

# PROGRAMME 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

## GUATEMALA

08 August 2001

*Appeal No. 01.27/2001*

*Appeal Target: CHF 1,121,138 (revised to CHF 966,415)*

*Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 1 January - 31 July 2001*

### "At a Glance"

*Appeal coverage: 61.6%*

*Related Appeals: 01.25/2001 Pan-American Disaster Response Unit; 01.26/2001 Central America; 01.28/2001 Honduras; 01.29/2001 Nicaragua*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 371,234*

*Update: The programme budget has been revised downwards and there is a need for both short and long term funding commitment from donors. The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has achieved significant progress through the institutional and resource development, and disaster preparedness programmes. A national organisational development plan has been put together. Disaster preparedness initiatives have resulted in a new department with a revised organigram as well as the creation of an emergency operations centre and branch contingency plans. The GRC now has an official role in emergency response at national level, after agreement with the National Emergency Committee (CONRED).*

### **Operational Developments:**

Tension in Guatemala has increased, following splits in the ruling party over the proposed introduction of higher VAT rates. Security remains a major issue as a result of the widespread availability of arms and a culture of violence which pervades after 36 years of civil war. The government has not been in a position to implement all commitments relating to the peace accords. The root causes of conflict, including a divided society, remain unaddressed.

In mid June, following the escape of 78 prisoners from a maximum security jail in Escuintla, the government suspended constitutional rights for a total of two months.

Changes in National Society leadership and management continue to benefit programme implementation. Since the beginning of the year, much progress has been made through the institutional and resource development, and disaster preparedness programmes.

### ***Disaster Response***

In late June, a long-standing land dispute in a remote community of Quiché resulted in the forced, violent evacuation of a small community of 71 families. They lost their houses and all possessions including crops and animals. Twenty-eight families in the isolated mountain community of Xeputul were also affected. The Guatemalan Red Cross, through its local branch, San Juan Cotzal, provided initial support of food and clothing to all 99 families, given that the host community's resources were stretched. Following discussions between the ICRC and the GRC, the ICRC allocated a budget of USD 5,000. Food items, kitchen and cooking sets - organised by the local branch with the support of the headquarters - were distributed in late July.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***



Objective 1: “To strengthen the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme at all levels, and to increase the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to both natural and man-made disasters”.

The following community-based projects are taking place: With support from CIDA/Canadian Red Cross, activities are taking place in Retalhuleu. In cooperation with MSF, initiatives are also underway

in Guatemala city. The Spanish Red Cross is working in Izabal on CBDP projects, which are funded by the European Union. The Netherlands Red Cross is working in Sayaxché and Peten in 17 communities. The projects in Sayaxché and Peten involve community organisation, including the formulation of community emergency plans and the establishment of a community emergency committee. The National Emergency Committee will swear in the newly-formed community committees in order that they are recognised as playing a role in the government's national emergency response plan.

A workshop in community education took place in March 2001 with support from CIDA/Canadian Red Cross, during which 30 facilitators were trained. Seventeen were from Retalhuleu and 13 from Guatemala city. New posters were designed for community motivation and facilitators were provided with T-shirts to reinforce Red Cross visibility. The action plan includes a total of 15 workshops at community level: 7 in Retalhuleu and 8 in Guatemala city. At present, disaster mitigation micro projects are being carried out in zone 18 and zone 2 in Guatemala City and in Santa Isabel in Retalhuleu. The latter involves the construction of a bridge and the former the creation of a community centre and the building of steps to allow rapid evacuation during floods from the deep gulleys in which the communities have settled.

Objective 2: "To strengthen the capacity of the Guatemalan Red Cross to respond quickly and effectively to local and national disasters".

The Guatemalan Red Cross appointed a new relief director in mid January 2001. Soon after, the structure of the department was reviewed. A revised departmental organigram was approved by the governing board in July.

In mid January, an emergency operations centre was created at the Guatemalan Red Cross headquarters, a significant step forward for efficient coordination of operations. Telecommunications capacity has been boosted with the repair of three repeaters and the installation of two new repeaters. Previously, only three GRC branches were able to communicate with each other and with headquarters. Today all 24 branches have functioning communication systems. Work on the National Society's emergency response plan has been on-going since the beginning of the year and was finalised in early March. Dissemination of the plan has taken place, culminating in a meeting of national heads of relief departments on 9 - 10 March 2001. The national response plan was also approved at the governing board meeting in July.

