



## AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

### NEPAL



AutRC project area:  
Rukum, Rolpa

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	Nepal	Austria
Area in km <sup>2</sup>	147,181	83,871
Population (millions)	28.3	8.3
Rural population in %	83	33
UNDP Human Development Index	144	14
<b>Society</b>		
Languages	Nepalese, as well as around 50 minority languages	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	80% Hindu, 15% Buddhist, 3% Muslim, 2% Christian, prohibition of proselytisation	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
<b>Health</b>		
Life expectancy	66.3	79.9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	2	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	47.5	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	38.8	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	0.5	0.2
Access to safe drinking water in %	89	100
Access to sanitary facilities in %	27	100
<b>Education</b>		
Literacy rates in %	48.6	~ 100
<b>Economy</b>		
Main export products	Carpets, clothing, leather goods, jute products, cereals	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	1,049	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	55.1	0
Unemployment in %	46	3.9
Inflation in %	7.7	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



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After years of conflict (the monarchy was abolished in May 2008 and a republic was declared) things are only very slowly starting to improve in Nepal. The country, which according to the United Nations is still the poorest in South Asia, is now starting out on a new beginning but suffers frequent setbacks in the form of natural disasters such as flooding and landslides. This is a trend caused by climate change.

In December 2007, the Nepalese Red Cross (NRCS) in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) carried out an evaluation of the humanitarian situation in potential project areas of Nepal. Many parts of the country are very difficult to access due to a lack of infrastructure. State health services are not able to meet the basic health needs of the majority of Nepalese people. In rural areas in particular there is a lack of essentials and poverty has numerous causes. The AutRC is working with the Nepalese Red Cross (NRCS) to set up two development projects. The aim is to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals for fighting poverty (MDG 1), promoting equality (MDG 3), improving health (MDG 4 and 5) and improving access to drinking water (MDG 7, target 3).

#### Developing rural communities

In the district of Rukum which is situated in the almost inaccessible mountainous area, the general living situation of the rural population is being improved by a community development project which uses an integrative project approach - i.e. the active involvement and participation of the population.

Specifically, in the area of Chaukhabhang, the earning potential and quality of life of the 4,000 inhabitants is being increased through activities relating to education, water supply, health and hygiene, help for self-help and institutional development of the local Red Cross.

Project duration 2009-2013

Cost € 400,000



This project is co-financed by

Opec Fund for International Development



#### Water and hygiene

In the neighbouring district of Rolpa, a water project is guaranteeing the drinking water supply and, in a broader sense, the improvement of the health and hygiene situation, whilst simultaneously building the capacity of the local NRCS.

Similar activities to those of the community development project are being carried out in the area of Kotgaun (4,500 inhabitants), but here the focus is on the water supply and settlement hygiene. Water committees, self-help groups and strengthened Red Cross structures ensure that the project is sustainable.

Project duration 2009-2011

Cost € 200,000



Co-financed by: AutRC regional branch in Tyrol