

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

IRAN DROUGHT: SUPPORT TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

22 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 19/02; Operations Update No. 5; Period covered: August to October 2004; Revised Appeal coverage: 84.7%; ([Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#))

Appeal history:

- A first Appeal (21/2000) was launched on 22 August 2000 for CHF 2,268,146 for 12 months for 100,000 beneficiaries. The final report was issued on 31 December 2002.
- A second – related but separate Appeal (19/2002) – was launched on 15 July 2002 for CHF 899,000 for initially 12 months (later extended) for 65,000 beneficiaries.
- A revised Plan of Action was presented in August 2004 to continue the programme until March 2005, supporting 45,335 beneficiaries.
- A new revised Appeal budget from July 2002 to March 2005 is CHF 2,249,198.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 572,756

Operational Summary

In August 2004, the Federation revised the plan of action for the implementation of the current project and extended the operation time frame to March 2005, in order to provide more sustainable solutions to the problems faced by Afghan refugees. In this extended period, the project basically aims four activities :

- Meeting the water needs of beneficiaries by continuing the water trucking operation,
- Providing refugees with permanent sources of water supply by constructing public water distribution stations,
- Teaching self-help skills to refugees through health education
- Developing a communication strategy by supporting the IRCS in building its capacities to work closely with the beneficiary communities

The Federation believes that these approaches will make it possible to continue meeting the urgent needs of beneficiaries in a fixed period, while providing them with a more sustainable water solution and an opportunity for their capacity building, thus, ensuring a smooth phase out of the project. However, the project implementation was restricted by limited funds being available. Only the water trucking operation has been carried out in the reporting period in order to meet the water needs of beneficiaries.

To make a planned phase out of the project in March 2005, it is necessary to meet the outstanding funding needs as soon as possible, so that all activities which have been planned as part of the final exit strategy are pushed forward in accordance with the revised plan of action.

On 18 November 2004, ECHO announced allocation of EUR 150,000 to ensure at least partial implementation of the project aimed at the construction of public water distribution points.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The IRCS maintains a website (www.rcs.ir) both in English and Farsi which also provides the latest information, operational updates, reports, interviews and news on the Bam operation to the public.

Operational Developments

In August 2004, the Federation revised the plan of action for implementation of the current project with a view to provide more sustainable solutions to the problems faced by Afghan refugees and extended the operation time frame to March 2005 (For details, please see the Operations Update No. 4 at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/190204.pdf). The revised plan of action has been designed to provide for a final phase out of the project and is aimed at:

- Meeting the water needs of beneficiaries by continuing the water trucking operation;
- Providing refugees with permanent sources of water supply by constructing public water distribution stations;
- Teaching self-help skills to refugees through health education;
- Developing a communication strategy by supporting the IRCS in building its capacities to work closely with the beneficiary communities.

The IRCS and the Federation started implementing the project in August 2004 with the fund remaining from the previous appeal. However, due to the limited funds available, only the water trucking operation has been carried out in the reporting period in order to meet the water needs of beneficiaries. To increase the frequency of the water trucking service, 3 water collection points are now under construction.

Coordination

The IRCS and the Federation have been carrying out this operation in close cooperation with provincial authorities. The Zahedan Public Health Department is in charge of the chlorination of water and is providing regular information on the general drought situation in the region, the on-going water supply project and prospects for the future. In Zabul, regular meetings are held with the local water department to facilitate water collection and distribution. In addition, coordination meetings are being held at the field level between the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the Federation, United Nations agencies and MSF. Efforts are being made to coordinate the humanitarian assistance for Afghan refugees with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is responsible for implementation of the voluntary repatriation of these people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS and the Federation have been implementing this project since August 2000, in order to support Afghan refugees. At the beginning, the project focused on meeting the urgent water needs of beneficiaries, giving them basic health care education and ensuring sanitation in residential areas. In the new phase of the operation that

began in August 2004, the focus has shifted to providing more sustainable solutions to the problems faced by the refugees while continuing to meet their daily water needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society

The Sistan-Baluchistan provincial branch is in charge of the implementation of the project in Zahedan and Zabul. In the course of implementation of the project over the past several years, the staff and volunteers who have been engaged in it have increased their project management capacity. This is quite visible in narrative and financial reporting, internal monitoring system, and clear responsibilities and duties of the staff involved in the project.

Objectives, activities and results

1. Beneficiaries have better access to water through the improvement of the water trucking system and construction of a permanent water supply system

At present, approximately 5 percent (2,355 people) of the whole beneficiaries are living in villages of Zabul and the remaining 95 percent (43,000) in the out skirts of Zahedan. To continue distributing safe clean water to the beneficiaries in these regions, the IRCS is using a fleet of 11 trucks and 22 water tanks (10 mobile and 12 fixed) in Zahedan and 3 trucks and 6 water tanks in Zabul.

Water delivery is going well and smoothly, without any considerable problem. Water trucks are going around villages once or twice a day to fill the tanks with water. Beneficiaries come to the tanks with empty jerry cans to fetch water. They get water six days a week without interruptions and are satisfied with both the quality and the quantity of the water delivered by the project. On average, a beneficiary gets 10 litres of water per day.

In order to reduce the water-filling time of beneficiaries, small water taps and pipes attached to tanks have been replaced with bigger-size taps and pipes. Besides, 12 drainage wells were dug next to the fixed water tanks in Zahedan to ensure sanitation in the areas near these tanks.

