

FINAL REPORT



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

IRAN DROUGHT: SUPPORT TO AFGAN REFUGEES

13 July 2005

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In Brief

Appeal No. 19/02; Final Report;

Period covered: 15 July 2002 to 31 March 2005;

Appeal coverage: 93.8 %; (*Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List*)

Appeal history:

- A first Appeal (21/2000) was launched on 22 August 2000 for CHF 2,268,146 for 12 months for 100,000 beneficiaries. The final report was issued on 31 December 2002.
- A second – related but separate Appeal (19/2002) – was launched on 15 July 2002 for CHF 899,000 for initially 12 months (later extended) to assist 65,000 beneficiaries.
- A revised Plan of Action was presented in August 2004 to continue the programme until March 2005, supporting 45,335 beneficiaries.
- A new revised Appeal budget from July 2002 to March 2005 is CHF 2,249,198.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Iran Drought: Support to Afghan Refugees Emergency Appeal. *For details, please see the whole document at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/1902.pdf*

Iran Drought: Support to Afghan Refugees Revised Plan of Action. *For details, please see the whole document at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/190204.pdf*

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Summary

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) issued the Appeal no. 19/02 on 15 July 2002 to continue supporting the drought-affected Afghan refugees and vulnerable Iranian people in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Iran. The Federation and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) implemented the programme in two phases. The first phase is from July 2002 to July 2004 and the second phase is from August 2004 to March 2005.

In the first phase, a total of 65,000 beneficiaries were supported in the fields of water supply, solid waste collection and health and care in accordance with the objectives of the Appeal. Clean drinking water was distributed to the beneficiaries in Zahedan and Zabul to meet their basic water needs. Solid waste collection in settlement areas, especially around water distribution points, guaranteed the safety of water delivered. Health education and distribution of hygiene supplies introduced the means to encourage healthy living and raised the public awareness of personal hygiene.

In May 2004, the Federation commissioned an evaluation of the programme to address such issues as sustainability of the project, beneficiaries' dependence on external support in meeting their basic needs and IRCS' capacity to work with beneficiary communities. The evaluation was conducted by external consultants and experts from the Federation and IRCS. Having examined various options, the evaluation team suggested an integrated exit strategy, which would allow the Federation and IRCS to continue meeting the urgent needs of beneficiaries in a fixed period while ensuring a smooth phase out of the project by providing them with a more sustainable water solution and an opportunity for their capacity building.

Based on the recommendations of the evaluation team, the Federation revised the Plan of Action in August 2004 and extended the operational period till March 2005. In accordance with the revised Plan of Action and to provide more sustainable solutions to the problems faced by Afghan refugees, the Federation and IRCS built 4 public water distribution stations for regular, uninterrupted water supply to the beneficiaries. Besides, 20 traditional birth attendants and 60 community health workers were trained and public health education was conducted among Afghan refugees to increase their awareness of health-related issues.

Coordination

The Federation and IRCS carried out this operation in close cooperation with the provincial authorities. In Zahedan, the Public Health Department organized chlorination of water and the Water and Sewage Company provided drinking water to the project. The Water Company also shared regular information on the general drought situation in the region, ongoing water supply projects, as well as future outlook. In Zabul, regular meetings were held with the Rural Water Department to facilitate water collection and distribution. The Zahedan municipality was engaged in coordinating garbage collection activities with city plans and including Afghan living areas in their own programmes. There was close coordination between the Federation, IRCS, the Provincial Governor General's office and the Sistan-Baluchestan Water and Sewage Company with regard to the issue of hand-over of the water distribution stations constructed. The Federation and IRCS worked closely with the Sistan-Baluchestan Public Health Centre in organizing health training and education.

The Federation Delegation and IRCS closely coordinated the implementation of the project at the Tehran level through their monthly coordination meetings. In addition, regular and ad hoc meetings were held between the IRCS, Federation, United Nations (UN) agencies, Medecins Sans Frontieres¹ (MSF) and ACH (Spanish NGO called Action Against Hunger) to coordinate their projects for supporting refugees. Close working relationship and information sharing were maintained with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which was responsible for the implementation of the voluntary repatriation scheme of Afghan refugees.

¹ Doctors Without Borders

Objectives, activities and results

In the light of the changing situation, the Federation and IRCS implemented the programme in two phases. The first phase is from July 2002 to July 2004 and the second phase is from August 2004 to March 2005.

1. Phase 1 (from July 2002 to July 2004)

The first phase targeted 65,000 beneficiaries and support was provided in the fields of water supply, solid waste collection and health and care in line with the objectives of the Appeal.

a) Water and sanitation

Objective 1: Distribute fresh water to the affected population in Zahedan and Zabul, populated mainly by Afghan refugees living in non-camp settlements

The Federation and IRCS continued the water trucking operation in Zahedan and Zabul to distribute safe drinking water to the beneficiaries.

From July 2002 to January 2003, 65,000 beneficiaries (61,500 in Zahedan and 3,500 in Zabul) were daily provided with fresh drinking water. With a number of villages gradually included in the governmental water supply scheme, the number of beneficiaries in Zabul dropped to 2,600 at the beginning of 2003. The total amount of water distributed was 404,000 litres per day.

In Zahedan, water was collected from a private well on the basis of a contract signed with the well-owner. Two other wells used in the previous operation were no longer available for the operation since the water level went down and water was not fit for human consumption. Prior to distribution, water was chlorinated at chlorine stations administered by the local health authorities. They also checked the level of chlorination of water in tanks through their mobile check points. Water was distributed through 17 fixed water tanks and 10 mobile distribution points. The total amount of water distributed in Zahedan reached 344,000 litres per day. The water distributed was exclusively used for drinking purpose.

In Zabul, chlorinated water was collected free of charge from two water outlets of the city's water pipeline and distributed in remote rural areas through six distribution points. Distribution points were decreased from 15 in the previous operation to six because 11 target villages had been included in the local government's plan to connect villages in Zabul to a regular water supply system. Meanwhile, two new villages were added as they did not receive water through the government's scheme and their wells had completely dried up. