

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

INDIA

13 August 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.36/2001

Appeal Target CHF 1,821,955

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: 1 January to 30 June 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 24.2%

Related Appeals: South Asia regional programmes 01.33/01

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,381,079

Update: Donor response to the Gujarat earthquake enabled funding of many of the programmes originally included under this Annual Appeal. But the Bhopal Shanty Town and HIV/AIDS projects under the Health Programme still require further support. Funding for the appeal at 24.2% was poor and this has constrained activities on the ground.

Operational Developments:

India is the second most populous country in the world and is one of the most disaster prone. In recognition of this fact the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has identified Disaster Preparedness and Response as its high priority areas in this 2001 Appeal. On 26 January, a series of powerful earthquakes struck Gujarat state (estimated population 50.6 million) in western India, peaking at a massive 7.9 on the Richter scale. Several large towns were decimated near the epicentre of the earthquake in Gujarat's Kutch district (estimated population around 1.6 million). The area within a range of 100 km from the epicentre was seriously affected. Infrastructure was severely damaged, resulting in large scale collapse of buildings, mine cave-ins, train derailments, power failure, and water supply disruption. Tens of thousands of people were killed and many more injured. A Federation Appeal launched on 30 January sought CHF 25.6 million to assist 300,000 beneficiaries for four months. Around 50 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, governments, international organizations, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and private enterprises responded to the appeal in cash, kind and services and a massive relief operation was implemented.

In March, a comprehensive assessment of the situation and of potential further action was conducted by a Federation mission, resulting in a report containing recommendations for possible further involvement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in Gujarat. On 22-23 March 2001, a partnership meeting was held in New Delhi, confirming the recommendations from the Federation's assessment report. Some 20 donor national societies committed to further support the Indian Red Cross Society in its efforts to alleviate the suffering of the affected population. A Preliminary Appeal for CHF 60.6 million for the rehabilitation phase was launched on 9 July 2001. This Rehabilitation Appeal includes substantial elements to enhance the capacity of the IRCS and therefore covers some of the funding objectives included in the India Annual Appeal for 2001.

On the other hand, the very heavy focus of the IRCS, and the Federation, on the earthquake operation has inevitably diverted attention away from many of the planned activities and consequently some of the original objectives have not been met during this reporting period.

The substantial impact of this earthquake operation on planned programmes is discussed in the relevant sections in this Programme Update.

Disaster Response

The Disaster Response and Disaster Preparedness programmes outlined in the Annual Appeal, have been, with the concurrence of interested donors, substantially rewritten and enlarged upon and are now included in the new Earthquake Rehabilitation Appeal.

With the support of DFID and British Red Cross, a new project within the Annual Appeal programme, and including elements of DP and DR, has been formulated, and implementation commenced during June. Further expanded activity implementation awaits donor response to the Rehabilitation Appeal.

The Federation Regional DP Delegate (RDPD) took up duties from 1 January 2001, however implementation of the DP and DR programmes was severely disrupted due to his deployment in emergency response operations, especially the Gujarat earthquake. Similarly, the diversion of the IRCS attention to this operation has precluded the appointment of suitable DP and DR counterparts at IRCS National HQ. Both these factors have limited the achievements under these programmes.

Objective 1 : To strengthen rapid assessment skills in teams at branch and national headquarters levels.

There has been no activity for this objective though the need for improved assessment skills has been reinforced in the new DP/DR project proposal.

Objective 2 : To establish Disaster Management Committees at National, State and District levels to coordinate responses and resource mobilization at times of disaster

Agreement has been reached to appoint high level staff to form a Disaster Management Unit at National HQ. Applications are currently being sought. This DMU will be responsible for all DR and DP activities. Similar units will be appointed and equipped at State level in eight priority disaster-prone States. This will commence initially in Assam in August and will continue throughout the last quarter of 2001 and during 2002.

Training of these key personnel will commence in August/ September.

Objective 3 : To improve reporting standards so that accurate and timely information can improve the effective targeting of resources.

