

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 REVISED APPEAL

17 February 2005

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. 8; Period covered: 16 December-31 January 2004; Revised Appeal coverage: 100.4%; ([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.

The appeal was further revised on 31 January 2005 to reflect the following changes:

- The timeframe of the operation has been extended by three months to cover a nine-month period of 26 July 2004 - 30 April 2005).
- Inclusion of the new expected result for the provision of children's winter clothing in the rehabilitation phase for distribution in most severely flood-affected cold wave areas. (Late donation to appeal).
- The housing reconstruction expected result has been cancelled and will be replaced by the procurement of family kits and blankets as buffer stocks earmarked for distribution in the flood affected areas selected for the housing programme.
- An expected financial surplus of seven to nine percent due to operational savings in procurement, transport, distribution and delegate costs is suggested to be reallocated to the Federation Annual Appeal 2005 for Bangladesh Red Crescent – disaster management, capacity building and organisational development programmes.

Outstanding needs: Nil

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 05.AA046](#)

Operational Summary:

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society/Federation has implemented the Floods 2004 Emergency Relief Operations in a rapid, efficient and professional manner, providing timely and appropriate assistance to more than 1.4 million beneficiaries affected by floods and river erosion in the 43 most severely affected districts. By 12 December, 90 percent of relief operations had been completed, in a period covering only 18 weeks.

The details of activities implemented so far is as follows:

- 5,000 MT of food items were procured, transported and distributed among 941,250 beneficiaries (188,250 families).
- 75,128 family kits were procured, transported and distributed among the beneficiaries of food items.
- Sixty mobile medical teams provided medical assistance for two months in 22 flood-affected districts, while 10 medical teams were deployed in Dhaka city for two weeks and two waterborne medical teams were activated and deployed for three weeks to serve in the remote chars and islands, which will be operational until February 2005. A total of 361,223 patients received medical assistance from this programme.
- Rice and winter vegetable seeds were distributed and completed on 8 December among 30,000 families under the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) rehabilitation phase.

- **Three lesson learned/evaluation workshops conducted for ECHO funded relief operation in January 2005.**
 - **A total of 7, 813 Kuwait Red Crescent supported family kits from buffer stocks were airlifted to Sri Lanka for emergency distribution among beneficiaries in tsunami affected areas. Procurement of family kits to replace the buffer stocks is currently underway.**
 - **Children's winter clothing procurement is under process, and the purchase order will be placed on completion of the tendering process.**
 - **Procurement of 45,000 blankets is ongoing through Geneva Logistics Department to be purchased under the framework agreement with the respective suppliers in India.**
 - **Tendering process for the procurement of remaining family kits for buffer stocks is ongoing and a new framework agreement is awaiting approval from Geneva.**
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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 early arrival of the monsoon in late June led to serious flooding in Bangladesh. 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 damage to embankments and roads. A total of 36 million people (over 25 percent of the population) were affected with over 740 lives lost. The flooding destroyed housing, farmland and caused considerable economic damage. Following on from the June/August flooding, the country was struck of fresh flooding in September, receiving three times the normal yearly rainfall, causing another round of flooding in Dhaka and central and southwest districts.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)/Federation has implemented the Floods 2004 Emergency Relief Operations in a rapid, efficient and professional manner, providing timely and appropriate assistance to more than 1.4 million beneficiaries in the 43 most severely affected districts. By 12 December, 90 percent of relief operations had been completed, in a period covering 18 weeks. In addition, BDRCS district branches provided emergency assistance to the affected population from their own limited resources.

Operational developments

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

Phase-I - Completed

As reported in Operations Update 7, the distribution of ECHO-supported food items among 60,000 families, 22,000 family kits and 8,000 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-supported family kits under Phase-I was completed on 7 October. The 48 medical teams (32 ECHO, 12 JICA and four Federation-supported) completed

their two-month medical relief operation on 16 October. A total of 945 MT of rice provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to BDRCS under the ongoing framework agreement was distributed among 47,250 families severely affected during the height of flooding season.

