

## ***TAJIKISTAN: DROUGHT***

16 July 2001

*appeal no. 26/00*

*situation report no. 7*

*period covered: 20 May - 10 July 2001*

---

*The implementation period for this appeal was extended until 30 September 2001 (see Situation Report no. 6 issued on 25 May) to allow sufficient time for completion of the seeds and water and sanitation components of the operation, while food distributions and public health campaigns were finalized. In the meantime, reports of the recurring drought caused by insufficient rainfall in the first five months of this year prompted the International Federation to initiate a deployment of two Field Assessment and Coordination Teams to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, scheduled for late July - early August. Pending the results of the assessment, a new emergency appeal for relief to these two countries may be launched in August.*

---

### ***The context***

The Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) entered the final phase of the current drought emergency operation. Food distributions to 130,000 people, as well as public health campaigns, were completed. Thanks to the donation from the Department for International Development (DFID) via the British Red Cross, the seeds component of the appeal, initially put on hold due to funding limitations, is now being implemented. The extension of the appeal through September will thus enable the Federation and RCST to successfully implement the seeds distribution as well as to complete the remaining water and sanitation projects.

### ***Latest events***

On 23 May, the president of Tajikistan appealed to the international community for urgently needed food aid for the population affected by the second consecutive year of drought. The appeal estimated the needs for assistance to be approximately 500,000 tonnes of wheat, as this year's harvest of grain and cereals is likely to equal only 50 per cent of last year's level, according to governmental reports. The appeal also requested assistance in provision of oil, meat, sugar and dairy products.

In addition to the president's request, humanitarian agencies' early warning systems reported a considerable shortage of rainfall in March and April, months critical for the growth of wheat. Following this initial

information, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) carried out a crop and food supply assessment in Tajikistan in the period between 21 June and 3 July. While the final report on the mission is awaited, preliminary results confirm the existing food deficit, caused by climatic factors, as the average rainfall in March and April was only 44 percent of the long-time average. The drought was compounded by long-lasting structural problems, mainly caused by poor water-management and dysfunctional irrigation systems. In addition, the assessment noted a significant decrease in the number of irrigated surfaces cultivated with wheat, compared to the last year, as preference has been given to the cotton crop. Apart from the need for food aid, high quality seeds were listed as one of the priorities for assistance programmes.

Between 29 July and 7 August, two Field Assessment and Co-ordination Teams of the Federation will be deployed to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, respectively, with the objective to assess the level of vulnerability of the affected population and draw up a plan of action for the Federation's emergency operation. It is expected that a new drought-related emergency appeal may be launched by mid-August, pending the assessment results. In this case, the ongoing activities as part of the current operation may be transferred to the new one, and the existing appeal closed, in order to avoid overlapping of activities.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Provision of food (objective 1) •**

The food component of the appeal, being one of the top priorities for the Federation's emergency operation, was successfully implemented. In Sughd, the distribution was completed in two communities of the Matcho district on 29 June. The existing gap of 447 tonnes of wheat flour and 54,000 litres of oil, necessary to complete the second distribution round, was covered with part of the DFID donation. Post-distribution monitoring was ongoing throughout the month and was also completed with the planned coverage of some five per cent of the targeted population. A detailed monitoring report will be produced in July after the final evaluation of questionnaires.

In Kulyab, free food distributions in all three operational districts - Dangara, Sovietsky and Farkhor - were completed by the end of June, serving a total of approximately 53,000 people.

### **Provision of seeds (objective 2) •**

The major part of the DFID donation, coming through the British Red Cross, will be used for the procurement of seeds and fertilizers. The procurement order is underway and the commodities are expected to arrive in the country by mid-August. This will enable the timely distribution of seeds, prior to the autumn planting season. In the first week of July, an agronomy specialist was recruited and is responsible for the assessment of target areas, beneficiary selection and management of the distribution.

### **Food-for-work activities (objective 3) •**

In Sughd, 20 per cent of the total beneficiaries of the food component - 15,000 people - identified by the local authorities were involved in some 16 different food-for-work activities, including cleaning of water pools and pipes, tree planting, painting of schools and kindergartens, repairing roads and roadside fencing, garbage disposal, gardening, etc. The projects were designed by the authorities, following the seminar held by the Federation and RCST in early December 2000. Beneficiaries received standard food rations, together with free food beneficiaries. All work was finalized by the end of the food distributions, on 29 June.

