

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Palestine Red Crescent Society

Appeal No. MAAPS001
Programme Update No.2

This report covers the period of 01/01/2007 to 30/06/2007.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulance crew in action during the recent Gaza conflict. Photo: Palestine Red Crescent Society.

In brief

Programme Summary: Despite huge financial challenges and tighter closure of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), effectively separating cities and villages from each other and making it almost impossible for Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) staff and volunteers to travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the society has been able to continue carrying out its humanitarian mission for the most vulnerable people. This has been possible thanks to the strong commitment of its employees, volunteers and partners. While health and other social services provided in the oPt by the Palestinian Authority (PA) for longer periods have been crippled by staff strikes, the PRCS has without any interruption continued all its programmes in the oPt as well as in the Diaspora. The vast majority of programme support is received through bilateral agreements, of which most are medium or long-term partnerships. However due to the great need for core cost support, only limited funding has been pledged to start new activities.

Through introducing the Operational Alliance concept, the coordination of programme and project support from partners has been improved, which is referring to and based on the PRCS strategy and the central and leading role of the society in the whole process of planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget channeled through the International Federation Secretariat has been revised from CHF 7,964,277 (USD 6,595,425 or EUR 4,832,910) to CHF 1,812,964 (USD 1,510,185 or EUR 1,103,285), out of which 72 per cent is covered. This amount reflects only the International Federation Secretariat component of the overall PRCS appeal amounting to CHF 19,019,488 (USD 15,551,976 or EUR 11,530,419).

Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report on the International Federation Secretariat component of the total budget. An additional financial report including bilateral contributions and based on information received from the Operational Alliance partners, is available at the representative office in Palestine (see contact details at the back of this report)

No. of people we help: For the first six months of 2007 the total number of direct beneficiaries of the PRCS programmes was 921,874. It is expected that the same number of people will benefit from the programmes during the second half of the year.

Our Partners: 45 community-based and four government-based partners, 15 international organizations, three United Nations and several developmental agencies, and 21 partners within the Movement including sister National Societies and International Federation representations.

Progress towards objectives-by sector

Programme support to the ongoing activities of PRCS in occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Diaspora.

In recent years, a growing number of international partners have expanded their cooperation with and support to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and its humanitarian programmes all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as for the Palestinian refugees in the neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt). Bilateral agreements have been signed and bilateralism has become the dominant mechanism for the PRCS to raise funds for its operations. Hence, support from the International Federation to the PRCS has been more as a facilitator, coordinator and capacity builder, in particular within organizational development and administration.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society emergency appeal

For a number of years the PRCS has received substantial financial support from the Palestinian Authority (PA) to implement programmes which it mandated to the National Society. In early 2006, when the authority was no longer able to continue this support due to the international financial embargo imposed on the government following the general election in the oPt, the PRCS launched its emergency appeal and received pledges from its Movement and Non-Movement partners. With the embargo still being in place at the end of 2006, there was still a great need for additional financial support in 2007 to cover the core costs of the PRCS. Hence, one part of the appeal for 2007 through the International Federation Secretariat is to compensate for the biggest donor to the PRCS of recent years not being able to support the humanitarian work of the PRCS.

In late January 2007, a special partnership meeting was arranged in Geneva to support the PRCS appeal for 2007. A support committee was established with the Netherlands Red Cross being in the leading role. A resource mobilization plan was developed and a promotional brochure was produced. During the first few months of the year, regular financial updates have been produced and sent to partners showing pledges and donations received. At the end of June the grand total pledges from thirteen different partners, of which eight are from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and five from other sources, to the emergency part of the appeal (CHF 14,055,420) is CHF 13,567,410 (coverage rate of 96 per cent)¹.

This has made it possible for the PRCS to carry on all its programmes in the oPt as well as for Palestinian refugees in the Diaspora from its branches in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. However, with most of the funding being earmarked by donors for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there is still some shortage of funding for the PRCS operations in the Diaspora.

