Wales
as Company Number 3929653
Limited by guarantee

Gold Corporate Partners

Lloyd's Charities Trust



Training in Myanmar - page 6

REDR AT THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

In May, RedR CEO Martin McCann attended the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Istanbul, Turkey. 9,000 people from 173 countries came together to discuss the pressing challenges the humanitarian sector is facing.

Martin was joined by two members of RedR's Europe and Global Initiatives team. Kate Denman spoke about Mission Ready (see page 4) during a

panel discussion on the protection of health workers, facilities and patients, and Nika Farnworth represented KnowledgePoint (see page 16) at the Innovation Marketplace.

'It was a very interesting couple of days, with important discussions opened if not resolved, and some meaningful commitments made. It will be a few years before we can truly measure the impact of the summit,' said Martin McCann. ■

'MANAGING PEOPLE' IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In April, RedR ran two *Managing People in Emergencies* courses in Gaziantep, Turkey. Supported by the Mace Foundation, the training was aimed at aid workers responding to the Syrian crisis.

Over five days, 36 humanitarians from Turkey and Syria were trained in the theory and practice of good management, communication techniques, coaching, negotiation, team-building and conflict management, and remote management: all essential skills for managers whose teams are working in difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions.



'I instantly felt I had acquired the skills and tools to be a better leader as well as gaining a better understanding of being a humanitarian.'

KEEPING AID WORKERS SAFE

Last October, RedR launched *Mission Ready*, an interactive online training platform for aid workers in the field.

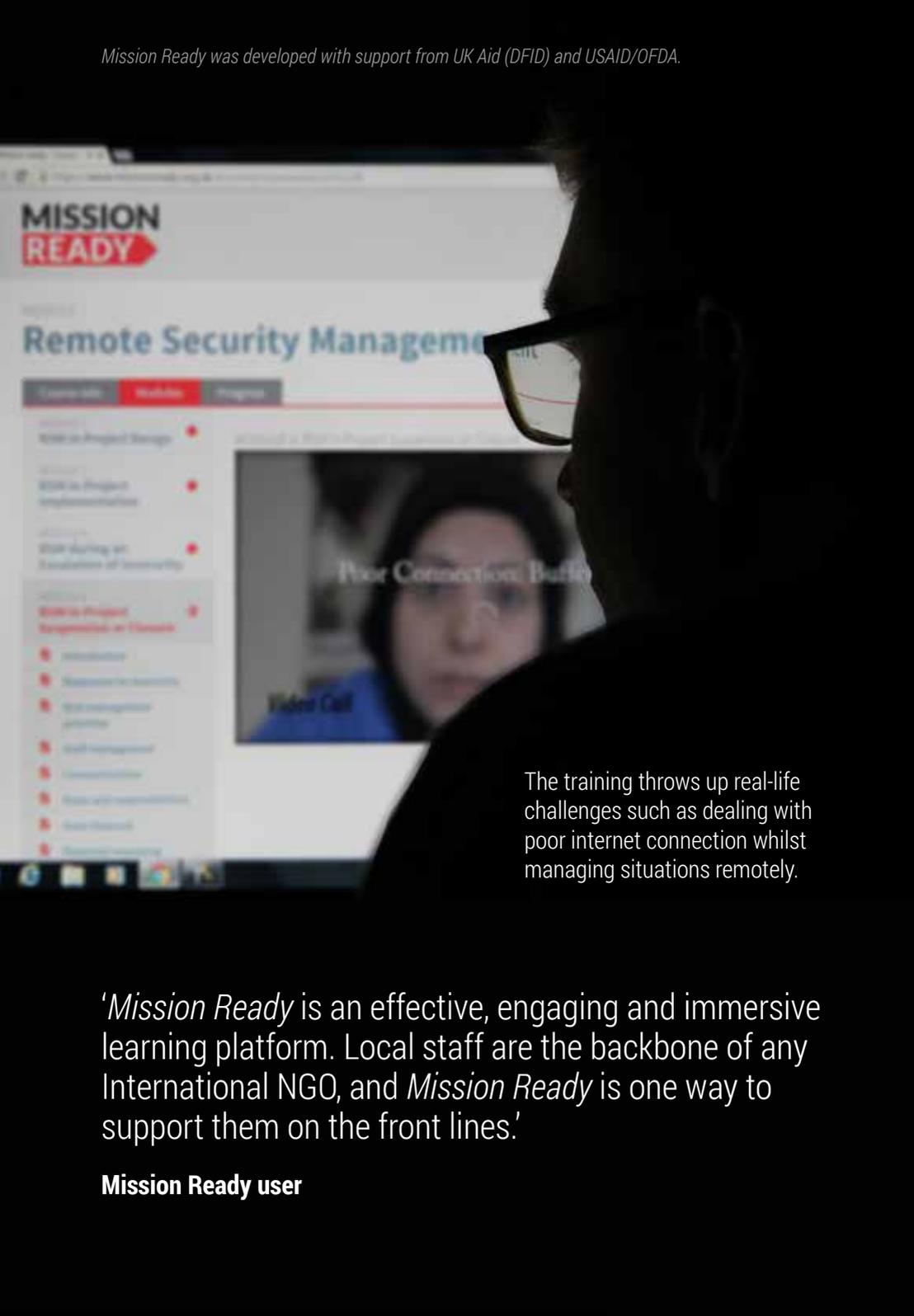
'Often, the aid workers who are most in need of security training are also those who struggle to access it,' explains RedR's Project Manager Kate Denman. 'For logistical or financial reasons, staff operating in remote or isolated locations - particularly those working for smaller national NGOs - aren't always able to attend face-to-face security training. *Mission Ready* is made for them.'