In the south of the country, activities were focused on finalizing the 'food for asset rehabilitation' project (FFAR) in Dangara. Some 1,070 people are active in various community projects, such as ditch- and street-cleaning, white washing of trees, construction of new toilets and rehabilitation of schools and medical points. The beneficiaries will receive their food rations (composed of 50 kg of wheat flour, three litres of oil and 0.5 kg of iodized salt) in July. An additional 1,700 persons who had been selected to participate in FFAR, but were not involved due to the lack of work, will receive normal rations, each consisting of 25 kg wheat flour, two litres of oil and 0.5 kg of iodized salt. In the Farkhor districts, two possible FFAR projects were identified, however their initiation awaits WFP approval.

**Public health (objective 4) •**

The training of 260 Red Crescent volunteers in the north and south was completed, and public health campaigns are well underway. The campaigns are addressing the needs specific to each community, however they are mainly related to prevention of water-borne diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, sanitation and hygiene practices. Out of the total number of trained volunteers, 45 of them received additional first aid training to further strengthen their skills as well as the capacity of the selected 12 national society branches.

The health teams of the RCST and Federation completed the monitoring of campaigns in the four operational districts of the Sughd region. The monitoring covered some five percent of the population exposed to health messages and was carried out through interviews with women in households, children and staff at schools, as well as through interviews with volunteers. The results indicate that some 90 per cent of households in the districts of Matcho and Gonchi were visited by volunteers, as well as 50 per cent of households in Shakhristan and Zafarabad. The impact is visible in schools and other institutions. Volunteers were actively supported by their community leaders and local RCST branches. In addition to volunteer work in the communities, it is estimated that some 250,000 people were exposed to preventive health messages through media campaigns and distribution of public health materials covering the entire regions of Sughd and Khatlon. This project component will finish in the coming month with monitoring of campaigns carried out in the south of the country.

**Water and Sanitation (objective 5) •**

Implementation of series of small-scale community projects in the north of the country started in June. Five projects dealing with rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems in social institutions are underway, with one already being successfully completed, and the remaining three scheduled to be finalized by mid-August. The projects include emergency pump replacement, rehabilitation of deep water supply systems and repair of water and sanitation systems in social institutions. In the central Regions of Republican Subordination (RRS) and Kulyab in the south, respectively, two projects using the spring catchment and gravity pipeline technique were initiated, with the expected completion by the end of September. At the same time, four potential beneficiary villages in Kulyab were visited in order to assess their availability of safe drinking water and feasibility of installing the gravity pipelines.

**RCST Capacity Building (objective 6) •**

In early July, the Federation deployed a team to carry out a follow-up mission on the Better Programming Initiative (BPI), initially organized in November 2000. The team organized workshops for the RCST staff at headquarters and in regional branches of Sughd and Kulyab in accordance with the methodology and design of the Local Capacity for Peace project, which looks at the context within which humanitarian assistance is provided. The objective of the workshops was to evaluate the impact of this methodology as applied to the Tajikistan drought operation. It is expected that this evaluation will identify lessons and options which can be applied to future drought relief programmes and to longer-term measures aimed at future disaster mitigation and prevention.

As part of efforts to build the disaster response and preparedness capacity of the national society through this emergency operation, part of the DFID/British Red Cross donation will be used for procurement of necessary equipment for strategically selected RCST branch offices. Following the agreement with the RCST's development coordinator, standard administrative kits and some furniture will be provided for 14 branches, selected on the basis of the level of their activities in this operation.

On the whole, the drought emergency operation continues to serve as an opportunity to strengthen the national society's disaster response capacity through recruitment and training of key staff and volunteers, as well as RCST involvement in the operational management at all levels. As part of the initiative to retain a core group of active RCST volunteers, out of the total 300 recruited and trained for this operation, five first aid seminars were organized for 45 selected volunteers (15 per region) who already participated in public health campaigns. The aim is to provide them with additional skills to better respond to health needs in their communities and remain active.

