

# RED ALERT

YOUR SUPPORT, OUR WORK, REAL DIFFERENCE

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**redr** uk  
people and skills for disaster relief  
CELEBRATING **35 YEARS**



# THANK YOU

## WELCOME

Dear Friends,

RedR was overwhelmed by the response to our emergency appeal for Nepal. To date, you have raised over £170,000 to help those affected by the earthquakes rebuild and recover.

35 years after RedR was founded, we are still responding to some of the gravest humanitarian crises the world is currently facing, from the conflict in Syria to the ongoing issues in Sierra Leone. The support you provide - whether personally, through your company or by taking part in one of our events - is unwavering.

2015 sees our Pakistan office celebrate its fifth anniversary and our Sudan office its tenth. We are constantly seeking to innovate and increase the impact of our work.

With RedR, your support makes a vital and lasting difference to the lives of communities affected by disaster. On behalf of all those who benefit from our work, in Nepal and beyond, thank you.

Martin McCann  
Chief Executive

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RedAlert 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 recycled 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: [anne.bajorek@redr.org.uk](mailto:anne.bajorek@redr.org.uk)

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## GEOFF FRENCH (CBE) NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

The Board of RedR UK is delighted to welcome industry leader Geoff French (CBE) as Chair of Trustees.

A chartered civil engineer with over 40 years of professional experience, Geoff has been a supporter of RedR since its inception, as a member of Scott Wilson and more recently as an individual.

Geoff takes over from Ian Smout, Principal Programme Manager at the

Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) at Loughborough University, who has held the chairmanship since 2010 and will continue to support RedR as a Trustee.

The Board of RedR UK would like to extend its sincerest thanks to Ian for his years of service.

Meet Geoff French on page 16 ■

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN



world's youngest country - which gained independence in 2011 - is in the grip of a humanitarian crisis. UNOCHA estimates the number of internally displaced people at 1.6 million. Hundreds of thousands more have fled to neighbouring countries, and some 4.6 million people within the country's borders face severe food insecurity.

RedR was forced to close its country office in Juba in February 2014 due to a lack of funding. However, we remain committed to developing skills and capacity in South Sudan. We continue to provide vital training, equipping NGO staff, government employees and community members to deliver aid safely and securely. ■

In December 2013, a power struggle between South Sudan's president and his former deputy spiralled into civil war. Almost two years later, the

# BUILDING BACK BETTER IN NEPAL

**In Nepal, the RedR family is working to help those affected by the recent earthquakes to rebuild their homes, infrastructure and livelihoods - and to build them back better, reducing the impact of future disasters.**

On 25 April 2015, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal. It was the most powerful earthquake to hit the country in more than 80 years, killing 8,881 people and injuring more than 22,000. Overall, some eight million people - almost a third of Nepal's population - were affected. In the days following the disaster, RedR staff on the ground identified Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Shelter (WASH) as the most urgent needs. 'The training and technical support we've provided so far has focused on meeting these needs,' says Katie Robertson, RedR UK's Programme Manager. To date, a total of 269 aid workers from national and international NGOs have taken part in our training in Nepal.

## **Fighting waterborne diseases**

'In terms of water and sanitation, we have delivered *WASH in Emergencies* training to 66 Save the Children staff in three districts,' continues Katie. 'We also ran three one-day open training sessions in *Safe Latrine Construction*. With the monsoon season ongoing, waterborne diseases are a very real threat, and infrastructure alone isn't enough to prevent their spread: it's essential that infrastructure is accompanied by good practices. That's why we've also delivered two one-day open training sessions on *Hygiene Promotion and Community Mobilisation*.'

## **Building back better**

The earthquake - compounded by a second tremor that hit on 12 May - left hundreds of thousands of people homeless. According to the Nepalese government, 602,254 houses were 'fully damaged' by the earthquakes, and 288,255 were 'partially damaged'. 'Nepal is extremely vulnerable to



natural disaster. This means that simply rebuilding these structures is not enough,' says Katie Robertson. 'Houses, sanitation structures, schools: anything that can be built, can be made stronger and safer. But 'building back better' requires very specific skills and know-how.' Drawing on our experience of previous crises, notably in Haiti and the Philippines, RedR is training local aid workers in resilient construction techniques, helping to limit the impact of future disasters.

We have delivered *Shelter Training of Trainers* courses to Save the Children and partners in three districts. 'When we equip people with skills like these, we're empowering them to save lives the next time disaster strikes,' observes RedR UK CEO Martin McCann. 'Moreover, we train people who themselves go on to be trainers, sharing their newly-acquired skills with their colleagues and communities. This ensures that the impact of our work is multiplied across the country.'

