

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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

15 August 2001

LEBANON AND SYRIA BRANCHES

Appeal No. 01.69/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,402,499

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 01 January - 30 June 2001

(Last Programme Update issued: 02 January 2001)

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 14.4%

Related Appeals: 01.64/01 MENA: regional programme

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,910,848

Update: There has been a poor response to the appeal which has placed limits on programme activity among the Palestinian refugee populations of both Lebanon and Syria. Support to the medical supply side of programming is particularly crucial in helping vulnerable people. The ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict continues to affect the refugee population.

Operational Developments:

There were no in country developments that directly affected the humanitarian situation of beneficiaries in Lebanon and Syria. The political and security situation is, however, tense due to the potential for the Palestinian/Israeli conflict to spread to Lebanon. The economic situation for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is still difficult.

Disaster Response

The main objective is to support the health care structures for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria.

In the reporting period the support has come only from one ECHO project, which covered 30% of medical supplies in Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) hospitals and clinics in Lebanon. The ECHO support was exhausted in early spring, and a new ECHO project has been accepted for the second half of 2001.

There has been no direct support to the appeal in the reporting period for PRCS Lebanon or the PRCS branch covering Palestinian refugees in Syria.

Humanitarian Values

The country delegation (CD), with the support from Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) intends to launch a youth program related to First Aid, both in the interventional sense and within the refugee community as community based first aid (CBFA).

This program aims at training trainers who will continue the CBFA training throughout the refugee communities in Lebanon.

Due to capacity reasons and in order to find the right timing, the project has been postponed until the third quarter of 2001. Funding for the initiation of the project is available through support to the appeal.

Health and Care

The main objective for 2001 is to finalise the technical support to rehabilitation and reorientation of the service lay out in the 5 hospitals and 9 clinics run by PRCS Lebanon.

The program started in May 2001 when funding was available through the Norwegian RC.

The achievements so far:

- tendering for rehabilitation works in Hamshari referral hospital.
- the start of renovating the 3rd floor of Hamasharie, with the objective of moving all major surgical activities to this area.
- preparations for the rehabilitation of two PHC clinics: Shattila and Al Bass.

The remaining objectives and related activities will not be achieved unless additional funding is provided through the appeal. This will affect the renovation of the 4 local hospital and 6 PHC clinics, the upgrading of one ICU unit in one of the hospitals, support to spare parts for medical equipment and the building of residences for medical personnel on duty in Hamashari hospital. The institutions will still be able to operate and provide services.

Institutional and Resource Development

The IFRC launched a comprehensive four-year training program through the appeal in 2000. This has been ongoing in a smooth and successful manner with an annual coverage of 75-80 %.

Within the reporting period, funding through the appeal has allowed 7 of 14 training courses to be implemented for 200 students with managerial, medical, nursing and paramedical professions, from Palestinian communities in Lebanon, and with participation from PRCS Syria as well. The courses cover subjects like economy, personnel administration, management, medical administration, team building, primary health care, computer training, quality assessment of services and other related subjects.

There are still available funds for 3-4 courses to be implemented during the second half of 2001.

The appeal has only been responded to by the Norwegian RC and 3-4 courses are presently not funded for. The objectives will be achieved through the training. Feedback from the students and the institutions is positive.

Regional Co-operation

The country delegation has participated in regional conferences, general knowledge sharing and regional planning as part of MENA on a regular basis. The delegation is, as such, an asset to the regional team covering the MENA region.

There are no explicit objectives developed for regional co-operation beyond the established practices established for the team.

Co-ordination and Management

The main objective of the CD is to contribute to the development of the capacities of LRC and the PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria. The delegation has as such been an instrument for promoting support, co-ordination of activities, provision of professional guidance to the NSs and participation in the regional MENA team activities through the RD in Amman.

The main challenge has been to cover the core costs of the country delegation, with only one PNS, the Norwegian RC giving direct contributions. There is still a gap in 2001 that has led the regional team to analyse alternatives to the IFRC structure in Lebanon.

It is however agreed that IFRC presence in Lebanon is required, and the analyses has looked at the possible options of the nature of such presence.

Key activities have been the planning, co-ordination and implementation of programs, contacts and co-ordination with ICRC and other humanitarian organisations, plus the UN, EU and embassies.

Outstanding needs

For PRCS Lebanon the main outstanding needs are related to the disaster response (DR) component of the appeal, such as support of medical supplies for hospitals and clinics. This is the main activity performed by the PRCS in Lebanon and is crucial to the refugee population. PRCS has an agreement with UNRWA that covers 50 % of the hospital beds, which gives a predictable income - however without a surplus of funds. A reduction of medical supply support might endanger the agreement with UNRWA as well as the health and social standards of the refugee population. This is a crucial area of PRCS activities, with no reserve from UNRWA, the PRCS itself, the Lebanese or international community.

The lack of support to PRCS Syria can be handled on a short term basis, since the refugee population there has access to the health services provided by the Syrian authorities..

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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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