¹ This information is provided by the Operational Alliance partners, and the International Federation Secretariat cannot verify these figures.

Health and Care

Primary Health Care (PHC) objective: Affordable and quality primary health care services and health education are regularly delivered to people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Achievements: The PRCS continued providing health care services through its PHC centres in the oPt to a total number of 250,912 beneficiaries through medical consultations, laboratory tests, X-rays and dental services. The population affected by the separation wall in the areas of Qalqilia, Jenin, and Hebron were served by mobile clinics, while those affected in the areas of Biddo and Jabaa benefited from extended opening hours. Ten PHC centres in the West Bank are providing reproductive health (RH) services and there is now a new agreement between the PRCS and the Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross Societies to expand it to 20 centres. Health education is part of the programme in the centres as well as in a number of schools. The community based development programme, as well as home visits, continued with the PHC social workers and nurses.

Training courses and workshops were conducted for PHC service providers and community teams. Safe motherhood committee members benefited from workshops, and PHC staff and community committees attended workshops carried out in oPt. A training session to evaluate clients' satisfaction through using questionnaires will be followed up by collecting important information for further improving health services provided. The diabetes and hypertension care programme funded by the Spanish Red Cross was launched. Medical kits were donated by the Netherlands Red Cross and will be distributed among PHC centres in coordination with the disaster management unit (DMU).

Constraints: The PHC centres continue to work under challenging conditions due to the security and political situation, requiring emergency approaches to meet the needs of the communities. Many staff members every day face difficulties in getting to work due to the imposed movement restrictions, six hundred checkpoints, separation wall in the West Bank and constant security problems in the Gaza Strip. A lack of qualified health personnel, especially physicians and nurses, is a problem in some locations.

Impact: The importance of the PRCS PHC programme in the oPt is more apparent than ever due to the health personnel from the Ministry of Health (MoH) being on strike much of the time and the MoH medical centres being closed. Community based activities with safe motherhood and health committees are contributing to increasing the awareness of local communities towards their own health problems and strengthening capacities to decrease the vulnerability. Using mobile clinics is the only way through which people in remote and isolated communities, due to the separation wall, can receive health services.

Rehabilitation and ability development objective: Quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families in the Palestinian community are improved through rehabilitation and development of their abilities towards better integration.

The PRCS rehabilitation and ability development programme is working under the motto "developing abilities", instead of focusing on the disabilities of individuals. It includes many types of technical and supportive activities, such as the special education centres/schools, physiotherapy occupational events, and the hearing speech therapy. Also the creation activities, such as the drama, awareness campaigns, special sport and art events are considered among the rehabilitation programme components. All these activities are implemented inside and outside the 27 daily centres and through the community based rehabilitation and outreach programme, provided for children, elderly people, the injured persons, the patients, and the children who suffer from developmental problems.

More than 295 staff members work in the PRCS rehabilitation domain in West Bank and Gaza Strip, and 50 active and trained volunteers support the PRCS staff in implementing the relevant activities. Also the PRCS rehabilitation and ability development programme works in cooperation with other departments, many active non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and Palestinian ministries such as the Ministry of Education.

Achievements: Staff and volunteers of this programme have continued providing rehabilitation and education to children from both sexes suffering from deafness, mental retardation, and children with cerebral palsy. Physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy treatment were also part of the services provided. In addition, treatment sessions were provided to persons with other kinds of disabilities, and to patients and children with

developmental problems. Disabled persons and patients with need of assistive devices, such as wheel chairs, walkers, crutches and hearing aids were tested, and received the technical assistance and training needed. Community rehabilitation workers were carrying out home visits, while disabled patients and elderly people benefited from the PRCS outreach programme in Salfit, Hebron, and Nablus areas.

