

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

BANGLADESH: FLOODS 15 December 2004

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 15/2004; Operations Update no. 7; Period covered: 25 October-15 December 2004; Appeal coverage 162%; Revised Appeal coverage: 97.5%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#))

Appeal history: Launched on 26 July 2004 for CHF 4,350,000 (USD 3,440,095 or EUR 2,844,997) to assist one million beneficiaries. Due to increased donor support, the appeal was revised on 6 September 2004 to CHF 7,051,000 seeking to assist 1,407,500 beneficiaries (281,500 Families) for six months.

Outstanding needs: (on revised appeal) CHF 196,489 (USD 163,595 or EUR 128,316)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 01. 56/2004](#)

Operational Summary:

The monsoon arrived early this year, beginning late June causing serious flooding in Bangladesh. Torrential heavy rains augmented river flows within its borders, more significantly in the vast catchment basin across India, Nepal, Bhutan and China, combined with heavy infrastructure, damaged embankments and roads. Thirty-six million people (over 25 percent of the population) have been affected with 747 people killed. The flooding destroyed housing, farmland and caused considerable economic damage, exacerbating unemployment among agricultural day labourers.

By 12 December, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)/Federation has completed 90 percent of relief operations, in a period covering 18 weeks. The details of activities implemented so far is as follows :

- Sixty mobile medical teams completed two months of deployment in 22 flood-affected districts, while 10 medical teams were deployed in Dhaka city for two weeks and two waterborne medical teams, which will be operational until February 2005, were activated and deployed for three weeks to serve in the remote chars and islands. A total 361,223 patients received medical assistance from this programme.
 - 5,000 MT of food items were procured, transported and distributed among 188,250 families.
 - 75,000 family kits were procured, transported and distributed among the beneficiaries of food items.
 - The distribution of food among 75,000 families and 45,000 family kits were distributed among the beneficiaries of food items in 32 districts in phase-II which commenced on 21 October and completed on 12 November.
 - Rice and winter vegetable seeds were distributed among 30,000 families under the rehabilitation phase which commenced on 29 November and completed on 8 December.
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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>

Background

The monsoon arrived early this year causing serious flooding in Bangladesh from late June. Torrential heavy rains augmented river flows within its borders and, more significantly in the vast catchment basin across India, Nepal, Bhutan and China, combined with heavy infrastructure, damaged embankments and roads. About 36 million people (over 25 percent of the population) have been affected with over 700 lives lost. The flooding destroyed housing, farmland and caused considerable economic damage, exacerbating unemployment among agricultural day labourers.

Following on from the June/August flooding, the country was struck by fresh flooding in September with Bangladesh receiving three times the normal yearly rainfall. The new flooding affected the capital city of Dhaka and the central and southwest districts.

The flooding situation has since improved with water receding from all affected districts. The BDRCS/Federation had completed 90 percent of relief operation under this emergency appeal by 12 December, a period covering 18 weeks. The BDRCS district branches also provided emergency assistance to the affected population from their own limited resources.

Operational developments

BDRCS and the Federation continued to maintain close contact with all 42 district branches. Accompanied by the BDRCS relief coordinator, the Federation relief delegates regularly traveled to flood-affected areas to assist Red Crescent branches to identify the beneficiaries, provision of storage facilities in the district RC branches and to supervise and monitor the distribution of the relief goods in a speedy and organised manner. Red Crescent youth (RCY) volunteers, community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) squad members and the executive committee members of district branches worked hard providing excellent support for the timely implementation of the relief operations. The New Zealand Red Cross logistics/relief delegate completed his mission on 7 December while the two remaining relief delegates extended their mission to February 2005.

Phase-I - Completed

As reported in Operations Update 6, the distribution of European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)- supported food items among 60,000 families and 22,000 family kits and 8,000 Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)- supported family kits under Phase-I was completed on 7 October. Forty-eight medical teams (32 ECHO, 12 JICA and four Federation-supported) also completed their two-month medical relief operation on 16 October.

Phase-II - Completed

Upon the completion of the procurement process, distribution of food items among 75,000 families and 45,000 family kits in 32 districts commenced on 21 October and was completed on 28 November. Food items supported by the Kuwait Red Crescent were distributed among 6,000 families in 30 Mother and Child Health centre (MCH) working area. Distribution commenced 30 October and was completed on 12 November.