This will be addressed once the key staff are in place in National HQ and selected State Branches.

Objective 4 : *To improve the mechanisms for effective logistics and transportation during disasters.*

A Federation volunteer has commenced the compilation of a suppliers database with a view to speeding up of supplies procurements especially during emergency operations. This will be continued and once complete will be regularly updated.

In preparation for the chronic flooding which occurs annually in some of the Western States, emergency stocks were, at the end of this reporting period, being procured and prepositioned in Assam. These stocks are for 10,000 families and include tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, and cooking utensils. Procurement has been made from funds remaining from last year's flood relief operation. High-energy biscuits and water purification tablets remaining from the Gujarat earthquake have also been prepositioned in Assam. This is one component of an Assam-focused DP pilot project to continue until June 2002.

Disaster Preparedness

The appointment of an India Country DP Delegate in June will accelerate the progress of this programme

Objective 1 : *To identify disaster-prone areas through a hazard mapping exercise.*

This objective has been reconsidered during the formulation of the India Earthquake Rehabilitation programme. Whilst it is still considered an important exercise it is also recognised that the capacities of the IRCS need to be enhanced before an extensive hazard mapping exercise can be implemented effectively. The objective will be examined again in 2002. In the meantime the comprehensive Vulnerability Atlas of India produced by the Government of India in 1997 will be utilised to identify high risk areas.

Objective 2 : *To establish effective coordination and policy development mechanisms between the national headquarters and State Branches.*

Since appointment of staff for the IRCS Disaster Management Unit has been delayed, it has not been possible to form a national coordination committee necessary to implement these activities.

Contacts have been made with the Government Natural Disaster Management Dept. and Federation and IRCS representatives have been involved with the newly formed Government High Powered Committee for preparation of Disaster Management Plan. This cooperation with Government will be developed further.

Objective 3 : *To conduct prioritised vulnerability mapping, baseline data, and Preparedness Plans in the five most disaster-prone States.*

There were no activities against this objective during the reporting period.

Objective 4 : *To develop teams of trained personnel in a selected disaster-prone States to undertake rescue and relief work in disasters.*

A DP pilot project commenced in June, in the Assam state branch. One of the components of this project is to provide the 300 trained volunteers who were involved in the previous floods, with training in Disaster Preparedness and Response. This will continue throughout the year and emergency response teams will be formed from amongst those trained. These teams will operate at district level and some of them will be involved also in four pilot community DP and mitigation projects.

Learning from the experiences of this pilot project, the model will be extended to other priority disaster-prone states as their RC branch capacities are developed.

Objective 5 : *To establish a strategically located set of warehouses equipped with adequate relief materials in identified vulnerable areas.*

In Assam, emergency stocks are being prepositioned ahead of the chronically occurring annual floods. Temporary repairs have been carried out on the IRCS warehouse in Guwahati to accommodate the stocks, which consist of tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and blankets sufficient for 10,000 families. Arrangements have been made for the immediate preparation of cooked food for displaced families when the floods occur.

More permanent repairs will be carried out on the warehouse later in the year. The new Appeal contains provision for a complete nationwide survey of the condition and appropriateness of all IRCS warehouses.

Health and Care

In view of the inevitable focus on resources to respond to the earthquake which happened so early in the year, no funding has so far been received for activities within the Health and Care programme, and so this has been the major constraint to the lack of progress on the activities which were planned. The limited health management capacity of the National Society at Headquarters level was the major reason for focusing this year on an in-depth survey of the National Society's health activities, but the demands of the earthquake meant that the newly-appointed Health Manager at the Headquarters was immediately required to work full-time on the earthquake operation.