Further improvement of the rehabilitation centres was achieved through establishing and upgrading seven toy libraries in five governorates in the West Bank. To maintain rehabilitation and development service quality for the disabled beneficiaries at a high level, the PRCS rehabilitation staff and students from national universities and institutions received training in special education teaching and rehabilitation of deaf students, sign language, and technical and advanced training. Aiming at reducing stigma and changing public attitude towards disabled people, awareness raising and advocacy activities were undertaken in the public schools. There were special sport and art activities in the PRCS special education and ability development centres in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Constraints: The general political, security and poor economic situation increased the poverty in oPt, especially for families with disabled people, who could not contribute to the cost of rehabilitation services. Strict movement restrictions are also hampering the programme to a great extent.

Impact: Sustainability of the programme is of utmost importance as there is little or no other alternative for the beneficiaries. The awareness of the community and the general public is increasing and the risk of stigma is decreasing. The programme is encouraging and helping families with disabled children to give them motivation, gradually changing the culture of hiding relatives with disabilities.

Support to the PRCS secondary health care services in oPt and Diaspora objective: The PRCS hospitals in oPt and the Diaspora continue providing secondary health care services to the Palestinian population.

Progress/Achievements: Thanks to the financial support from partners, the PRCS has throughout the first six months of 2007 been able to respond to the accelerating needs for secondary health care services, in particular in Gaza and Lebanon due to the armed conflicts. As most of the public health care structure run by the Ministry of Health for longer parts of the year has been almost paralysed due to ongoing strikes, the role of the PRCS hospitals being the auxiliary to the government and being able to continue their operation has become even more important.

Psychosocial Programme (PSP) objective: Individuals from the PRCS staff and volunteers, beneficiaries, and selected underserved groups were equipped with skills and individualized tools that aid in the reduction of personal damages and negative external effects and behaviour.

Achievements: The PRCS PSP programme supported by four different partners is implemented in a large number of schools in areas around Tubas, Qalqilia, Jenin, and in villages around oPt. Children are following sessions after school hours where teachers are playing an active and very important role enhancing interaction between children, their peers and the teachers. Psychosocial centres continued serving the local communities in Hebron, Bethlehem and Khan Younis areas by providing individual and group session consultations. Training workshops were provided for teachers, headmasters, counselling officers and educational counsellors, aiming at developing capacity of the caregivers to protect their children against abuse and violence. In cooperation with the educational counsellors, 239 caregivers groups were formed all over the West Bank. A newsletter on psychosocial health issues was published, and one PRCS specialist participated in local media programmes addressing different psychosocial issues related to crisis situations. Thirty-six PRCS psychologists and social workers participated in the PSP training in Norway.

Constraints: In some instances the general situation and restrictions on movement hindered the programme staff from entering the targeted communities and caused delays for many others. In addition, there is some misperception of psychological illness within the Palestinian society, causing people to be hesitant in seeking professional help.

Impact: Integration of the PSP concept in various PRCS programmes, and adoption of new structures is bringing more comprehensive PRCS health care services in oPt.

Social Welfare Programme objective: Vulnerable and disadvantaged Palestinian people have been socially and psychologically supported.

Achievements: Through its network in oPt and the Diaspora the PRCS social welfare programme continued to provide services to a large number of beneficiaries through nurseries, homes for elderly people and kindergartens. Families affected by the deterioration of the social economic situation were provided with psychosocial services and the most needed items such as baby and first aid kits, and essential medicine. The financial adoption programme supported vulnerable children, families benefited from financial aid, and three orphans were adopted in terms of financial support. Kindergarten teachers, elderly home and orphanage workers benefited from trainings and workshops in different subjects including mine risks, psychosocial support, first aid and dissemination.

Constraints: Due to a lack of funds for the social welfare department, only a few of the families requesting help could be supported. In addition, travel restrictions and closures are regularly creating obstacles for implementation.

Impact: The programme is providing essential help for people in need or who have few or no other alternative.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) objective: People residing in the oPt have access to emergency medical services.

