**BIOGRAPHY MR. UMESH PRASAD DHAKAL**  
  
Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal is currently the Executive Director of the Nepal Red Cross Society. In his involvement with NRCS for more than a decade and half, he has assumed several responsibilities. He was involved in managing Bhutanese Refugee Program of Nepal Red Cross Society as well as supported the facilitation of Disaster Preparedness Network activities and managed health and Disaster Management (DM) programmmes. He was also a member in the Working Group for drafting the National DM Strategy; and, was actively involved in the Koshi flood response operations of 2008.  
  
Between 2004 and 2005, he was the Regional Disaster Response Manager for the IFRC, South Asia Regional Delegation. During this time he supported and advised the Federation and National Societies relief teams in the planning, implementation and management of response programs in the region, including providing support to the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society in the Tsunami relief operation.  
  
Mr. Prasad has a distinguished career with the Red Cross, staring in 1994. He has been the Director of the Health Service Department of the Nepal Red Cross Society (2002-2004); Project Chief and Project Coordinator for the Enabling Women to Act Project with NRCS (1997 - 2002); and a Field Coordinator in the Family Planning Project of NRCS (1995-1997).  
  
During these years, Mr. Prasad has held special assignments within the Nepal Red Cross Society. He had a key leadership role in flood and landslide disaster response activities,; he designed the Earthquake  
Preparedness Project to be implemented at Kathmandu Valley in partnership with the American Red Cross; he designed a Community-based Disaster Preparedness Programme and he worked actively for the promotion of International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in Nepal.  
  
In addition, Mr. Prasad has been a consultant with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Pakistan for the Global Facility on Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and a 10 year Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Pakistan Red Crescent Society. He was also involved as a team member in the capacity of a consultant to carry out final evaluation of the cyclone SIDR operation in Bangladesh.  
  
Mr. Prasad was awarded the Ralph U. Stone Memorial Award in 1999 in the United States and the Disaster Relief Medal, conferred by the Government of Nepal, in 2005. Mr. Prasad holds a Masters in Science (Statistics) from Tribhuvan University in Nepal.