**Making schools safer**

In Nuwakot District, Save the Children and its partners are building Temporary Learning Centres (TLC), enabling children to continue learning as schools are rebuilt. 23 members of staff involved in this initiative took part in RedR's *Safe Temporary Learning Centre Construction*

“ I am certain that from now on, whatever I construct will be sturdy and stable.

**Badri Dhungana, Nepalese carpenter and RedR course participant**

training, where they learnt how to ensure that these essential structures are earthquake-resistant.

Badri Dhungana, a farmer by profession, occasionally works as a carpenter and at times as a mason in his village. Prior to RedR's training, he had already constructed two TLCs in his village for Save the Children.

'Two months before the training, I received the orders for constructing my first TLC,' he remembers. 'But I was clueless about the details of construction. We were instructed to use bamboo and tarpaulin. Up until this point, I had only ever worked with timber. I was not confident about using bamboo, and by default I was tying bamboo poles just the way I would tie timber. I cannot thank the trainers enough for having taught me the way to make lap joints. I am certain that from now on, whatever I construct will be sturdy and stable.'



© Sam Spinkett

**Empowering communities**

Kalpna Giri works for a Nepalese NGO called Pourakhi Nepal, where she trains women in her own community. She attended Safer Shelter Training led by RedR for AWO International and its partner organisations.

'Being a woman has not stopped me from doing my work,' she says. 'Carpentry, masonry and other construction-related tasks are often thought of as a 'man's job'. However, I feel there is nothing that I as a woman cannot do. In fact, having attended this training, I am more confident than ever

in my ability to pass on my learning to the women of my community.'

RedR is also supporting the humanitarian sector in Nepal through training in Managing Projects in Emergencies, and the Essentials of Humanitarian Practice.

As Nepal moves from crisis through recovery and on to reconstruction, your support is - and will continue to be - vital. Thanks to you, we are helping those affected by the earthquakes rebuild their lives, and prepare to face the future. ■

# MIDDLE EAST: BUILDING HUMANITARIAN CAPACITY

**With no end to the Syrian conflict in sight - and the rise of the Islamic State group causing further chaos and displacement - humanitarian needs in the Middle East are increasingly acute. RedR UK has opened an office in Amman, Jordan, to help develop humanitarian capacity in the region.**



“ Development is part of every person’s mission in life - but in the humanitarian field, it’s even more crucial to be trained.

**Majdi Mustafa**, Training Officer  
Norwegian Refugee Council

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The Middle East is currently facing what has been termed the worst displacement crisis in a generation. The number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria has now surpassed 4 million. On top of this, the growth of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria has uprooted millions. It is estimated that 3.3 million people have been displaced in Iraq alone, with millions more seeking refuge in other countries in the region.

The sheer scale of the crisis means that humanitarian agencies operating

in the region are facing unprecedented pressure. Through its newly-opened office in Amman, Jordan, RedR is working to develop the skills and capacities of NGO staff who provide essential aid to those in need.

‘We have set up an office, registered with the Jordanian government and recruited a national team,’ explains Louise Such, RedR UK’s Middle East Coordinator. ‘To date, we have trained over 500 people in a wide range of courses including: *Managing Projects in*

*Emergencies, Monitoring and Evaluation, Training of Trainers, Camp Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, Essentials of Humanitarian Practice, WASH, and Personal Safety and Security*, including First Aid. We’ve also run courses in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey.’

To cope with the crisis, NGOs have taken on new staff, many of whom have little or no experience of aid work. ‘The most common training needs we’re seeing are therefore in project

cycle management and the essentials of humanitarian practice,’ says Louise. ‘The risks involved in operating in the region mean that there’s also a need for training in safety and security.’

Majdi Mustafa, a Training Officer with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), attended RedR’s Training of Trainers in Amman. ‘Organisations such as RedR help to equip new humanitarian workers with solid knowledge so they can start doing their jobs,’ he says. ‘Development is part of every person’s mission in life

- but in the humanitarian field, it's even more crucial to be trained. It's not about me as a person. It's about the IDPs (Internally Displaced People), refugees, and my colleagues being informed.'

'We started out by offering open training sessions, but we're receiving more and more requests for tailor-made training as awareness of the services we provide increases," says Louise Such. 'Upcoming courses include *Proposal- and Report-Writing, Security Management and Urban WASH*. From late August on, we'll be running *Context*, an exciting professional development initiative from the Start

Network which introduces the key concepts of humanitarian work.'