Achievements: The PRCS EMS programme has provided services throughout the oPt and in the first half of 2007 a total of 39,733 people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have benefited, sometimes under extreme conditions. The EMS programme has also provided extensive training, and 169 staff members participated in ten EMS courses including international trauma life support (ITLS), first responder, training of trainers, upgrading, intermediate, and basic EMS courses. First aid training was also part of the programme, under which 2,561 people from communities including family heads, Palestinian institutions and staff benefited from 125 courses (1,702 or 66.5 per cent females, and 859 or 33.5 per cent males).



A PRCS EMS ambulance was completely destroyed when a tank ran over the vehicle in the Gaza Strip.

The capacity of the EMS stations was improved and further developed through the purchase and distribution of fifteen new vehicles. Another thirteen standard vehicles and five 4-wheel drive defenders were deployed during the second quarter. To improve efficiency, two multi-patient vehicles have been equipped and made ready for deployment in Nablus and Hebron. The PRCS continued providing first aid through the community based approach and the EMS school offered its educational programme to new students and upgrading courses for some of those who had previously graduated.

Constraints: The PRCS ambulance crews are regularly subject to rough treatment when carrying out their mission. Two were killed by shelling in the Gaza Strip and others have been wounded. Closures prohibited the ambulances from arriving at the scene and treating cases on time, and checkpoints delayed

the delivery of cases to hospitals. The political situation and delays impacted negatively on the procedures of EMS, especially for new vehicles to be received from the customs and clearance. Access for the PRCS ambulances to certain areas and easier passage through checkpoints are among the most important issues in the Memorandum of Understanding between the PRCS and Magen David Adom (MDA), which was signed in 2005, but the full implementation is still awaited.

Achievements so far have been limited, and the most difficult issues have turned out to be in geographical areas under the responsibility of the two societies (the permanent presence of PRCS ambulances in Jerusalem, and arrangement for PRCS ambulances to cross the Allenby bridge and into Jordan, etc). There has also been a change in the structure to monitor the implementation from what originally was agreed by the two parties, with the Swiss Government being replaced by Pär Stenbäck, a former Secretary General of the International Federation.

Impact: With the support of ICRC and other partners, an increased number of ambulances in the centres, including multi-patient vehicles, contributed to reducing the response time. Together with training and upgrading workshops for the PRCS staff and volunteers, further improvements are expected in access and the quality of EMS services for people in need.

National Blood Transfusion Services objective: Safe blood is provided from healthy voluntary donors to all Palestinians who need it at all times.

Achievements: The National Blood Transfusion Centre (NBTC) is collecting and distributing blood at its centre at the PRCS headquarters as well as through its regional centres in Hebron, Qalqilia, and Tulkarem. Blood and plasma were distributed to twelve hospitals in Jerusalem (Makassed and Augusta Victoria), and in the West Bank (Tulkarem, Hebron, Qalqilia, and Bethlehem.) Limited clinical and technical advices were also provided to the hospitals.

Constraints: There are difficulties in maintaining strategic blood stock under the current situation. Unfortunately, due to the prevailing political situation, no agreement has been signed between the PRCS and the Ministry of Health. However, some cooperation with governmental hospitals is being implemented.

Impact: Needed blood has been secured through voluntary blood donations, and provided to hospitals for urgent cases. The total number of infectious disease tests performed by the units was 3,822, while 1,092 blood group tests were performed. During the donation campaigns a total of 700 haemoglobin tests and another 48 special tests were done. A total of 429 packed red blood cell (RBC) units and another 74 units of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) were transferred to hospitals in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Disaster Management

Programme objective: Effective operational linkages between disaster management and other programmes are established thus contributing to improved PRCS disaster management capacities and adjustments to its organizational structure.



PRCS volunteers looking after Palestinian children seeking refuge in the Beddawi refugee camp.

Achievements:

Additional field hospital equipment was ordered and relief stock was improved. A new sub-warehouse was established in Jericho and the warehouses in Nablus and Gaza were developed.