Through a series of video scenarios that unfold in real time, *Mission Ready* challenges the user to make the kind of decisions he or she will face when working with projects and teams in insecure environments. As in real life, the choices they make will determine what happens next. Developed in partnership with Manchester-based start-up Digital Training Solutions (DTS), the platform currently hosts two courses: *Field Security Management*, and *Remote Security Management*, which is

being launched on Monday 3 October at London's Salesforce Tower. '*Remote Security Management* is set in a fictional Middle Eastern country and addresses the challenges aid agencies working in the region might be facing,' says Kate Denman. 'But the same principles apply in any situation where a project is being managed remotely. The course is designed to help humanitarian staff manage security remotely through the project life cycle, from design to implementation - right up to project suspension or closure, should the security situation make this necessary.'

Mission Ready exemplifies RedR's commitment to addressing the learning needs of the sector - wherever those needs may be,' says Kate Denman. 'To ensure this vital training reaches as many people as possible, *Mission Ready* is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, with licences costing as little as 8 USD. It's also available as an offline desktop application, which means users don't need a reliable internet connection to do the course.' ■

If you would like to attend the launch of *Remote Security Management*, please contact Remi Bumstead on remi.bumstead@redr.org.uk or 020 7840 6057



The training throws up real-life challenges such as dealing with poor internet connection whilst managing situations remotely.

'*Mission Ready* is an effective, engaging and immersive learning platform. Local staff are the backbone of any International NGO, and *Mission Ready* is one way to support them on the front lines.'

Mission Ready user



© Pierre Prakash EU ECHO Myanmar flooding in Northern Rakhine State

MYANMAR TACKLING A COMPLEX CRISIS

‘The humanitarian context in Myanmar is extremely complicated,’ says RedR Programme Manager Katie Robertson.

‘The country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters like floods, landslides, and cyclones. In Rakhine, Kachin, and Northern Shan States, inter-communal conflict has left some 240,000 people internally displaced. This is compounded by restrictions on access to basic services for certain population groups, which means that despite the many positive changes taking place in Myanmar, humanitarian needs in parts of the country are extremely acute. On top of this, there are very few opportunities for newly-recruited local staff to acquire the skills they need to confront these challenges.’

➔ IMPACT

‘I was impressed by the depth of discussion and the engagement of participants with the subject’

RedR Member and trainer Samir Maleh has worked extensively in Myanmar, most recently as Country Director for Action Contre La Faim. ‘One of the main challenges we faced was the recruitment of qualified staff from within the crisis-affected parts of the country,’ he remembers. ‘We send field teams into some very complex and dynamic environments, but we often fail to provide them with the training they need.’