Phase-II - Completed

As reported in Operations Update 7, the distribution of food items among 75,000 families and distribution of 45,000 family kits in 32 districts commenced on 26 October and was completed on 28 November. Also the distribution of food items, supported by Kuwait Red Crescent, among 6,000 families completed on 12 November in 30 Mother and Child Health Centres (MCH).



Food distribution at MCH centres supported by Kuwait RC

Sixty mobile medical teams completed their two-month deployment in 22 flood-affected districts to provide medical assistance to the affected population during the period 15 August to 8 November. As reported earlier, 10 medical teams were deployed in Dhaka city for two weeks during the peak period of the flooding and completed their deployment in

August. Two waterborne mobile medical teams were activated and deployed on Zodiac boats (provided by the Norwegian government/Red Cross) for three weeks to serve in the remote chars and islands, which will be operational until February 2005. A total of 361,223 patients received medical assistance from this programme.

Phase-III (Rehabilitation)

As reported earlier under the rehabilitation phase, distribution of rice and winter vegetable seeds among 30,000 families in five northern districts commenced on 29 November and was completed on 8 December.

The planned housing programme to build 700 traditional thatched dwellings for distribution among the severely flood-affected beneficiary families is cancelled due to unavoidable delays in implementation and difficulties in selection of beneficiaries in a fair and impartial manner. BDRCS have also agreed to this change. It is now planned to purchase an additional 5,600 family kits and 20,000 blankets as buffer stocks earmarked for distribution in the severely flood-affected areas which had been selected for the housing programme.

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

Before the launch of the Federation international appeal, BDRCS had already 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.

The Federation was the first agency to launch an International Appeal on 26 July for CHF 4,350,000 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 for six months. The appeal was further revised on 31 January 2005 to extend the timeframe of operation up to April 2005, covering nine months. This includes provision of children's winter clothing supported by the Italian Red Cross in the rehabilitation phase. There is a change in the planned objective of construction of houses and this has been replaced with procurement of family kits and blankets for distribution and replacing depleted buffer stocks.

An expected financial surplus of seven to nine percent due to operational savings in procurement, transport, distribution and delegate costs is suggested to be reallocated to the Federation Annual Appeal 2005 for BDRCS's disaster management, capacity building and organisational development programmes.

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, blankets and children's winter clothing 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 intends to assist 188,250 most vulnerable displaced families by distributing emergency food supplies of 3,765 metric tones (MT) of rice (including 945 MT allocated by the 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 liters of cooking oil.

Progress/Achievements

As outlined in Operations Update 7, this expected result has been fully achieved. A total of 188,250 displaced families or 941,250 beneficiaries received a food ration consisting of rice, dhal (lentils) and cooking oil distributed by BDRCS from the onset of the dsaster to 28 of November. The whole operation, including identification of beneficiaries, procurement of food items, quality control, transportation and distribution, was completed within 18 weeks.

Respective district branches made detailed distribution plans and arrangements for the storage and transportation of food items. All distributions were made directly to the selected beneficiaries through the local district branches. A large number of handicapped, elderly men and women were among the beneficiaries. There was good RCY participation which greatly contributed to the overall success of the operation. Visibility for donors and BDRCS was maintained throughout the distribution process.

Partner/Donor	Families assisted	Distribution period
ECHO	60,000	5 Sept – 17 Oct
British Red Cross Swiss Red Cross/Govt Finnish Govt.	50,000	21 Oct – 28 Nov
German Red Cross/Govt	25,000	21 Oct – 28 Nov
Kuwait Red Crescent	6000	30 Oct – 12 Nov
World Food Programme	47,250	Throughout the height of the flooding
Total	188,250	

The distributions for ECHO, British Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross/government, Finnish government, German Red Cross/government and the Kuwait Red Crescent consisted of 5,000 MT of food items. WFP supported the BDRCS with 945 MT of rice.

Impact:

There has been positive feedback from beneficiaries on the quality and timely distribution of food items. Food items not only met needs but through past experience and planning were appropriate and well targeted.

Constraints: See Operations Update 6.

Expected 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

Distribution: The distribution aspect of this expected result was partially met, with 75,128 of the planned 81,128 family kits distributed.