In Deir El-Balah (Gaza Strip) a communication tower for VHF communication network was installed. Relief items were distributed in the Gaza Strip after new homes were destroyed by strong winds. An advanced medical post was set up at Om El Nasser village following the collapse of the sewage reservoir, where the PRCS provided relief items and facilitated the evacuation of more than 300 families. To raise public awareness of earthquake risk reduction, the PRCS printed and disseminated brochures and posters. In addition, the PRCS participated in a disaster management meeting in Germany, and facilitated a regional workshop in Amman.

Emergency operation in Tripoli

On 20 May clashes erupted between the Lebanese Armed Forces and a heavily armed group inside the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr Al-Bared in the northern city of Tripoli in Lebanon. Around 40,000 Palestinian refugees, who for decades have lived in the camp, were caught up in the middle of the fighting, and for days were not able to move out of the conflict area. According to the agreement with the Lebanese Red Cross and the rest of the Movement, as well as with the Lebanese Government, the PRCS has the mandate to provide humanitarian aid, and in particular secondary health care services inside the Palestinian refugee camps in the country. Therefore the PRCS staff and volunteers were heavily involved in rescue and other humanitarian operations in the camp, and neighbouring camps, where people were searching for refuge. A large number of wounded refugees have received treatment in the PRCS's Safad Hospital in the Beddawi refugee camp and in temporary health facilities of the society.

A large number of partners quickly responded to the sudden needs of the PRCS in Lebanon with cash and/or in kind donations and the International Federation released CHF 67,597 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for medical equipment and supplies, and some running costs.

Humanitarian Values

Youth and volunteers objective: Potentials and deepened knowledge about the PRCS principles and goals were promoted among volunteers, which bring about investment in social development.

Achievements: The PRCS youth and volunteer network expanded by implementing its wide community activities, and recruiting 317 new volunteers. The youth and volunteer programmes, consisting of social, cultural and environmental activities, community health services, educational and skills development, cooperation and recruitment and retaining of volunteers were implemented in 60 locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where monthly meetings were held by all the 60 volunteer committees. Also the youth and volunteer groups at the PRCS branches in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt were running similar programmes. During the first six months of 2007 a total of 5,676 volunteers contributed in areas such as EMS, disaster preparedness and response, rehabilitation, psychosocial services, health and care, dissemination and international humanitarian law (IHL), social services, and administration, from which 45,759 people benefited. In regards to international participation, five volunteers participated in the MENA network meeting in Yemen, one at the 17th International Falcon Movement (IFM) congress in Vienna, one in the preparation for the MENA Youth network meeting in Amman, one at the Arab Secretariat Conference in Doha, and one in the youth coordination committee meeting in Amman. In total 149,732 beneficiaries benefited from the work of the PRCS youth and volunteers throughout the period.

A number of workshops and training sessions were organized at the PRCS community centres with 440 participants, where the training courses were covering basic Red Cross and Red Crescent knowledge, disaster preparedness, psychosocial support, training of trainers, and leadership training. The total beneficiaries of the activities in the community centres were 21,232. In total 17,310 staff and volunteers benefited from the training carried out by the department.

The youth and volunteer quarterly magazine has been published twice and 4,000 copies were distributed throughout oPt.

Information, Dissemination and IHL objective: All the PRCS staff and volunteers were sensitized and trained on humanitarian values according to the PRCS code of conduct and the knowledge of public about humanitarian values increased.

Achievements: During the reporting period, seven dissemination workshops, five in the West Bank and two in Gaza Strip, were conducted. 175 PRCS staff and volunteers of both genders (62 females and 113 males) benefited from these workshops. Two one-day seminars focusing on the Red Cross/Red Crescent emblems were organized by the IHL unit in Hebron and Gaza cities, with 180 participants from the PRCS staff and volunteers, and staff of local health providers. The PRCS exploring humanitarian law (EHL) focal points conducted 29 school visits and gave technical support to the teachers and students. In addition the IHL unit continues preparing the IHL library.