'Sadly, the humanitarian crisis the Middle East is facing seems likely to continue for the foreseeable future,' says Martin McCann, CEO of RedR UK. 'Opening an office in Jordan is our response to this reality. In terms of training, there are significant needs - but we are confident we have the capacity to make a real impact. Our vision for the Middle East reflects our global vision: of a world where sufficient competent and committed personnel are available and responding to humanitarian needs.' ■

**8** the number of countries in the Middle East where RedR has delivered training

**533** the number of people trained by RedR in the Middle East since March 2014

**4 MILLION** the number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria

**7.6 MILLION** the number of people - half of them children - displaced within Syria's borders

**12.2 MILLION** the estimated number of people in Syria urgently in need of aid

Source: IDMC, Relief Web, UNOCHA

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EBOLA TRAINING

**RedR UK trained 362 medical personnel who were then deployed to West Africa as part of the international Ebola response. As the project draws to a close, our Project Coordinator Shelby Fields Kraus reflects on the lessons learned.**

The recent Ebola epidemic was unprecedented in its scale and complexity. 'This was uncharted territory for the global humanitarian community,' recalls Shelby Fields Kraus, RedR's Project Coordinator. 'To respond effectively, the many actors involved had to work together, requiring new approaches to coordination and knowledge-sharing. Training was given top priority.'

RedR UK played its part by training 362 medical personnel from the UK, Denmark, Norway and South Korea. 'For RedR, the stakes were uncommonly high,' continues Shelby. 'This was the first time we had been involved in the response to an epidemic of any kind. We had to draw up a training programme, ensure we had the right equipment in the right quantities, and recruit a team of trainers with a very specific skill set - all in a very short space of time.' Alongside technical sessions, participants received basic training in humanitarian principles and practice. 'It was important that medical staff

embarking on their first assignment with an NGO understood how their work fitted into the broader response,' says Shelby.

Ultimately, 97.4% of participants rated the course Good or Excellent. 'I think it just made me as effective as I could have been,' said one trainee. 'I couldn't have been more prepared than I was, and I felt as safe as I could do.'

Though the epidemic has slowed, RedR continues to train UK-Med standby teams prepared to deploy to Sierra Leone should it flare up again.

'Among the humanitarian community as a whole, there was a real sense of collective ownership of the response,' says Shelby. 'Huge efforts were made to coordinate activities, and to share information and knowledge. This had an extremely positive impact on the effectiveness of our response.'

'As for RedR, we now know that we're equipped to deal with an emergency of this scale and complexity.' ■

# FUN, FUN, FUNDRAISING

Each year, we are astounded by the dedication of our amazing supporters. From corporate teams taking on a physical challenge, to individuals who want to make a difference through their own fundraising event, our supporters have one thing in common – they help RedR to continue its life-saving work around the world.



## AKT II: LONDON TO BRIGHTON

A team of AKT II's finest braved the 54 mile bike ride from London to Brighton. Dodging some seriously strong winds, heavy rainfall, and facing chilly temperatures, the team did a superb job to reach the finish line in Brighton, raising **£3,455.63** in the process!



## 2015 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

RedR's third annual Football Tournament, sponsored by Alexander Associates, took place in June and saw RedR Patrons and corporate supporters come together in Wembley to battle it out for the official RedR Football Tournament Trophy. A dramatic final between Atkins and Mott MacDonald resulted in Atkins lifting the trophy for the first time.

This year's Football Tournament is part of the RedR Sporting Trilogy, which we expect to generate over **£6,000** for RedR!



## ROBERT BAKER'S SPONSORED SLIM

In one of our favourite fundraising ideas this year, Robert Baker set himself the challenge of dropping two and a half stone over the summer. Robert has raised **£565** through the support of his friends and family.

## HELEN VARMA TAKES IT UP A GEAR

RedR's former interim Fundraising & Communication Director, Helen Varma, saddled up in August to take on the Three Cities Bike Ride – a cycling challenge covering over 300 miles between London, Amsterdam, and Brussels. Raising well over **£4,000**, it's clear that Helen's passion for RedR's work is as strong as ever!



# WHY WE SUPPORT REDR



**John Pelton, from CH2M and Programme Partner Director on Crossrail, took on the Trekfest Peak District challenge – 54 miles in under 18 hours – with colleagues Lynne Rogers and Fi Fransson.**

'There are few charities that really get to the heart of major global challenges in the same way as RedR. Not only does RedR provide immediate relief when disaster strikes, but it also addresses the needs of the people involved for years after and, increasingly, in anticipation of a catastrophic event.