Waterborne mobile medical team deployed on Zodiac boat travelling to remote places for providing medical assistance

Twelve medical teams deployed on 10 September in six districts rendering medical services among the affected population, also completed their two-month medical relief operation on 8 November. Another two mobile medical teams were deployed on Zodiac boat (provided by the Norwegian government/Red Cross) for three weeks to provide medical assistance to the affected population living in chars and remote islands.

Phase-III (Rehabilitation)

A purchase order for 30,000 sets of rice and vegetable seeds was issued in the second week of November upon the completion of the procurement process, with suppliers delivering the seeds at the end of November. Supported by field coordinators, Red Crescent branches completed the selection of beneficiaries for the distribution of seeds in five northern districts supported by ECHO. The distribution of seeds commenced on 29 November and was completed on 9 December.

A revised plan to build 700 traditional thatched dwellings was finally agreed upon by BDRCS, with 14 areas identified and approved for the housing programme while 50 traditional houses will be built in each of these locations. The initial plan was to build 1,000 traditional thatched dwellings for distribution among the severely affected beneficiary families who lost their houses by the floods and river erosion. Due to some modification, the construction number has now been reduced to 700.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Since the beginning of the flood season, BDRCS has distributed relief goods from its limited supply of buffer stocks and local fundraising to more than 12,000 families for immediate distribution among the affected population before the launching of the Federation International Appeal. The Federation was the first agency to launch an international appeal on 26 July for CHF 4,350,000 to assist one million beneficiaries. The strong donor support resulted in the appeal being revised on 6 September to CHF 7,051,000 seeking to assist 1,407,500 beneficiaries for six months.

Operation Objective: To meet the urgent needs of some 1,407,500 unassisted and displaced beneficiaries severely affected by the ongoing monsoon season who were living in their flooded homes, river embankments, roadways and chars through provision of basic food items, family kits, medical services, small scale agricultural support and low cost housing during the rehabilitation phase

Emergency Relief Phase

Expected Result 1: 188,250 displaced and unassisted families to receive emergency complementary food ration for one month within the coming weeks.

Through this appeal, BDRCS and the Federation intend to assist 188,250 most vulnerable displaced families by distributing emergency food supplies of 3,765 MT of rice (including 945 MT allocated by the World Food Programme (WFP)), 705 MT of dhal (lentils) and 282 MT of cooking oil for an initial period of one month. Each affected family will receive a food ration consisting of: 20 kg of rice, 5kg of dhal (lentils) and 2 litres of cooking oil.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in Operations Update 6, the distribution of ECHO-supported food items for 60,000 families in phase-I commenced on 5 September and was completed on 17 October. Upon completion of the tendering process, procurement of 2,025 MT of food items (rice, dhal (lentils) and cooking oil) was completed for distribution among 75,000 families (food items for 50,000 families supported by British Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross/government and



RCY Volunteers preparing muster roll for distribution of relief goods among beneficiaries

Finish government and 25,000 families supported by the German government through German Red Cross) in 32 districts. Respective district Red Crescent branches had made a detailed distribution plan and arrangement for the storage and smooth transportation of food items.

The distribution of food items among 75,000 families in phase-II commenced on 21 October and was completed on 28 November, with all distribution made directly to the selected beneficiaries through the local Red Crescent district branches. A large number of handicapped and elderly men and women are among the beneficiaries. RCY participation has been enthusiastic and have been greatly contributing to the overall success of the operation.

Procurement of 162 MT of food items, supported by Kuwait Red Crescent, was also completed during the reporting period, for distribution among 6,000 families in 30 MCH locations. Distribution commenced on 30 October and was completed on 12 November.

Visibility for donors and BDRCS has been maintained throughout the distribution process.

Impact:

The objective was fully achieved. A total of 188,250 displaced families (or 941,250 beneficiaries) received food rations consisting of rice, dhal (lentils) and cooking oil distributed by BDRCS from the onset of the disaster in the last week of July to 12 November. The whole operation, including identification of beneficiaries, procurement of food items, quality control, transportation and distribution was completed within 18 weeks.

The distribution of food items among the most vulnerable families severely affected by the floods supplement them with the necessary food supplies to meet their immediate requirement before the next harvest.

Positive feedback has been received on the quality of food items.

Constraints:

The major constraint was maintaining the supply of family kits (which have accompanied food rations). Some delays also occurred in providing donor visibility identification on food packing; this problem will be addressed in future operations.