Under the banner “Together for Humanity”, the PRCS headquarters and branches throughout oPt marked the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May. Speeches were delivered, underlining the principles and overall goal of the society, and the PRCS health centres offered a day of free medical services. In many of the branches cultural events with folklore and exhibition of Palestinian handcraft were organized.

A variety of teaching and information materials were printed and distributed, such as the PRCS monthly Arabic newsletter, Panorama magazine (in English), the Geneva conventions and protocols, and the IHL manual. A new website portal is being set up and will be launched by the third quarter of 2007. Throughout the reporting period more than 223,000 hits were registered on the PRCS website (www.palestinercs.org).

Constraints: Despite good financial support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) there is still a need for more to be able to reach the large number of targeted beneficiaries around oPt. The general movement restrictions around oPt is a serious obstacle for the IHL unit to be able to achieve its objectives to reach the Palestinian people with the message about the PRCS mission, IHL and the fundamental principles.

Impact: The increased knowledge within the society and in the Palestinian communities about IHL and fundamental principles will have a preventive effect. Reduction in terms of misuse of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems has been registered, which will contribute to a better delivery of the PRCS services.

Organizational Development

Objective: The PRCS organizational systems are increasingly efficient, effective and able to contribute proportionally to the well being of the most vulnerable in the occupied Palestinian territory and Diaspora.

Achievements: The organizational development department, in cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross and facilitation by an external consultant, organized a workshop to harmonize the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the PRCS strategy 2005-2010 with the PRCS plan of action 2006-2008. The project planning process (PPP) approach was followed and the plans were adjusted so that they became the guiding tool for 2007, and further developed into the 2008-2009 appeal process. As part of the administration and logistic guidelines development, the first draft of procurement and purchasing policies has been developed and will soon be adopted.

Part of the same planning process was a four day visit by the organizational development officer to the PRCS in Lebanon. In cooperation with the primary health care department, a community needs assessment was undertaken through a project planning workshop to evaluate the previous safe motherhood project needs and assess ideas for future project proposals. The head of the finance department, together with one IT technician, visited the PRCS in Syria to start the process of installing the new financial system in this branch.

The PRCS Administrative Council meeting was organised at the PRCS Egypt branch in Cairo, where around 70 representatives of the society from all branches in oPt and the Diaspora were present together with representatives from the Egypt Red Crescent, the ICRC, and the International Federation. Heads of departments at the PRCS headquarters and all branches delivered reports for 2005-2006, and contributed to discussing how to further develop the society at all levels and how to improve the relationship between the branches and the headquarters.

From 1 January the finance department is making full use of its new finance system. Income and expenses are entered with all details necessary to produce financial reports for departments, management, programmes, projects, and donors. All expenses are broken down to detailed budget lines, making the budget a working tool and the budgeting process for the coming years easier. Department heads will now be responsible for the entire budget of their programmes and projects.

In the process of strengthening the branch capacity, three programme meetings were held at Nablus, Qalqilya, and Hebron district level, where 120 PRCS technical staff and volunteers from branches, and sub-branches participated. Seven technical committee meetings with 180 representatives from the headquarters and branches, a

three-day assessment workshop and 13 individual meetings were part of this capacity building process.

Constraints: The general political situation and movement restrictions have been hindering and delaying implementation of activities.

Impact: Harmonization of planning, monitoring and reporting for all departments has contributed to a common understanding of unified systems, and has improved the quality.

This process is of great importance and an invaluable help for the preparation of the PRCS appeal for 2008-2009. Continued participation of branches, regular executive board meetings, training and workshops have also improved communication within the society.