India Health Review Project

Objective 1 : *Conduct a survey of existing preventive and curative health activities.*

Immediately prior to the earthquake, discussions were held with senior National Society colleagues as how best to undertake this survey, given that surveys of other activities of the National Society, such as Disaster Preparedness and the whole area of institutional capacity, also needed to be undertaken. At this time, it was decided that perhaps a better way to address the need to gather information on a wide range of activities and programmes in over 30 States would be to have an integrated team approach to information collection and analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Society. However, neither the Federation nor the National Society has had the capacity to undertake this objective, but it is hoped that progress can still be made during the second half of the year, while acknowledging the demands which the earthquake operation will continue to place upon the capacity of the Society.

Objective 2 : *Form a task force at national level to provide strategic overview and direction to the health programme overall*

The task force at national level was an activity which was specifically recommended at last year's workshop for country assistance strategy development, the idea being that a task force would be formed for each of the four core areas of programme operations. The task force has not yet been formed but, as mentioned above, a new Health Manager at Headquarters level was appointed at the very start of the year

Bhopal Shanty Town Health and Hygiene Project

Objective 1 : *To provide limited curative health care services in selected slum areas.*

The dispensary is continuing to function as planned (with two doctors, two health workers and limited free medicine) and is providing its services for six hours every week day. District administration has extended permission for use of the current building as a dispensary until 30 September 2001.

Objective 2 : *To provide, through the medium of the Community Development Societies (CDS), comprehensive preventive and promotional health services in selected slum areas.*

The following health services have been organised during the reporting period :

- Three Pulse Polio camps for administering oral doses to infants and children;
- Three Health Check up camps with specialist doctors in ENT, Orthopaedics, Gynaecologist, and Pediatrician;
- Blood group determination camp.

These camps have benefited more than 2000 patients in the shanty town.

Objective 3 : *To provide CDSs with the requisite training, facilities and motivation to implement a community-based primary healthcare programme in selected slum areas.*

Training on Fist Aid, Health Awareness and other community health issues have been provided to Resident Community Volunteers (RCV) once a week since September 2000. This first phase of training was completed in January 2001. A test conducted in February 2001 to assess the knowledge of RCVs on Health issues revealed that they had grasped fundamental knowledge of these issues very well. The RCVs are now engaging in a door to door campaign to spread their knowledge in the community.

Objective 4 : *To increase the empowerment of women in the slums, freeing them for more productive and fulfilling roles.*

Trained RCVs (most of whom are women) have been engaged in a family health & literacy survey.

HIV/AIDS Project

Objective 1 : *Develop integrated HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programmes through mass publicity and community based peer educator programmes.*

Objective 2 : *Expand and run TB and HIV/AIDS clinics and hospitals where other resources are scarce.*

The HIV/AIDS project had been agreed as a bilateral programme arrangement between the Indian Red Cross and the American Red Cross. To date, the partners are still working together to finalise the details.

It is intended for the Federation to also support the National Society in its development of HIV/AIDS programmes and activities during the second half of the year, given the huge needs which already exist with HIV/AIDS in India and the National Society's real commitment to working on this issue.

Institutional and Resource Development

Institutional Development Project

Objective 1 : *To assist the National Society in strengthening its constitution and thereby create more effective coordination between the National Headquarters and the branches.*

Indian RC participated in the Regional Constitution Review workshop for senior governance which took place in Sri Lanka in June. Indian RC was represented by two governing board members, Secretary General, and one senior manager. The Federation and ICRC regional delegations also provided IRCS with an external legal consultant to help them prepare for the workshop.

Indian RC submitted a five point action plan at the workshop which included :

- setting up a committee by management body for establishing rules of the National Society;
- establishing a feedback process at State Secretaries meetings;
- submit proposed rules to Ministry of Health for examination and approval by President,
- informing parliament

- Government of India will issue a notification for amendment of rules.

Objective 2 : *To improve coordination mechanisms between the IRCS NHQ and the branches.*

The planned State Secretaries meeting to further improve coordination mechanism between IRCS NHQ and branches did not take place in the first half of the year due to the January 26 earthquake. The meeting is now scheduled for the third quarter of the year.