**Strengthening of the image and visibility of the RCST (objective 7) •**

Throughout the operation, RCST increased its operational capacity and image on the local and regional level. Current discussions on a possible extension of cooperation with WFP using the RCST network of branches are

only one indicator of the national society's status vis-à-vis the key humanitarian partners in the country. The announced FACT missions will be conducted jointly with the RCST, which will ensure its active participation in the planning of a possible new drought operation and usage of the skills and expertise gained in the ongoing assistance programme. At the same time, the mission will contribute to further raising the national society's visibility in the country as well as internationally.

## ***Outstanding needs***

At this final stage of the operation, there are no outstanding needs. It is, however, evident that a new drought emergency operation is in view in the coming months. The exact scope of the disaster this year and the related need for assistance will be specified by the FACTs, following their mission to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at the end of July - beginning of August. It is expected that an eventual new emergency appeal may be launched by mid-August. In relation to this, there will be a potential need for qualified delegates to support the future drought operation, and to underline the importance of donors providing fully funded expatriate personnel in a timely manner.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Cooperation with the government and humanitarian partners was continuous since the very beginning of the operation. It resulted in a successful coordination of activities, as well as a number of partnerships in implementation, both with the local authorities and with other humanitarian agencies such as WFP and Action Against Hunger. Mobilization of the local and international media continued through news and reports being posted on the Federation's web site and 'Relief Web', as well as various national newspapers and radio broadcasts abroad. New visits by international journalists are expected for the second half of July.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head, a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Lynette Lowndes  
Head  
Europe Department

**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

Tajikistan drought						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 26/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				16.07.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>22,557,278</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 43.1%</b>
AMERICAN - GOVT		8,656	USD	14,823	19.09.00	
BRITISH GOVT/DFID		476,196	GBP	1,147,632	30.03.01	
CANADA - GOVT		108,900	CAD	119,964	19.12.00	AS PER DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT
CANADA - GOVT/CIDA		146,500	CAD	158,586	15.02.01	AS PER DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT
DANISH - RC		231,250	DKK	47,314	16.10.00	
ECHO/GERMAN - RC /17003		700,000	EUR	1,076,880	29.01.01	FOOD ASSISTANCE
FINNISH - RC		67,275	EUR	102,783	05.10.00	
FINNISH - RC		13,259	EUR	20,398	06.02.01	
FINNISH - RC		6,186	EUR	9,517	08.02.01	PSC
GERMAN - GOVT		448,000	DEM	349,933	20.10.00	FOOD SUPPLIES
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	25.09.00	
JAPANESE - RC		10,000,000	JPY	156,610	26.09.00	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				50,000	05.12.00	
KUWAIT - RC		10,000	USD	17,735	01.11.00	
MONACO - RC		50,000	FRF	11,645	19.09.00	
SWEDISH - RC		2,600,000	SEK	473,200	03.10.00	HEALTH & WATER/SANITATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		10,000,000	SEK	1,761,000	18.12.00	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	8,868	05.10.00	
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME		123,364	USD	200,836	24.01.01	FOOD ASSISTANCE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				5,732,019	CHF	25.4%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - RC		1,000,000	BEF	37,734	15.12.00	20 MT VEGETABLE OIL, 20 MT WHEAT FLOUR, TRANSPORTATION AND INSURANCE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		304,735	EUR	468,804	06.02.01	682 MT WHEAT FLOUR, 128'800 L. OIL
FINNISH - RC		792,296	FIM	204,967	08.02.01	36'785 KG SECOND HAND CLOTHES, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
IRANIAN - RC		12,250	USD	21,725	17.10.00	WHEAT FLOUR, EDIBLE OIL
SWEDISH - RC	DELEGATE(S)	400,000	SEK	72,800	03.10.00	HEALTH & WATER/SANITATION DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			25,000		
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)	91,000	CAD	101,010		CANCROSS INFO 25/4/01
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			40,000		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			30,000		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			30,000		
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM		1,937,925	EUR	2,969,153	24.01.01	5'574 MT WHEAT FLOUR, 279 MT VEGETABLE OIL, 98 MT SALT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				4,001,193	CHF	17.7%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	