As reported in Operation Update 7, a total of 75,128 family kits were procured, transported and distributed among the beneficiaries of food items in 29 severely flood affected districts from the onset of the disaster in last week of July to 28 of November, 2004.

This distribution was made up of 30,128 family kits (22,128 ECHO and 8,000 JICA) distributed in the phase-1 and 45,300 family kits (19,300 Belgian government- and 26,000 Kuwait government-supported family kits) under Phase-II. The whole operation including identification of beneficiaries, procurement of family kits, quality control, transportation and distribution was completed within 18 weeks.

Six thousand family kits, planned for distribution along with food distribution in the mother and child health (MCH) centres, was dropped and instead will be kept as buffer stocks.

Replenishment of buffer stocks: The total number of family kits to be replenished for buffer stocks is 25,913. This requirement is made up of the following:

- 12,500 kits as per the original plan (though this figure is revised down from 15,000 due to certain earmarked funding not now being provided). To date 5,000 of these kits have been procured and a purchase order for the remainder will be issued on completion of the tendering process.
- 5,600 additional kits to be procured using funds from savings and cancellation of the housing project.
- 7,813 kits to replace the Kuwait Red Crescent supported buffer stocks provide to Sri Lanka to assist tsunami victims. Procurement is currently under process.

The total number of blankets to be procured for buffer stocks is now 45,000. This is made up of:

- 25,000 blankets as per the original plan (revised up from 20,000 due to low market prices and savings. The procurement process is ongoing.)
- 20,000 blankets from funds from savings and cancellation of the housing project.

Three trucks funded by the Kuwait Red Crescent were utilised for transportation of relief goods. A plan is currently being prepared to rent these vehicles to non-government organisations (NGOs) and UN organisations during non-emergency periods. The income would be used for repairs and maintenance of the trucks.



Kuwait RC supported three trucks used for transportation of relief goods

Three Nissan twin-cab pickups funded by the Kuwait Red Crescent have been utilised for field monitoring of flood relief operation.

Impact:

Buffer stocks of family kits and blankets will further strengthen the national society capacity and facilitate rapid response for responding to emergency disaster situations.

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

The recently concluded frame work agreement for the supply of family kits will save time, improve the supply situation and facilitate procurement processes for effective and rapid response for responding to future disasters.

Constraints:

N/A

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

Progress/Achievements

This expected result was met and exceeded. A total of 361,323 people (30 percent men, 46 percent women and 24 percent children under five) received medical assistance from the medical teams deployed in the flood-affected areas by BDRCS. This is 80,073 more beneficiaries than the target of 281,250.

As reported in the Operation Update 7, a total of 60 mobile medical teams (32 ECHO, 12 JICA and 16 Federation supported) completed their two-month deployment in 22 flood-affected districts to provide medical assistance to the affected population during the period 15 August to 8 November

An additional 10 medical teams were deployed in Dhaka city for two weeks during peak period of the flooding and completed their deployment in August. A further two waterborne mobile medicals teams deployed on zodiac boats (provided by the Norwegian government/Red Cross) provided medical assistance to affected populations living in chars and remote islands in Jessore and Satkhira districts for three weeks (2 to 8 November and 19 November to 2 December). Waterborne medical teams will be also operational in January and February.

Impact:

Many of the beneficiaries provided with assistance had no or very limited other options for medical treatment. BDRCS reached thousands of people who would otherwise have received no medical help.

There has been positive feedback from branches on the quality of service and treatment provided during the peak of the flooding period.

Constraints:

N/A

Rehabilitation Phase

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

Once the monsoon season was over and water levels had receded, basic agricultural support was needed by people returning to their homes. This support included the provision of two types of seed (paddy rice and vegetable) to allow the potential beneficiaries to plant crops at the suitable time of year. This component was very important, as the floods damaged one million acres of crops and seedbeds while a further 1.6 million acres of arable land was damaged.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in Operations Update 7, six types of vegetable and paddy seed, suitable for plantation during October/November, were distributed among 30,000 families in five northern districts supported by ECHO. The distribution of seed commenced on 29 November and was completed on 9 December - a period covering five weeks.