Revision of contingency plans for the GRC branches has begun. Today a total of ten branches have updated plans - including Puerto Barrios, El Estor, San Marcos, Tejuthtle, Coban and Retalhuleu; Tecun Uman, Quetzaltenango, Coatepeque and Palmar - which have been tested through simulation exercises between March and May 2001. Furthermore, some ten volunteers per branch have been trained in emergency response preparedness.

Objective 3: "To strengthen the inter and intra-institutional coordination, networks and strategic alliances for disaster response and preparedness".

As of February 2001, and following negotiations initiated in June 2000, the Guatemalan Red Cross is now fully integrated in the CONRED national plan for emergency response.

The following areas are recognised as those in which the GRC is competent to provide support: communication; information and planning; assistance to the population (shelter and food aid); first aid; health and medical services; transportation of the wounded; needs assessments relating to health and food security; psychological support; vector control; water and sanitation; search and rescue; food distribution; management of volunteers and donations.

Furthermore, liaison with governmental bodies has improved and the GRC is assisting with coordination and provision of humanitarian aid to families affected by armed conflict. On-going coordination is also ensured with the United Nations' agencies.



### ***Humanitarian Values***

The humanitarian values programme has received little funding and therefore limited progress has been made. An awareness workshop promoting the culture of peace was held in March, following which Cobán branch organised two training sessions for both volunteers and participants from the community focusing on the culture of peace, starting at family level.

### ***Health and Care***

Initiatives in the field of health and care have been limited over the first half of the year as a result of lack of funding, although a Norwegian Red Cross contribution was received in June 2001. In July, a national meeting of those responsible for health in the branches was held with the support of the American Red Cross. The aim of the meeting was to draw up an initial draft of the Guatemalan Red Cross' national health plan. Representatives from some 20 branches attended the meeting; priorities in the area of health were discussed and a proposal was put forward for potential funding by the Participating National Societies (PNS) and the Federation.

### ***Institutional and Resource Development***

Objective 1: "To assist the GRC in elaborating its national development plan".

In early March, work began on the national development plan through eight workshops over two weeks. All branches were involved in the workshops in order to ensure ownership of the strategies to be defined. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis was carried out focusing on the National Society, and its 24 branches. One major opportunity identified was volunteer potential.

Objective 2: "To support the GRC in strengthening its governance and management bodies".

A new governing board was elected on 23 June last. A consultant, who will be responsible for working with the board, is in the process of being identified. The consultant will assist the board in clear definition of the roles of governance and management and will work as a facilitator. The new board has also been trained in governance and management by the institutional and resource development delegate.

All recommendations put forward as a result of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers study have been implemented, as appropriate, including administrative and financial procedures. However, given budget constraints, a new computer system has not yet been bought.

Objective 3: “To assist the GRC in developing its fund-raising capacity”.

A market study has been carried out with the support of the Federation, the ICRC, the American Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. At present, given the results of the study, the National Society is concentrating on its image which requires strengthening. The National Society suspended most of its activities in the early ‘90s, after which recovery was made step by step. With funding from the ICRC, newspaper advertisements and television slots have been designed, stressing that the Red Cross is alive, that its work in favour of the most vulnerable is relevant. These will be used during the second half of the year once structures to support volunteer recruitment, public enquiries and donations have been put in place.

The GRC currently provides first aid instruction to external organisations which brings an average income of Qz. 6,000 (approximately CHF 1,139 per week).

Objective 4: “To support the GRC in the strengthening of selected branches”.

As a result of difficulties to ensure an objective selection of branches to undergo a strengthening process, it was decided that, as a first step, training workshops would be held with a policy of open participation. During the reporting period, training sessions in basic and advanced first aid and driving of emergency vehicles were held with the participation of 96 members of Red Cross personnel from 19 branches. A national workshop for women volunteers also took place.

Objective 5: “To assist the GRC in strengthening the capacity of its volunteers”.

A data base of volunteers has been created. Following the results of the SWOT analysis, the Guatemalan Red Cross plans to develop the potential of current volunteers and to expand the volunteer base. During the reporting period, volunteers participated in workshops focusing on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, basic first aid and driving of emergency vehicles.