A learning needs assessment conducted by RedR earlier this year confirmed the need for training in the essentials of humanitarian principles and practices, along with soft skills like project and people management. In March and April, Samir trained on four RedR courses, all seeking to address these needs. ‘I was impressed by the depth of discussion and the engagement of participants with the subject,’ he says. ‘Trainees had a real desire to dive into the issues, particularly as we were able to relate them directly to the work they are doing in Rakhine, Kachin, or Northern Shan States.’

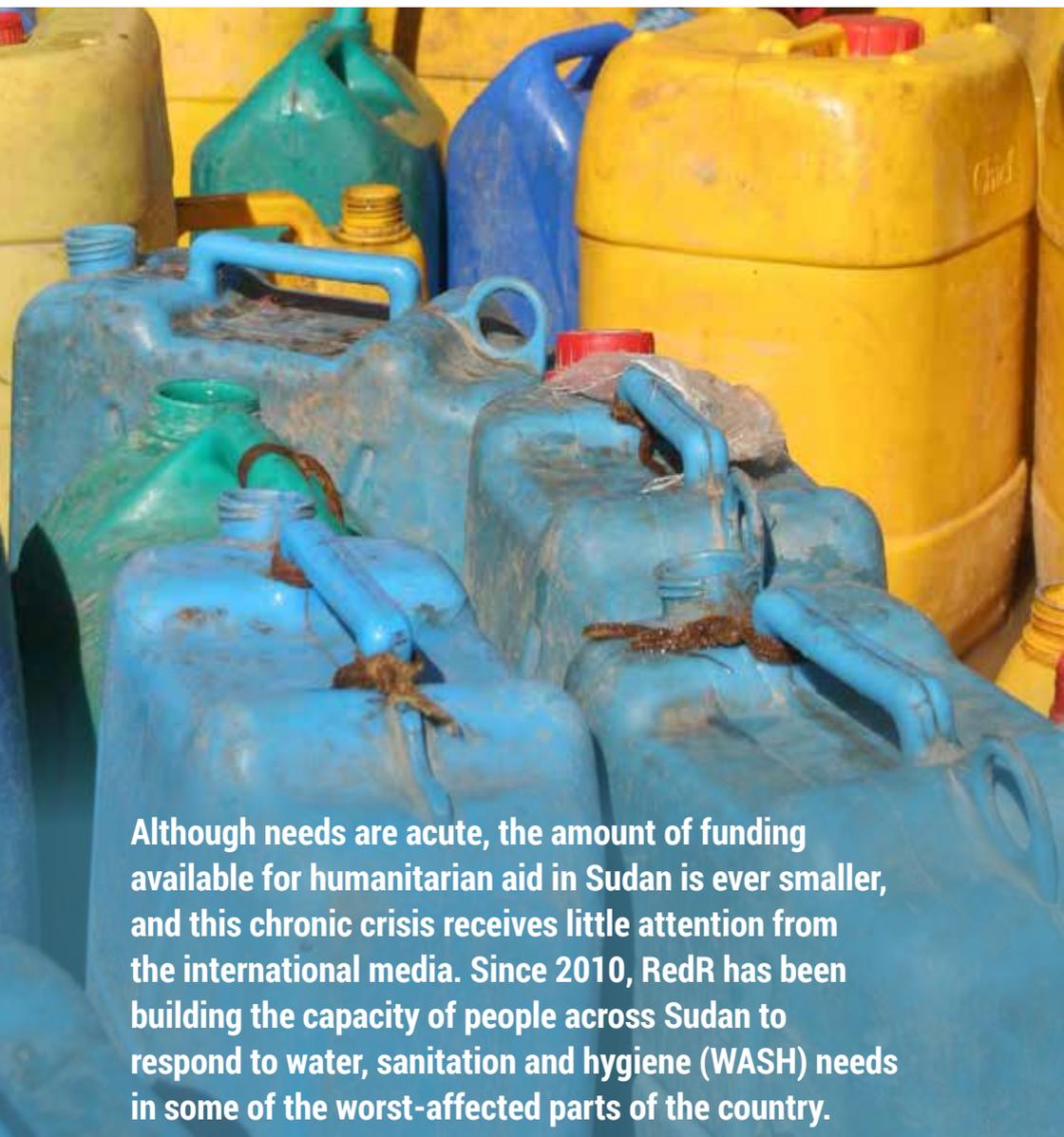
Dr Wai Mon Maung works for Plan International as a Project Manager for