Due to the lack of cooperation by some executive committee members in three Red Crescent branches, unnecessary delays occurred for the distribution of relief goods in phase-II. Reports were received of political interference in some areas. Where this occurred immediate action was taken by the BDRCS/Federation delegation.

The distribution schedule was also disrupted by the second round of flooding in September, which increased the prices of foodstuffs and essential commodities. To some extent, the holy month of Ramadan also slowed down operations.

Result 2: 81,128 flood-affected families received family kits and emergency BDRCS buffer stock replenished over a period of four months.

Eighty-one thousand one hundred and twenty-eight (81,128) family kits will be distributed among the most affected vulnerable families (75,000 of them are also beneficiaries of the food items).

Progress/Achievements

As reported in the earlier updates, the distribution of 30,128 family kits (22,128 ECHO- and 8,000 JICA-supported family kits) under phase-I was completed on 30 September in 12 affected districts (five ECHO- and seven JICA-supported districts).

At the end of the procurement process, suppliers delivered another 45,300 family kits (19,300 Belgian government and 26,000 Kuwait government-supported family kits) under Phase-II. Respective Red Crescent branches had made arrangements for the storage and smooth transportation of family kits items as well as the selection of beneficiaries with assistance from field coordinators. Distribution had been completed among 45,000 severely

affected families as per the detailed distribution plan. Distribution of the Belgian government and Kuwait Red Crescent-supported family kits commenced on 26 October and was completed on 28 November.

The suppliers also delivered 5,000 family kits procured for the replenishment of buffer stock. Procurement of an additional 10,000 family kits and 20,000 blankets for replacement of buffer stock will be initiated soon.

Procurement of three trucks funded by Kuwait Red Crescent are also completed.

Impact:

Family kits have provided the most necessary non-food items, including plastic sheeting for shelter needs, to help restore life to normality after the disaster to the severely affected families. The provision of basic necessities is an important psychological boost for the people who have lost most, if not all, of their possessions.

The newly purchased trucks will further enhance the capacity of the BDRCS transport department for the timely delivery of goods in the affected area.

Constraint

The major constraint was sourcing of family kits, but the engagement of several suppliers had greatly improved the supply situation. This has now been solved by calling for framework agreements.

Result 3: Provide basic medical services within the first two months of the operation to the flood-affected population, limiting possible out breaks of waterborne diseases.

A total of 281,250 people (56,250 families), many of them also beneficiaries of the food and non-food programmes, are expected to benefit from this programme.

The enormous floods in July and August directly affected one-quarter of Bangladesh's population. With such widespread inundation, it becomes very difficult to maintain health and hygiene in the affected areas. Food contamination causes food-borne disease and scarcity in food supply causes malnutrition in vulnerable groups, lowering their immunity against infections.

Progress/Achievements

The floodwaters have receded, and the overall health situation improved in the flood-affected areas, and no major epidemics have been reported.

As reported in the last Operations Update, due to prolonged flooding and unhygienic condition this year, diarrhoea, dysentery, acute respiratory tract infection (ARTI), pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO) and skin disease were dominant in the affected areas. Most of the people treated are more or less suffering from malnutrition and pregnant women suffering from anemia. However, this problem is a regular phenomenon due to poverty condition of the people and not related to the current flooding.

Sixty medical teams (32 ECHO 12, JICA and 16 Federation-supported medical team) deployed in 22 flood-affected districts completed two months of medical relief operation and returned back from the field on 8 November after rendering services among the affected population (48 medical team on 16 October, and 12 medical team on 8 November). All medical teams reported a heavy rush of patient in almost all the places and each team provided treatment to more than 100 patients per day in the first month of deployment.



Medical team providing treatment to a child suffering from skin disease in remote char areas

During their two months of deployment, the 60 medical teams treated 345,261 patients (104,635 male, 161,841 female and 78,785 children under five-years-old) suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, skin and other waterborne disease. The medical teams had worked in close cooperation with other ECHO partners, OXFAM and Action Aid in Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur.

In addition, the two mobile medicals team deployed on Zodiac boat (provided by the Norwegian government/Red Cross) provided medical assistance to the affected population living in chars and remote islands in Jessore and Satkhira districts for three weeks (2 to 8 November and 19 November to 2 December). During its three-week deployment, the mobile medical team treated 4,955 patients (1,792 male, 1,771 female and 1,392 children under five-years-old). The waterborne medical team will be also operational in January and February.