Table 1. Water tanks in Zahedan

Tank No	Name of settlements	Fixed tank capacity (Lt)	Location
1	Karimabad	20,000	End of lane Jamejam Gas Station
2	Karimabad	20,000	Next to Ave. Pasgah 14
3	Karimabad	20,000	After Pasgah 14
4	Shirabad	20,000	Bolv. Keshavarz, Ave. opposite Keshavarz
5	Shirabad	20,000	Hemmatabad
6	Shirabad	20,000	Shirabad, Majdieh
7	Isolated settlement	20,000	Keshavarz Square, Siksuzi
8	Shirabad	20,000	By Camel Market
9	Shirabad	20,000	End of Ayadi Avenue
10	Shirabad	12,000	Bagh-e-Rakhshaniha
11	Isolated settlement	5,000	Keshavarz Square, right hand
12	Shirabad	5,000	Esmaiel Abad, 1 st Chahardivari
13	Isolated settlement	5,000	Siksuzi (Qasemabad)
14	Isolated settlement	5,000	End of Jadeqadim
15	Isolated settlement	5,000	Behind RC warehouse
16	Isolated settlement	5,000	Behind Haqqani mosque
17	Isolated settlement	12,000	By Haqqani mosque
18	Isolated settlement	20,000	Jadeqadim, Bazr 1 (Shahid Rajaie)
19	Isolated settlement	5,000	Jadeqadim
20	Shirabad	5,000	Hematabad Square, Bulukzani
21	Shirabad	5,000	Meydan-e-Keshavarz
22	Karimabad	5,000	After Pasgah 14

Table 2 Water tanks in Zabul

Tank no	Name of Village	Fixed Tank Capacity (Lt)
1	Dahanebagh	20,000
2	Bazikhalesi	20,000
3	Palgi-Bazi	20,000
4	Dargi	5,000
5	Eisa	5,000
6	Allahkadar	5,000

Preparations have started to construct 3 water collection points in order to increase the quantity of clean water distributed to beneficiaries in Zahedan by reducing the travel time and distance of water trucks. The IRCS signed a contract with the city water department in this regard and selected the sites where they will be built. The water department is now in the process of procuring necessary equipment for the construction, which is expected to be completed in November.

The construction of 4 public water distribution stations in residential areas of Afghan refugees has not begun until recently, due to the absence of the required funds. However, on 18 November 2004, ECHO announced allocation of EUR 150,000 which will allow to implement the construction of three stations.

2. Afghan refugees have increased their capacity to deal with health-related issues by themselves

Activities planned to achieve this objective include:

- Providing Traditional Birth Attendant training for 20 Afghan women.
- Educating 15,000 refugees in primary health care, environmental health, family health, disease prevention and hygiene.
- Training 60 Afghan men and women as skilled community health workers.
- Distributing public awareness materials among beneficiaries.

Related to the above, nothing has been done in the reporting period as no fund is available to support these activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives

The operation mainly targeted Afghan refugees living in non-camp settlements, who do not have access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and most of whom are not officially inhabited in Iran and therefore can not qualify for any work. IRCS and the Federation played an important role in advocating the need for the provision of assistance to the refugees jointly with UNHCR and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The vulnerable Iranian population living in these same areas were also included in this operation, thereby ensuring a balance in the provision of assistance and adherence to the criterion of vulnerability as the most important one in identifying target groups.

Given the central role of female beneficiaries in the maintenance of households, including the use of water and family hygiene, the IRCS and the Federation have tried to involve them as much as possible. Women were consulted in the design of water collection points and public water distribution stations and they were also recruited to supervise and administer water distribution from fixed water tanks.

National Society Capacity Building

The Sistan-Baluchistan Provincial Branch of the IRCS maintains its technical and human resources capacity strengthened during the course of this project. IRCS staff and volunteers trained within the framework of the project continue to work for its implementation and IRCS project coordinators and field officers perform a high-

level of responsibility within the programme. Technical assistance from the Federation Delegation in terms of planning, response and financial reporting according to Federation procedures and standards contributes to building on the capacity of the branch in respective areas.

Federation Delegation

The Federation delegation is assisting the IRCS in the overall operational management, by coordinating donor response, monitoring the implementation and providing technical assistance to IRCS in capacity building with a focus on planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs, facilitation in the strengthening of human and financial resources and standardization of procedures. A Federation programme officer was newly recruited in September and based in Zahedan. He is in charge of daily supervision, monitoring, and coordination of activities with the IRCS provincial branch, as well as data collection - including information on weather conditions, health statistics, repatriation process and other information necessary for the evaluation of the impact of the operation on the most vulnerable.

Advocacy/Public Information

Efforts were made to advocate the needs and rights of the target population. Embassies, UN agencies, ECHO and international organizations were contacted to draw their attention to the needs of beneficiaries. Issues concerning their assistance were also discussed with local authorities, UNHCR and non-governmental organisations present in the region. Local and international media are active in follow-up of the drought situation in the region, as well as regarding issues of water distribution between Afghanistan and Iran.

Outstanding needs

The project implementation was restricted by limited funds available. Of the planned activities, only the water trucking operation has been carried out in the reporting period in order to meet the water needs of beneficiaries. Other activities such as the construction of public water distribution stations and health education were not undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

To make a planned phase out of the project in March 2005, it is necessary to meet the outstanding funding needs as soon as possible, so that all activities which have been planned as part of the final exit strategy are pushed forward in accordance with the revised plan of action.

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