Maternal, Neonate and Child Health and Nutrition. Although she has years of professional experience as a health worker, she is fairly new to the humanitarian sector. She attended two RedR courses: *Essentials of Humanitarian Practice* and *Managing Teams in Emergencies*, hoping to adapt her existing skills to this unfamiliar context.

‘I learnt about the different roles of humanitarian agencies, the cluster system, and the different elements that need to be in place if a humanitarian response is to be comprehensive,’ she says. ‘I also discovered the skills and attitudes required to manage a team under pressure, and practical techniques for leading a team. The training brought together people from different organisations with different professional and geographical backgrounds. This meant that we were able to draw on a wide range of viewpoints during the group work on problem-solving.’ Building on the success of this series, a further five courses are due to run this month: *Managing Projects*, *Managing Teams*, *Needs Assessment*, *Remote Management*, and *Protection*. ■

SUDAN

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Although needs are acute, the amount of funding available for humanitarian aid in Sudan is ever smaller, and this chronic crisis receives little attention from the international media. Since 2010, RedR has been building the capacity of people across Sudan to respond to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in some of the worst-affected parts of the country.

'In recent years, Sudan has made progress in the area of sanitation and hygiene - but the country still faces some significant challenges,' says RedR WASH expert Sarah House*. **'For example, 29% of the Sudanese population currently practice open defecation. Only 68% have access to an improved water source. Schools are underequipped in terms of latrines and hand-washing facilities, and the unsafe disposal of sewage and hazardous wastes is a major risk to health.'**

A sustainable approach

'In 2014, RedR responded to a request from UNICEF to conduct a country-wide assessment of humanitarian WASH capacity,' explains Project Coordinator Abdel-Rahim Gamaleldin. 'We then drew up a three-year capacity-building framework, which we're now in the process of implementing. We are delivering training and mentoring to WASH actors across the country (including national and international NGOs and government representatives), and working to improve coordination between these actors through workshops, technical working groups, and the dissemination of guidelines on WASH in Emergencies.'

RedR is also equipping local communities and humanitarian organisations to respond to WASH needs in four states which are at the epicentre of the crisis: White Nile, Kassala, and North and South Darfur. 'We're training local trainers in facilitation skills,' explains Project Coordinator El Miqdam Ali Ahmed. 'The aim is to ensure that local humanitarians can continue building WASH capacity in Sudan beyond the lifespan of the project.'

Refugees and host communities

Sudan hosts hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighbouring South Sudan. The majority - almost 750,000 people - have crossed the border since civil war broke out in December 2013. Most have settled in refugee camps in White Nile State.

Zahraa Ibrahim Adam Abdalla is a WASH Officer with Plan Sudan. She works with refugees and host communities in two localities in White Nile State. 'Along with building infrastructure like latrines and water points, we work with both populations to improve hygiene practices,' she explains. 'Through a community-led approach, we are working to



Left: Shazaa and Moh SNSHSF workshop attendees. Above: Sarah House leading a Sanitation and Hygiene workshop at Bahari University.

eradicate open defecation in camps and communities, and raise awareness of water-related diseases.’ Zahraa attended RedR’s *WASH Fundamentals in Emergencies* training in August 2016. ‘This training has given me more confidence in dealing with WASH issues, particularly in an emergency,’ she says.

A Guiding Framework

RedR’s WASH work in Sudan extends beyond capacity-building. Over the past six months, WASH expert Sarah House and the team have been involved in the development of the *Sudan National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategic Framework (SNSHSF)* which, once finalised, will guide all sanitation and hygiene efforts across the country.