Working in partnership

With the ICRC being the lead agency in oPt of the partner National Societies, and together with the PRCS and the International Federation responsible for coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities, all coordination initiatives have been further developed within structures already in place. The PRCS has been working with bilateral and multilateral partners for years in an area facing extreme conditions and huge challenges, and is highly respected as a reliable actor in the field of providing humanitarian services. In 2006 the PRCS accepted the invitation from the International Federation Secretariat to become one of the ten societies piloting the operational alliance concept, adopted by the general assembly of the International Federation in 2005. The PRCS is in a leading position in introducing this new working modality, where coordinated planning, monitoring, cooperation and reporting mechanisms are tested and introduced. An operational alliance agreement was drafted and sent to partners in the second quarter of 2007.

Following years of close cooperation and working relationships with a number of different domestic and international partners in oPt and Lebanon, the PRCS is receiving substantial financial and professional support. Also many international volunteers have for a number of years made important contributions to the PRCS programmes in terms of voluntary work and capacity building. The main financial support to the National Society at the moment is through bilateral agreements, which in most cases have lasted for several years. This long term relationship is of utmost importance for the society to be able to do proper planning and implement programmes.

With its wide range of health and social programmes implemented all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in the Palestinian refugee camps in the neighbouring countries, the PRCS has enjoyed close relationships with the local authorities and a number of local humanitarian actors. This relationship has improved recently as the importance of the PRCS as a reliable provider of humanitarian services has become even more obvious in the shadow of financial crisis and security problems. Part of the operational alliance approach in the PRCS is also to invite all partners of the society, not only from inside the Movement but also other stakeholders, into the sectoral and technical coordination process.

In addition to the meeting and coordination structure introduced for representatives of partners present in oPt there have also been a number of meetings with partners visiting the territory, such as the Hellenic Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the American Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Belgium Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Korean Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, and the ICRC, in addition to the Netherlands Representative Office, ACPP, the Hanan Project, Care International, ECHO, Spanish Cooperation, and Italian Cooperation.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Through its programmes, the PRCS contributes to the third goal of the Global Agenda in terms of increasing the capacity of local communities, and the civil society by building close relationships with and including local communities in the planning and implementation processes of programmes and projects. Awareness campaigns are run and capacity building initiatives are undertaken. Social services and development programmes for

children with disabilities are based on the philosophy of developing abilities instead of treating disability, where integration between all groups in the society is a key factor. Following this working modality the society reduces intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promotes respect for diversity and human dignity within the Palestinian community, also an important goal of the Global Agenda. The PRCS ambulance service, disaster management activities, and health programmes are actively reducing the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and emergencies. In programmes such as primary health care, with safe motherhood, reproductive health care, and health committees, the PRCS is taking an active part in reducing deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. Women play an important, active, and central role in these preventive activities not only as beneficiaries, but through their contribution to improving the knowledge and capacity in the communities.

Collaboration between the PRCS and its international partners and other humanitarian actors in oPt, and with those working for Palestinian refugees in the Diaspora has, thanks to continuous financial support to the PRCS programmes, contributed to provision of reliable services. Also improvement in the quality of services has been registered in particular in the health sector through the joint PRCS-MoH PHC centres.

Looking Ahead

Due to the implementation of the operational alliance mechanism in Palestine, all partners of the PRCS should benefit from better coordination at programme level. This will contribute to better integration of all support from partners to the strategy and plan of action of the PRCS. Implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting will be based on the same principles and should help the PRCS in its further development towards optimal use of financial and human resources to the benefit of the vulnerable people. Better and more systematic collection of statistics and financial data will give the PRCS management more reliable and useful managerial tools for further planning and implementation of programmes.

