ADRA Australia assisting in Nepal following deadly floods
Agency to help 5,000 experiencing ‘heath emergency’

Adventist Church’s Inter-European Division hosts first women’s congress
In Germany, more than 700 attend international meetings empowering women

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‘ADRAthon’ promotes service, healthful living

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September 11, 2014 | Sanepa, Nepal | Australian Record staff

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is establishing two temporary health camps in Western Nepal to assist some of the 180,000 people still affected by last month’s deadly flooding.

To date, floods have killed 32 and left more than 30,000 families without food, clothing and shelter. Local authorities are reporting a rapid rise
in potentially deadly illnesses including diarrhea and malaria, said Beryl Hartmann, Humanitarian Program coordinator for ADRA Australia.

"Contaminated water, animal carcasses and the poor facilities available to those living in make-shift shelter places people at significant risk," Hartmann said.

ADRA's work is focused on the districts of Bardiya and Banke, which have seen all four of their health facilities destroyed. The health teams, which include doctors, nurses, public health educators and other staff, will provide immediate relief and treatment in the region, while also referring more serious cases to hospitals.

More than 5,000 people will directly benefit from ADRA's response.

Hartmann said the team in Nepal is also working to provide basic equipment and medicines to the health facilities that have been damaged or destroyed by the floods. Street-drama, group discussions and demonstration lessons will also be used to promote preventative and positive health behaviors.

ADRA Nepal's program director, Bidya Mahat, said 3,500 people have already received the health services and from the initiative, which is only 50 percent completed.

"We are receiving an overwhelming response from the communities as well as an overflow of patients to receive the services," Mahat said.

**Adventist Church's Inter-European Division hosts first women's congress**

**In Germany, more than 700 attend international meetings empowering women**

*September 11, 2014 | Schwäbisch Gmünd, Baden-Württemberg, Germany | Eli Diez/EUD and ANN staff*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Inter-European Division hosted its first international Women’s Congress last weekend, drawing more than 700 women from countries throughout Central and Southern Europe for worship and empowerment workshops.

Meeting in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, from September 5 to 8, attendees were encouraged to get involved in service projects and peacekeeping efforts in their own countries. The event’s theme was “Women In Action.”
City mayor Joachim Bläse asked, "What if we had women as presidents in Russia, the Ukraine and in the countries of Africa?" "Women have the power and the gift to resolve conflicts differently," he said, "because only with peace can we achieve anything and we need you as women."

In a Saturday afternoon address, Adventist world church Women’s Ministries Director Heather-Dawn Small concurred, saying attendees can make an impact and make a noticeable difference in their families and with their friends.

The congress included 17 workshops on subjects such as health, forgiveness, depression, social media, and motherhood. The event also included a charity concert to help victims of female genital mutilation in Kenya. Attendees also participated in a flash mob to bring awareness of domestic violence.

In Costa Rica, Adventist youth and ADRA collaborate for community impact

‘ADRAthon’ promotes service, healthful living

September 11, 2014 | Heredia, Costa Rica | Anauim Valerin/IAD Staff

Seventh-day Adventists in Costa Rica last month partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency to served in the city of Heredia to distribute food to the homeless, showcase a health expo and promote a recycling campaign.

The event, titled “ADRAthon,” took place in Heredia’s Central Park and brought young people to connect with onlookers and passers-by with a hug, a cheer and activities such as face painting for children.

The August 24 initiative was part of promoting ADRA’s work in the community and the agency’s interest in the welfare of people globally, said Julio Alfaro, ADRA Costa Rica director.

“We are excited to hold this first ADRAthon campaign here in Heredia because we want to let the public learn more about how ADRA is the social arm of the Church,” Alfaro said. “We praise God for the support of the church members.”

More than 80 young people from Adventist churches in the northern and central regions and the Central American Adventist University joined in the day’s activities on August 24. The event promoted healthful living under the Church’s “I Want to Live Healthy” banner, which features the eight natural remedies.
Earnal Scott, Youth Ministries director for the Adventist Church’s South Central America Union, which is comprised of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama, said the activity is one of several health initiatives that that youth will promote throughout the region.

“We are very proud of our faithful young people and we want the rest of the provinces in Costa Rica to be ready because we are moving forward with this youth impact,” Scott said.

Municipality officials were present during the activity and the event was covered through radio and television media.