Objective 3 : *To review and improve management and administration systems in the Society.*

The Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation programme has incorporated all of the activities under this objective. Some activities have already been started, notably a countrywide mapping exercise for Indian RC branches to determine their activities and resources. The Regional ID Delegate, along with IRCS, have also started to work on drafting a ToR for management consultants to help IRCS through a change process.

Further work will be carried forward on arrival of a country based ID delegate in August.

Information Development Project

In the absence of any counterpart for the Regional Information Delegate due to the sudden resignation of the IRCS Information officer shortly after the Gujarat earthquake, little progress has been achieved with the implementation of the proposed objectives.

Objective 1 : *To develop a communications strategy for the National Society and establish a well-functioning information department at IRCS NHQ.*

The lack of an information officer has meant that no activities under this objective have been implemented. A replacement information officer should be recruited by the end of July and it is hoped that an additional information officer will also be recruited as outlined in the proposed objectives of the information development programme of the earthquake rehabilitation appeal.

Objective 2 : *To develop an internal and external communications capacity at NHQ and selected branches.*

A communications training workshop has been held in Delhi for representatives from seven state branches. This workshop focused on practical training in information and dissemination techniques and was organised by the IRCS and funded by the ICRC. The regional information delegate acted as a facilitator at the workshop. A national directory of state branches compiled by the IRCS headquarters is nearing completion and a web site for the IRCS has been constructed and is now fully functional.

Objective 3 : *To develop long term strategic relationships with the media.*

The Gujarat earthquake presented many media opportunities to the Indian Red Cross and the IRCS information officer played an important liaison role with national media during the first week of the disaster. A press conference was held in Delhi for international and local media during the visit of the Federation Secretary General and a number of interviews were given by IRCS senior management to the print and broadcast media during the first month following the earthquake. Progress has been evident in some state branches where the Federation has provided informal communications training to IRCS management. These states include Assam and Orissa who have certainly built on their links with their local media and have managed to generate a constant level of positive media coverage for their activities during the first half of the year.

Financial Resource Development Project

Objective 1 : *To develop a coordinated resource mobilization strategy for the Society, integrating NHQ and State branch plans.*

There were no activities against this objective during the reporting period.

Training Centre Assessment Project

Objective 1 : *To undertake a structural assessment of the dormant Central Training Institute to determine exactly the engineering and construction inputs, if any, required to turn this institute into a fully functioning training facility and thus reduce the costs of using other training establishments to conduct the wide range of training courses that will be necessary in IRCS over the next few years.*

Objective 2 : *To undertake an operational/business assessment to determine how to turn the institute into a manageable, sustainable enterprise with the potential to generate sufficient income to cover maintenance and running costs.*

These objectives have been closely reviewed and a survey of the centre carried out. A revised objective to repair and refurbish the training building has been incorporated into the new DP/DR project of the Rehabilitation Appeal. Once the repairs are completed, the centre will be used initially for regional and national RC training. This will be done on a trial basis with a view to long-term investment to refurbish the entire complex and develop it as a training and information resource centre for RC and external use.

Outstanding needs

Although the donor response to the Gujarat earthquake has enabled funding of many of the programmes originally included under this Annual Appeal, the Bhopal Shanty Town and HIV/AIDS projects under the Health Programme still require further support.

For further details please contact: Martin de Vries, Phone : 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: devries@ifrc.org

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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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India						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.36/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				10.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'821'955		TOTAL COVERAGE 24.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				44'015		
AUSTRALIA - RC		16'362	AUD	14'685	06.06.2001	DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAMME
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				300'000	30.04.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME
CANADIAN - RC		16'650	CAD	16'524	08.01.01	UTTAR PRADESH HILLS, MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE, BHOPAL SHANTY TOWN HEALTH AND HYGIENES, TAMIL NADU SUPPORT FOR NUTRITIONAL PROG.
NEW ZEALAND - RC		17'532	NZD	12'928	28.06.2001	
NORWEGIAN - RC		200'000	NOK	38'234	28.05.2001	BHOPAL
SINGAPORE - RC				14'490	11.07.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				440'876	CHF	24.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%