‘The framework covers the key areas of household excreta disposal and hygiene promotion, institutional and public sanitation and hygiene, and environmental health services,’ explains Sarah House. ‘It also looks at a number of cross-cutting issues and the ‘building blocks’ of a successful sanitation and hygiene strategy, including legal and policy frameworks, institutional responsibilities, finance, planning, monitoring, review and learning, and capacity-building.’

The framework was drawn up through a consultative process led by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH)**. RedR facilitated an analysis of the current situation and obtained recommendations from sector

professionals, conducting workshops and interviews with 84 sanitation and hygiene practitioners from across Sudan. The team drew up a draft, which then went through a review process and is now being revised. The FMoH will finalise the framework, approve it for use, and develop an action plan and budget for its implementation.

‘SNSHSF will enable the Government of Sudan and its partners to speed and scale up their efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene across the country,’ says Sarah. ‘The committed and hard-working people involved in the process make me hopeful that Sudan will make significant progress on this critical issue, which affects so many rights and aspects of life.’ ■

*Sarah House is an independent water and sanitation consultant and public health engineer with 25 years of experience in the global WASH sector. Sarah is also a RedR Member and Associate Trainer.

** The process involved representatives from the Government of Sudan, civil society, the private sector and universities, the UN, development partners and humanitarian donors. It was funded by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, and supported by a core group of representatives from the FMoH, UNICEF, WHO, Khartoum State and RedR in Sudan. RedR’s WASH activities in Sudan are funded by UNICEF, the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, and the Vitof Foundation.



WHY ARE SANITATION AND HYGIENE SO IMPORTANT?

Access to adequate sanitation facilities, along with good sanitation and hygiene practices, are critical for:

- human health
- dignity
- economic development

They also contribute to the attainment of a number of human rights, including:

- survival
- well-being
- an adequate standard of living
- health
- education
- gender equality

NO SUN, SEA AND MUD

There's been no shortage of exciting fundraising activities from our wonderful supporters this year! From individuals taking on physical challenges to corporate teams organising inspired initiatives, they have all raised funds to support RedR's disaster relief work around the world.

Arup: Three Peaks Yacht Race

On June 12, a team of five from engineering firm Arup set off on one of the UK's most extreme endurance challenges – the Three Peaks Yacht Race. They put their physical strength to the test as they covered over 400 miles of sailing, 70 miles of running and 26 miles of cycling in just four days. They faced a number of hurdles en route but successfully made it to the top of the last climb, raising **£593** in the process.

WSP| Parsons Brinckerhoff: Tough Mudder Challenge

Alan, Peter and Sarah took a rather different approach to their fundraising by (literally) jumping over fire in support of RedR. The team successfully conquered the obstacle-laden Tough Mudder challenge and have raised **£435** for RedR through support from colleagues, friends and family.

Beale & Company and Tony Gee and Partners LLP: Three Peaks Challenge

Two of our corporate partners tackled the elements and climbed their way to success this summer. Together they raised a collective **£7,190.38** for RedR's projects. The group from Beale & Co tackled peaks Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough in Yorkshire whilst the Tony Gee team climbed Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis; all in 24 hours we may add!



WHY I SUPPORT REDR

Hannah Edmond is a RedR Champion and Civil Engineer at Mott MacDonald who, with colleagues Nick and Doug, volunteers with RedR to coordinate their Hands-on Weekends in Sussex.

For me, RedR are a key player at the core of the humanitarian sector providing training and skills to aid workers, volunteers, those thinking of moving into the sector and most importantly first responders across the globe through programmes such as *Ready to Respond*.

Since first graduating I have been getting involved with RedR as much as I can from *Wear Red*, netball matches and the BT Tower evening to RedR's refugee camp design session in our office. I attended the RedR WASH and Shelter Hands-on Weekends in 2014, to find out how best to apply my engineering experience within the humanitarian sector. I found these weekends motivated me to keep developing my experience and skills. I volunteered to join the team to hopefully provide the same for others.

This year's Hands-on Weekend is WASH focused and on 17-18 September.