Community beneficiaries during the reporting period

Programme	Per service				Per activity				TOTAL
	Male	Female	Children	Elderly	Male	Female	Children	Elderly	
PHC	31,667	192,303			9,120	17,822			250,912
Secondary HC									480,484
PSP	183	435	519	20	2,440	8,151	13,626	40	25,414
EMS	14,222	13,360	5,039	6,279	166	333	255	79	39,733
NBTS									5,662
DM					800	200	350	100	1,450
Rehabilitation	4,085	4,522	5,139	3,635	7,604	12,845	10,782	9,667	58,279
Social welfare	3,445	2,796	1,300	2,170	567	653	1,050		11,981
Youth & Volunteers									45,759
Dissemination / IHL					400	600	1,000	200	2,200
TOTAL									921,874

Beneficiaries of training and workshops (more than one full day) during the reporting period

Programme	Per service				Per activity				TOTAL
	Male	Female	Children	Elderly	Male	Female	Children	Elderly	
PHC	55	274			35	85			449
Secondary HC									
PSP	446	582	692	40	78	154	20		2,012
EMS					872	1,609	32	48	2,561
DM	39	6			45	5			95
Rehabilitation	2,800	933	3,733		205	239		444	8,354
Social welfare						1,743			1,743
Dissemination / IHL	59	33			199	123			414
OD					82	31			113
TOTAL									15,741

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAPS001 - PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAAPS001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	211,120	1,099,786	0	502,058	0	1,812,964
B. Opening Balance	48	0	0	52,467	0	52,515
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>				8,841		8,841
<i>British Red Cross</i>		0	0	0		0
<i>Canadian Government</i>	1,982					1,982
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>				11,765		11,765
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	50,500			53,500		104,000
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	0			78,332		78,332
<i>On Line donations</i>				1,720		1,720
<i>Other</i>				100,000		100,000
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	0	709,200		0		709,200
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>		124,981				124,981
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>				617		617
C1. Cash contributions	52,482	834,181	0	254,774		1,141,437
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Canadian Government</i>	-1,968					-1,968
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>				-11,792		-11,792
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-1,968			-11,792		-13,760
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>				128,400		128,400
C5. Inkind Personnel				128,400		128,400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	50,514	834,181	0	371,382	0	1,256,077
D. Total Funding = B + C	50,561	834,181	0	423,850	0	1,308,592

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	48	0	0	52,467	0	52,515
C. Income	50,514	834,181	0	371,382	0	1,256,077
E. Expenditure	-50,561	-834,059		-343,990		-1,228,610
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	-0	123	0	79,860	0	79,983

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAPS001 - PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAAPS001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		211,120	1,099,786	0	502,058	0	1,812,964	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	7,000							7,000
Water & Sanitation	24,140							24,140
Medical & First Aid	106,600							106,600
Total Supplies	137,740							137,740
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	2,000							2,000
Medical Equipment	54,000							54,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	56,000							56,000
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	56,471				13,886		13,886	42,584
Total Transport & Storage	56,471				13,886		13,886	42,584
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	216,400				199,602		199,602	16,798
Delegate Benefits	129,864							129,864
National Staff	30,565				24,822		24,822	5,742
Consultants	5,000							5,000
Total Personnel Expenditures	381,829				224,424		224,424	157,405
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	20,510				4,585		4,585	15,924
Total Workshops & Training	20,510				4,585		4,585	15,924
General Expenditure								
Travel	14,170				26,220		26,220	-12,050
Information & Public Relation	9,645				6,385		6,385	3,260
Office Costs	32,657				3,341		3,341	29,316
Communications	14,648				8,581		8,581	6,068
Professional Fees	33,414				31,598		31,598	1,816
Financial Charges	76				2,098		2,098	-2,022
Other General Expenses	3,162	57			632		689	2,473
Total General Expenditure	107,773	57			78,855		78,912	28,861
Depreciation								
Depreciation					422		422	-422
Total Depreciation					422		422	-422
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	934,800	47,218	779,845				827,062	107,738
Total Federation Contributions & Tr	934,800	47,218	779,845				827,062	107,738
Program Support								
Program Support	117,843	3,287	54,214		21,817		79,317	38,525
Total Program Support	117,843	3,287	54,214		21,817		79,317	38,525
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,812,964	50,561	834,059	0	343,990		1,228,610	584,355
VARIANCE (C - D)		160,558	265,728	0	158,069		584,355	