Usually unsung, RedR quietly goes about providing aid and succour to thousands of people across the globe with patience, understanding and skill.

So why were we covering 54 miles of the Peak District in under 18 hours?

'Because it was there' seemed such an inadequate response! The beautiful countryside and the opportunity to traverse Kinder Scout, the hills around Castleton and the Ladybower reservoir (even in the dark) were unmissable. The training has undoubtedly enhanced our well-being, made us fitter and slimmer. But we were also delighted to be able to raise funds for RedR. We are well on our way to our £4,000 target.

To make all the pain, blisters and effort worth it, please give generously at: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Overthehill10](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Overthehill10)

# Q & A: STEVE GORDON



## WEAR RED 2016

Friday 5 February 2016 sees RedR fans all over the world step up in scarlet, come together in crimson, and roll up in red. All individuals and companies are welcome, no matter how big or small, or where in the world, so register your interest today to receive more details later in the year.



## DISASTER RELIEF TEAM BUILDING

Our series of practical, unique workshops are perfect for corporate team building – whether for new graduates or senior management. From designing a refugee camp, to managing the logistics for an emergency response, participants will gain practical skills, get to know their colleagues and learn more about disaster relief.

## RUN FOR REDR

On 24 April 2016, over 36,000 runners will take on the legendary London Marathon. Join the 26.2 mile challenge and fundraise for RedR by snapping up one of our guaranteed charity places. We'll be right behind you every step of the way to support your fundraising and training!

To find out more about these events, contact us at [fundraising@redr.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@redr.org.uk)



**RedR Member Steve Gordon is the Middle East Regional Security Advisor for Mercy Corps. A former photojournalist, he has been involved in Mercy Corps' response to the Syrian crisis since March 2013.**

## What inspired you to go into aid work?

I started out as a photojournalist. In 1998, I travelled to Kosovo to cover the conflict there. I was working alongside NGOs, and whilst I initially felt quite distant from the work they did, the experience opened my eyes to the impact humanitarian agencies can have.

## What do you like most about your job?

As a former journalist, I am captivated by major global events - and I find myself still having a front seat, which I feel is a great privilege.

## What do you think are the main challenges facing aid workers today?

The politicisation of aid in the post-9/11 environment is having a massive impact on what we're able to do.

When I started out, I spent a lot of time in the field dealing with people directly and negotiating informally. I feel that the shift towards remote management - and the lack of contact and basic interpersonal skills that comes with that - makes things more dangerous.

I attended RedR *Security Management* training in 2000 and found the content on humanitarian principles really eye-opening. The world has changed dramatically since then, but I still refer back to the lessons I learnt. The humanitarian principles are more vital than ever.

## What advice would you give to aspiring aid workers?

I'm concerned by the perception that there is a shortcut to becoming a humanitarian: by taking a particular subject at university. Further education is an incredible asset - when it's combined with experience in the wider world. There are people from every walk of life who would love to get involved in humanitarian work but don't dare apply because they lack direct NGO experience. We need to be better at bringing people with a broad sweep of different life skills into the sector.





**Newly appointed Chair of Trustees  
Geoff French (CBE) explains his long  
history of involvement with RedR.**



For as long as RedR has existed, I've been a part of it. Peter Guthrie and I were contemporaries and colleagues at Scott Wilson, which hosted the RedR secretariat for the first years of the organisation's existence. I was involved in the decision for Scott Wilson to become a corporate partner, and it's also a charity that my wife and I have supported personally. You could say that RedR is part of my DNA.

When I was offered the opportunity to further my commitment by becoming a Trustee, I was very keen to take it. Becoming Chair seemed like the logical extension of that.

RedR has evolved enormously in the 35 years since its creation. It has increased in size and strength, which has been

great to see. Yet at its heart, it's still very much an engineering charity that deals with engineering issues.

I look forward to helping to ensure RedR's relevance, reputation and quality in the years to come. I'm also keen for us to look for new opportunities to utilise the skills we have as an organisation. A classic example of this has been the Ebola crisis: I was really impressed by how RedR mobilised to meet what was a huge challenge.

Unfortunately, one thing we can be sure of is that natural disasters will affect

“ You could say that RedR is part of my DNA.

the same parts of the world time and time again. The challenge is therefore to Build Back Better so that properties - and communities - are better able to withstand the forces of nature that they're going to be subjected to.

We're also witnessing an increasing number of man-made disasters - like the one which inspired RedR's creation 35 years ago, and which now seems like such a small population movement compared to something like the Syrian crisis. In this respect, establishing an office in Amman is an extremely relevant step for RedR to be taking. ■