WEAR RED FOR REDR

Get the date in your diaries folks! Friday 10 February 2017 sees the return of our favourite fundraiser – Wear Red for RedR – and we'll be shaking things up this time around, but don't fret as there will still be plenty of red involved! Individuals and companies from all over the world are welcome to join in the fun, so register your interest today to receive further information.

LONDON MARATHON

On 23 April 2017, thousands of runners will flock to the capital to take part in the world famous London Marathon. RedR have five guaranteed charity places on offer for the 26.2 mile challenge, and are looking for keen runners among you. If you'd like to join the RedR team and be part of this legendary challenge, get in touch today.

SANTA RUN

If you're looking for a running challenge with a difference then the Santa Run is the one for you. Join thousands of running Santas of all ages on 4 December in London's Victoria Park for the annual 5km/10km route. You choose whether to run, jog or walk the circuit and as an added bonus you get to keep the Santa suit!

Q&A: CHARLIE DALRYMPLE



RedR UK's new International Programmes Director

Tell us about your history with RedR.

I first heard about RedR when studying for my Master's degree in Engineering for Sustainable Development. Peter Guthrie, who co-founded RedR, was my tutor. In late 2010, I was delighted to be offered the post of Learning and Development Programmes Director. I left RedR at the end of 2014 to realise a dream of living and working in Colombia, where my wife is from. While there, I worked for the Refugee Education Trust and then for World Vision.

What brought you back to RedR?

The International Programmes Director role is a huge challenge for me. Overseeing five regional programmes, operating in challenging environments with limited resources is a real test, and one that excites me greatly.

What's different about the RedR you've come back to?

Since I've been away, RedR has made significant progress in developing systems to improve the quality of what we do and how we measure its impact. I think communication between HQ and

our regional teams is better, and our fundraising capacity has diversified. Of course, we still face some of the same challenges - but many of these aren't unique to RedR.

Funding for chronic humanitarian emergencies - such as in Darfur, Pakistan, and some areas of East and Central Africa - is increasingly limited. This forces international actors to reduce their presence in these countries. RedR's strategic aim to train as many national staff and organisations as possible is therefore extremely relevant. But the biggest challenge we face, particularly in places like Pakistan and Sudan, is meeting our strategic objectives while balancing our resources.

What are you most looking forward to in the months to come?

Working with the inspirational and dedicated staff I meet every day. They have a clear vision of the opportunities and the challenges ahead. I see my job as helping them to remove those barriers and supporting them in the great work they do. ■



***KnowledgePoint* is a free, online technical support service for aid workers in the field. Novi Sonko has just taken on the role of Project Coordinator: a brand-new position that's rich in possibility!**

Sometimes, aid workers come across a technical problem that they just can't solve alone. The concept behind *KnowledgePoint* is very simple: wherever you are in the world, you can post a query in the forum, and you'll receive an answer from one of our 150 experts within 48 hours.

Since its launch in 2012, *KnowledgePoint* has registered more than 78,000 users in 183 countries. Their questions range from general to super-specific. In the past few weeks alone, we've had queries on monitoring and evaluation tools for mobile devices, as well as water-friendly latrines, solar pumps in Syria, and where to buy ready-to-use therapeutic food in Kenya.

At this point, our aim is to build on the progress made to date by raising awareness of *KnowledgePoint* worldwide, and increasing the number of people who both post and answer questions. We'd also like to further increase the diversity of topics covered, and develop a mobile app enabling users to save data and pages so they can access them offline.

Throughout my career, I've focused on IT for knowledge management, helping different stakeholders to easily access and share data, knowledge and best practices. Over the next few months, I'll be working to oversee the technical development of the platform, promote it to potential users and partners, and ensure it continues to meet the needs of the humanitarian community.

Our ultimate aim is for *KnowledgePoint* to be the go-to knowledge management system in the sector!

Register and post a question at www.knowledgepoint.org.

We're always looking for volunteers to join our panel of experts.

If you're interested, please contact novisonko@knowledgepoint.org.

KnowledgePoint is a joint initiative of RedR UK, Water Aid, Practical Action, IRC Wash, Engineer Aid and HIF.