As reported in previous Operations Updates, BDRCS also deployed 10 medical teams in the most affected areas of Dhaka city and adjoining areas for two weeks (30 July to 12 August), where the medical teams treated 11,007 patients (3,528 male, 4,092 female and 3,387 children under five-years-old) suffering from diarrhoea, and other waterborne diseases during the peak of flooding.

A total of 361,223 people received medical assistance from the medical teams deployed in the flood-affected areas by BDRCS, 15 percent more than the appeal target of 281,250 people, many of them also beneficiaries of the food and non-food programmes, benefited from this programme.

At the end of their medical flood support programme, Medicin Sans Frontiers (MSF) Holland donated medical and water and sanitation equipment to BDRCS through the Federation delegation.

Impact:

Most of the BDRCS medical teams deployed in the remote places affected by the floods have been able to provide medical assistance to populations that had no or few other treatment options.

Treatment of a high numbers of patients suffering from waterborne diseases during the operation is greatly contributed for the reduction of disease in the affected areas.

Constraints:

Medical teams did face some difficulties traveling to remote char and riverine areas. Some medical teams faced shortage of medicines due to the high demand. Medical equipment need to be reviewed.

Waterborne disease and lack of clean drinking water, hygiene inputs, and adequate sanitation facilities for the affected population was a challenge time during the two-month of deployment of medical team.

Rehabilitation Phase

Result 4: To provide four months into the operation, agricultural inputs to up to 30,000 affected families who have access to land.

At the end of the monsoon season, basic agricultural support needs will be provided once the water levels recede and the conditions are established for the affected population to return to their homes. This includes the provision of two types of seeds (paddy rice and vegetable) to allow the potential beneficiaries to plant crops at the suitable time of year. This component is very important, as the floods have damaged one million acres of crops and seedbeds while a further 1.6 million acres of arable land has been damaged.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in previous operations updates, consultation with the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) of the specification for the rice and vegetable seeds is now finalised. DAE recommended six types of vegetable and paddy seeds which are suitable for plantation during October/November. Red Crescent branches, supported by field coordinators, completed the selection of beneficiaries for distribution of seeds in five northern districts supported by ECHO.

A purchase order has been issued in the second week of November for the purchase of 30,000 sets of rice and vegetable seeds on completion of the procurement process. The suppliers delivered the seeds by the end of November and the distribution of seeds in five northern districts commenced on 29 November and was completed on 9 December, a period covering five weeks. As reported in the previous operations update, the price of seeds was not higher as initially anticipated and procurement was done within the planned budget.

Impact:

The provision of rice and vegetable seeds allowed the potential beneficiaries to plant crops after the loss of their standing crops due to flooding, and will contribute to improving the nutritional condition and strengthen the economic situation of these severely affected small marginal farmers.

Constraints:

One report was received from a distribution point where some 22 beneficiaries sold their seeds allocations. A local branch member took immediate action, stopped distribution, revised the beneficiary list and confiscated the seeds from the shop owner who had purchased the seeds.

Result-5: After four months of the relief operation, the building of 1,000 traditional thatched dwellings for beneficiary families severely affected by the floods and river erosion provided by the Kuwait Red Crescent/government.

The rapid onset of flooding and river erosion washed away many families' houses and most basic necessities. The provision of 1,000 traditional dwellings among the severely affected families will ensure that some basic needs for housing is met.

Progress/Achievements

Initial planning was to build 1,000 traditional thatched dwellings for distribution among the severely affected beneficiary families who lost their houses by the floods and river erosion. However, due to modification, the budgetary allocation will only allow to build 700 dwellings. A revised plan to build 700 traditional thatched dwellings was finally agreed upon by BDRCS. The following 14 areas had been identified and approved for the housing programme: Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Tangail, Manikganj, Dhaka, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Comilla, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Mirersarai.

Fifty traditional houses will be built in each of these places. Beneficiaries for this programme will be finalised by the end of December and the erection of houses is expected to be completed by end of January 2005.

Impact:

The provision of traditional dwellings provided to the severely affected river erosion families will ensure that some basic needs for housing is met.

Constraints:

N/A

Federation Coordination

The BDRCS and Federation delegation continue liaise with governmental, local and international organisations, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as attending the disaster emergency response (DER) group meetings during the disaster period in order to coordinate relief interventions among partners and avoid duplication of assistance. Head of delegation regularly visited donor missions and UN agencies to update them on Federation/BDRCS activities and has made several field visits with national society governance and major donors. During the reporting period, delegates from the Swedish, British and Italian Red Cross visited BDRCS and delegation and also visited the field.

National Society Capacity Building

With its extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies, BDRCS has developed its operational capacity through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. This relief operation will further strengthen the capacity of the national society in order to implement the four-year disaster

management strategy particularly for community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme for floods. The national society will hopefully continue to receive support for its long-term strategic development programs in the field of disaster preparedness and response. Funding has already been secured for implementation of the national society's new disaster management strategy in relation to the flood-prone districts in Bangladesh.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and BDRCS received reports on relief operations from the field and undertake visits on a regular basis. The regular reporting and field visits helps to identify and resolve problems. The reports also help in monitoring the progress of the operation.

BDRCS also participated in a 'real time' action learning exercise, coordinated by the Federation's South Asian regional delegation and British Red Cross.

A two-member assessment team conducted field study focusing on learning how previous investments in disaster preparedness have increased Red Crescent and community capacity to cope with disasters. The ongoing flood operation provides a good opportunity for real time learning at times of emergencies. Findings are encouraging and positive and will further help in terms of future planning for effective disaster response. Findings of the study are also shared and discussed in a regional participatory action learning workshop held from 2 to 3 November.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Visibility for the operation is still maintained through local media. Press releases are issued on a regular basis on Red Cross/Red Crescent action for publication, ensuring adequate visibility for donors and the Federation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				7,051,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 97.5%
AMERICAN - RC		35,138	USD	44,432	25.08.04	MEDICINES FOR 12 MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		50,000	AUD	43,575	06.08.04	
BELGIUM - GOVT		298,491	EUR	463,407	18.08.04	PROCUREMENT 18'000 FAMILY KITS, LOCAL TRANSPORT & DISTRIBUTION
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		2,000,000	BDT	42,000	28.07.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		725,935	BDT	15,245	29.07.04	
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE		50,000	BDT	1,050	01.08.04	
BRITISH - RC		75,000	GBP	171,450	29.07.04	RELIEF NEEDS (75%), OPERATIONAL NEEDS (25%)
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONORS				42	09.08.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		193,000	CAD	181,034	03.08.04	
ECHO		1,350,340	EUR	2,064,670	04.08.04	
FINNISH - GOVT		176,000	EUR	269,104	10.08.04	
GERMAN - GOVT		266,524	EUR	410,714	26.08.04	PROCUREMENT 500 T RICE, 125 T DAL, 50 T VEGETABLE OIL
IRELAND - GOVT		75,000	EUR	114,675		
JAPANESE - RC		172,000	USD	217,494	06.08.04	
JAPANESE - GOVT		10,998,900	BDT	230,977	08.08.04	PURCHASE OF FAMILY KITS, MEDICINE, EXPENSES MEDICAL TEAMS
KLEENHEAT GAS		7,147	USD	9,037	23.08.04	
KUWAIT - RC		100,000	USD	126,450	16.08.4	50% FOOD, 50% MEDICINE
KUWAIT - RC		1,000,000	USD	1,264,500	25.08.04	FAMILY KITS, FOODS, MEDICINES , LOGISTICS, WATERWELLS, RECONSTRUCTION
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,290	28.07.04	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		150,000	NZD	119,175	18.08.04	
NORWEGIAN - RC		31,612	NOK	5,769	18.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,541,575	NOK	281,337	18.08.04	
PRIVATE DONORS				683	14.10.04	
PRIVATE DONOR (HSBC)		2,628,983	BDT	55,209	01.08.04	
SINGAPORE - RC/DEUTSCHE BK		35,000	SGD	25,312	05.08.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		600,000	EUR	100,500	27.07.04	
SWISS- GOVT				250,000	29.07.04	
SWISS - RC				128,342	06.08.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				200	30.08.04	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,645	13.08.04	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		785,714	BDT	16,500	29.07.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				6,680,818	CHF	94.7%

Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWEGIAN - RC		530,652	NOK	96,844	18.08.04	
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			4,400		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATES			29,800		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			32,400		
KOREA REP.	DELEGATES			30,600		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				194,044	CHF	2.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC		1,332,326	SAR	40,472	03.08.04	BILATERAL: TENTS, BLANKETS, CARPETS, FOOD, MEDICINES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				40,472	CHF	