## ***Coordination and Management***

Objective 1: “To establish and apply criteria for efficient (cost benefit) and effective (objectives-results) use of resources made available through the Federation for programmes. This will allow a rational use of available resources and establish common criteria and standards for each programme component, in line with *Strategy 2010* and Federation procedures and guidelines”.

Capacity building in administration and finance has taken place with participants from 15 branches. A system of continuous audit for projects, which are financed through advances from the Federation to the Guatemalan Red Cross, has been set up. Furthermore, an integrated accounting system for both Federation and GRC-funded projects has been established.

Objective 2: “To support the Guatemalan Red Cross in promoting coordination between the Participating National Societies, the Federation Secretariat and the ICRC, as well as with external partners”.

Each week, a meeting of members of the Movement takes place, which is organised by the Federation with the participation of the GRC, the PNS in Guatemala and the ICRC. It ensures direct

communication between the components of the Movement, maximises human resource potential and skills and promotes efficiency and effectiveness of projects in favour of the most vulnerable.

In the field of disaster preparedness, strategic alliances have been formed with “Doctors without Borders” and the Peace Corps. Links with governmental authorities have also been reinforced through the adherence of the GRC to CONRED, the body responsible for coordination in times of disaster.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The position of head of delegation in Guatemala has been filled by an experienced delegate who will begin his assignment in early August.

Funding is urgently required in order to be in a position to implement the health and care programme and to ensure sustained long-term commitment to this. The Society’s flagship health and care programme aims to strengthen coping mechanisms within communities by providing training in such areas as hygiene education and midwifery. Safe drinking water is also a major component as is preventative work in sanitation. Given that 46 per cent of the Guatemalan population does not have access to basic health care, the programme is a priority. Because of limited resources, promoting humanitarian values was included as an element of other programmes rather than a stand-alone initiative. It is a priority - funding permitting - to have a more comprehensive programme next year.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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**Appeal 01.27/2001****Budget revision 7 august 2001****GUATEMALA****CHF**

<b><u>PROGRAMME</u></b>	<b><u>DP</u></b>	<b><u>Health &amp; services</u></b>	<b><u>IDRD</u></b>	<b><u>Coord. &amp; mgt</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Computers & telecommunications	33,184	0			33,184
					0
<b>Sub total capital</b>	<b>33,184</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>33,184</b>
					0
Programme management	11,646	26,201	18,487	6,134	62,468
Technical services	3,486	7,843	5,534	1,836	18,699
Professional services	3,866	8,698	6,136	2,036	20,736
					0
<b>Sub total programme support</b>	<b>18,998</b>	<b>42,743</b>	<b>30,157</b>	<b>10,006</b>	<b>101,904</b>
					0
<b>Transport &amp; storage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>8,946</b>	<b>21,199</b>
					0
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	81,783	0	101,520	73,158	256,461
Personnel (local staff)	16,082	97,493	59,484	14,304	187,363
					0
<b>Sub total personnel</b>	<b>97,865</b>	<b>97,493</b>	<b>161,004</b>	<b>87,462</b>	<b>443,824</b>
					0
Travel & related expenses		0	3,402	10,751	14,153
Information expenses		0		385	385
Admin. - general expenses	893	94,399	24,536	13,422	133,250
Training workshops / seminars	21,772	153,936	42,808		218,516
					0
<b>Sub total travel, training, general</b>	<b>22,665</b>	<b>248,335</b>	<b>70,746</b>	<b>24,558</b>	<b>366,304</b>
					0
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>172,712</b>	<b>388,571</b>	<b>274,160</b>	<b>130,972</b>	<b>966,415</b>

<b>Guatemala</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.27/2001</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				08.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>966'415</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 61.6%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				3'193		
REALLOCATED FUNDS				200'000		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		629'245	NOK	118'486	30.03.2001	NATIONAL COORDINATION, HUMAN DEV.
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	34'740	20.03.01	ID DELEGATE COSTS
SWEDISH - GOVT		810'000	SEK	136'485	17.05.2001	HEALTH AND CARE
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		400'000	SEK	67'400	17.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		90'000	SEK	15'165	17.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				575'469	CHF	59.5%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			19'712		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				19'712	CHF	2.0%