Islamic Republic of Iran: Iraqi Refugees

THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,846,000 IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST 65,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS

Summary

Following recent events in Northern Iraq, including the fall of the cities of Arbil and Suleimaniya to Kurdish forces that had not previously controlled them, a large number of people were expected to seek refuge in neighbouring areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The large influx never materialised, but some 66,000 people moved to Iran, and are currently accommodated in five camps run by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The society has to date borne the entire weight of establishing the camps, equipping them with shelter, emergency sanitation and providing food for the refugees, which has has reduced its capacity to critical levels. This appeal therefore sets as its primary objective to reinforce the efforts made by the Society in the areas of food and shelter, enabling the refugees to withstand the period up to the end of the year. This will cost an average of about CHF 0.50 per refugee per day.

The Intended Operation

The operation, to be carried out by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, consists of the purchase of additional tents, shelter materials, and sufficient food, plus the subsequent distributions, to provide relief to 65,000 refugees from October to December 1996.
The Disaster

Following the recent outbreak of fighting in Northern Iraq between rival Kurdish groups, some 200,000 people massed along the border area on the Iraqi side. In addition, IRCs reported that there were up to 500,000 others who were on the move towards the area. In the event about 66,000 refugees actually crossed into Iran. Many of the displaced people returned to their homes in the city of Suleimaniya and surrounding areas immediately after the fighting ceased.

The Response so far

Government Action

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the refugees are treated as such. In addition, the government has appealed to the international community to recognize its responsibility in the matter and assist the government in looking after the refugees on its territory.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

As the government’s auxiliary in the area of population movements, the Red Crescent reacted before the influx by despatching emergency teams to the area, and reinforcing the stocks in their branch warehouses in the three provinces of Kurdistan, Kermanshah and West Azerbaijan. In addition, four mobile telecommunication units were sent to ensure adequate information on the situation was available to the Society’s headquarters in Tehran.

Once the influx took place, camps were established with the following populations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Kurdistan</th>
<th>Kermanshah</th>
<th>West Azerbaijan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Baneh camp</td>
<td>Sa-e-pol-zahab camp</td>
<td>Sardasht camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Refugees</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>10,108</td>
<td>9,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some 6,424 tents, 36,603 blankets, and 16,000 cooking sets have been supplied to the camps, along with food distributions. The IRCs is currently employing some 450 professional staff and 175 vehicles in this relief operation.

Other Agencies’ Action

No reports of action by other agencies’ action have been received, other than normal contacts between the Iranian government and UNHCR.

The Needs to be met

Assessment of Needs

The needs of the refugees have been assessed by the IRCs which has extensive experience working with Iraqi refugees in this area, due to the large number from the same area who flowed into Iran in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

Experience shows that for this type of population, a tent for each family of 6 persons and a balanced ration of 2,000 Kcal/person/day is a reasonable target to achieve, ensuring that even the most vulnerable sectors of the refugee community do not suffer.
The other needs, notably water, sanitation and other shelter materials, such as blankets, groundsheets, cooking stoves etc. also need to be covered.

The food requirements have been calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity/Person/Day Grammes</th>
<th>Foodstuff</th>
<th>Nutritional value kcal/110gr</th>
<th>Total Nutritional Value Kcal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>Wheat flour</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>1225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>265.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>sugar</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>pulses</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>tea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>salt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,058.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for a total of 65,000 persons for 90 days.

**Immediate Needs**

The most urgent needs have been partially met by the Iranian Red Crescent Society. The remainder make up this appeal.

**Anticipated Later Needs**

The appeal is limited in time to a period of three months. No later needs are anticipated.

**Red Crescent Objectives**

The Iranian Red Crescent has as its objectives the following:

- To improve the shelter of the refugees who do not yet have tents before winter starts in earnest.
- To supply a ration of 2,000 kcal/person/day to 65,000 people for a period of three months, by which time many people may have returned home.

**National Society/Federation Plan of Action**

**Emergency Phase: September 1995**

This phase has been completed already by the Iranian Red Crescent Society..

**Phase Two: October 1995 - December 1996**

Proceed with local purchase of tents together with foodstuffs and distribute them in the five camps that have been established.

**Capacity of the National Society**

The Iranian Red Crescent Society is one of the strongest and most capable in the world. It has extensive experience in refugee, earthquake and flood situations. It is capable of raising very large numbers of trained staff for operations and supporting them in a well defined, well managed environment.
The number of disasters that strike Iran each year has ensured that the IRCS has developed a smooth-running, fast-acting disaster response mechanism, as the current disaster shows. However, when disasters require support over the medium term, this puts a very considerable financial burden on the Society.

**Present Capacity of the Federation in Iran**

The Federation is not currently represented in Iran, but a Delegate will shortly be sent to assist the IRCS for up to one month.

**Evaluation**

The success or otherwise of this operation will be judged by the nutritional status of the refugee community and will be reported upon regularly in situation reports. The evaluation of the efficiency and management of the operation will be conducted by the Relief Department of the Iranian Red Crescent's Training Unit and the results will be reflected in the final report.

**Immediate action**

Tents and shelter materials will be purchased in Iran followed by the purchase of the food commodities. The Iranian Red Crescent will continue to provide transport for these items from its own resources, together with other supplements which the refugees will require.

**Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details.

**Conclusion**

Due to the strain put on the resources of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the International Federation is appealing for support for the IRCS operation to provide shelter, sanitation and food to some 65,000 refugees who have been displaced following fighting in their home area. It is anticipated that the operation will not last for more than three months, and will cost CHF 2,846,000 to implement.

Margareta Wahlström
Under-Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Co-ordination

George Weber
Secretary General
### BUDGET SUMMARY

**APPEAL No. 14/96**

**IN CHF**

**ANNEX I**

#### NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat flour: 2048 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>534,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil: 176 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>195,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar: 293 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>134,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses: 468 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>275,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea: 29 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt: 70 Mt</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family tents (6 persons): 4,610 units</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,383,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets: 28,397 units</td>
<td></td>
<td>170,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)**  
2,776,000.00

#### NEEDS IN CASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (1 delegate / 3 months)</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat operational support</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH**  
70,000.00

**TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND**  
2,846,000.00

**LESS CASH ON HAND**  
0.00

**NET REQUEST CASH & KIND**  
2,846,000.00