

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

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN: WATER SHORTAGE

26 January 2006

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. 05EA007; Operations Update No. 3; Period covered: November 2005 to January 2006; Appeal coverage: 74.8 %; ([Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- The Appeal (05EA007) was launched on 14 April 2005 for CHF 495,000 (USD 382,170 or EUR 316,535 to assist 43,315 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 124,740 (USD 98,870 or EUR 80,555)

Operational Summary:

The water trucking operation was conducted for three months to provide almost 19,000 beneficiaries with clean drinking water. 18,000 beneficiaries have access to drinking water supplied by permanent water distribution stations which were constructed within the previous appeal.

With the funding of the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society and Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the Federation signed a contract with the Ojabadi Company to construct four more water distribution stations in Zahedan. Having obtained all necessary permits from the authorities concerned, the company started the construction in mid-January 2006.

The limited funding did not allow the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Federation to start other activities planned in the appeal.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Seyed Hadi Samaei, Director General of International Affairs Department, Iranian Red Crescent Society, Tehran; email: intdep@rcs.ir; mobile: 98.912 384 7050; tel: 98.21.88662618/88662619; fax: 98.21.88662652
- Chang Hun Choe, Acting Head of Delegation, Tehran; email: ch.choe@ifrc.org; mobile: 98.912 2172507; tel: 98.21.88672424-28, fax: 98.21.88872429
- Evgeni Parfenov, Regional Desk Officer, Geneva; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org; tel: 41.22.730 4325; fax: 41.22.733 0395

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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



The water trucking operation was conducted to provide almost 19,000 beneficiaries with clean drinking water

The water trucking operation which had begun early in September 2005 was terminated on 3 December 2005. Meanwhile, the Federation Delegation and the IRCS branch in Zahedan made preparations for building four new water stations in Zahedan. Through a competitive bidding process, they chose a construction company and signed a contract with it. With necessary permits for construction and land allocation from the authorities concerned, the company started the construction in mid-January 2006. The Federation and IRCS are still working with the Province Governor General and the Provincial Water and Sewage Company to sign a

four-party agreement regarding the construction as well as a monitoring contract.

There remains a problem in running the four water distribution stations constructed under the previous appeal. The Federation and IRCS are continuing the discussion with the company to find a solution to the problem.

Coordination

The IRCS and the Federation held a series of meetings with the local authorities concerned in Zahedan to settle the issues related to running the water stations and building the new ones. Coordination meetings are being held between the IRCS, the Federation, the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Iranian Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Close coordination has been maintained with ACH (A Spanish Non-Governmental Organisation) which plans to implement a hygiene project for Afghan refugees in the same operational areas.

The Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial branch of the IRCS has been responsible for implementing the projects with the help of the Federation's office in Zahedan. The branch has made best use of its experience and capacity gained during the previous operation in carrying on the water trucking operation and played an active role in working with the local authorities.

Objectives, activities and results



Water distribution stations constructed under the previous appeal are providing clean drinking water to about 18,000 beneficiaries

1. Meet the basic water needs of 43,315 beneficiaries by using both the water trucking system and the public water distribution stations.

As per the hand-over agreement signed between the local government, the Water Company, IRCS and the Federation and with the budget allocated by the provincial government, water distribution stations constructed under the previous appeal are providing clean drinking water to about 18,000 beneficiaries. Despite repeated meetings with the Water Company and its commitment, it has not yet resolved the technical problem of running one of the four stations caused by the city's disrupted water network.

In addition to the water supply through permanent water distribution stations, the Federation and IRCS carried out the water trucking operation to provide drinking water to 19,000 beneficiaries living in settlement areas not covered by these water stations. The operation began on 3 September and lasted till 3 December 2005. Every day five water tanker trucks went round the city to fill the 12 fixed water tanks in settlement areas with clean drinking water and beneficiaries came to fetch it with buckets or jerry cans. (Please see the Operations Update No. 2 at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA00702.pdf for details of location of the water tanks and the number of beneficiaries). The beneficiaries appreciated the resumption of the water trucking operation by the Federation and the IRCS as it helped them overcome the difficult period.

The funding from the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society and ECHO enabled the Federation and the IRCS to construct four more water distribution stations in Zahedan. 8 construction companies were invited to a tender. In a competitive bidding process, the Federation and the IRCS declared the Ojabadi Company as the winner of the tender for its price and experience in the relevant field and signed a contract with it at the end of December 2005.

It took quite some time to get all permits for construction and land allocation from the local authorities. With all necessary arrangement and preparations, the Ojabadi Company finally started digging the land and building water stations on 17 January 2006. The project is due to be completed before the end of March 2006. These stations, together with the previous ones, are supposed to provide 4,315 beneficiaries with daily access to clean drinking water. The new water stations will be located in the following areas:

No.	Water Station	Location
1	Water Station No. 5	Jame Jam St., End of Jame Jam 12, Zahedan
2	Water Station No. 6	Shahid Fazeli Blvd, Brosan St., Brosan 9, Zahedan
3	Water Station No. 7	Resalat St., Between Resalat 34 and 36, Zahedan
4	Water Station No. 8	Keshavarz Blvd, 20 Mets Daam St., Zahedan

In parallel with the construction of the water stations, the Federation and IRCS are working with the local government and the Water Company to sign a four-party agreement on the construction and a technical monitoring contract which will oblige the parties concerned to fully play their part during and after the construction process and ensure technical guarantee for the project.

2. Other objectives concerning Health and Care, Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Cross Border Cooperation

No activity has been carried out due to the limited funding.

Outstanding needs

CHF 124,740 is still required to achieve the original objectives outlined in the appeal within the given timeframe.

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