Impact:

The provision of rice and vegetable seed has allowed beneficiaries to plant crops, replacing those lost to the floods. This has been important in improving beneficiary nutrition and income support for severely affected small marginal farmers.

Constraints:

N/A

Expected Result 5: After 4 months of the relief operation, 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:

N/A

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

Because of unavoidable delays due to Eid holidays, re-deployment of a key relief delegate in the post-tsunami assessment and relief operation, and difficulties in selection of beneficiaries, the planned housing programme to build 700 traditional thatched dwellings for distribution among the severely flood affected beneficiary families is cancelled. It would be very difficult to target 700 families in a fair and impartial manner, as so many people were affected by the floods.

Instead of construction of houses, it is now planned to reallocate the funds to procure additional family kits and blankets for distribution and as buffer stocks, which will benefit more than 25,000 families. A total of 5,600 family kits and 20,000 blankets will be procured as buffer stocks earmarked for distribution in the severe flood affected areas selected for housing programme.

Expected Result 6: To provide winter clothing to 50,000 vulnerable children badly affected by flooding and river erosion in 2004.

The provision of winter clothing will greatly alleviate the suffering of destitute children in the severely flood affected areas during the cold wave spell.

Progress/Achievements

This is a new expected result. The Italian Red Cross is supporting this component of the relief operation. The procurement process is underway and the purchase order will be placed on completion of the tendering process.

Impact:

N/A

Constraints:

None

Federation Coordination

The BDRCS and Federation delegation have maintained regular contact with government, local and international organisations, UN agencies and NGOs, and also attended Disaster Emergency Response (DER) group meetings during the disaster period in order to coordinate relief interventions among partners and avoid duplication of assistance. The 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.

National Society Capacity Building

This relief operation will further strengthen the capacity of the national society in order to implement the four-year disaster management strategy particularly for the community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme for floods.

Following the severe earthquake that occurred in the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, a massive tidal surge was triggered on 26 December, severely affecting Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and Thailand. In the port city of Chittagong aftershocks of the tremor were felt. Officials of the country's observatory said that this was the first time that Bangladesh had been hit by such a high intensity earthquake recorded 7.36 on the Richter scale and

miraculously there were no large-scale casualties. The country only suffered minor damage.

With DIPECHO's financial support, BDRCS has been implementing, since February 2004, an earthquake preparedness programme through the cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) in 13 out of 31 sub-districts in coastal areas of the country. Activities include strengthening early warning systems, dissemination and awareness-raising, search and rescue and first aid training etc. DIPECHO support is phasing out in March 2005, and the programme will be supported under the Federation Appeal's Annual Disaster Management Programme.

While funding is secured in 2005 for the implementation of the flood risk reduction programme, the BDRCS continue to seek partners for its long-term strategic development of disaster preparedness and response programmes, including preparedness for future potential earthquake and tsunami in the coastal belt.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and BDRCS received reports on relief operations from the field and undertake visits on a regular basis.

Three lessons learned/evaluation workshops were conducted for the ECHO-supported relief operation in January 2005. The findings are encouraging and positive and will further help in terms of future planning for effective disaster response

BDRCS also participated in a 'real time' action learning exercise, coordinated by the Federation South Asia Regional Delegation and the British Red Cross. The ongoing flood operation 2004 provides a good opportunity for real time learning at times of emergencies.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Visibility for the operation was maintained through local media. Press releases were issued on a regular basis on Red Cross/Red Crescent action. Adequate visibility for donors and the Federation was ensured.

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

Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	7,051,000	TOTAL COVERAGE	100.4%		
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	200,000	EUR	303,300	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		
ITALIAN - RC	100,000	EUR	151,650	15.12.04	CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
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	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	51,063	NOK	9,549	21.12.04	
PRIVATE DONORS			791	14.10.04	
PRIVATE DONORS	3,044,066	BDT	58,750	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	

Bangladesh - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 15/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

15/02/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				6,879,862	CHF	97.6%

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			34,200		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				197,644	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	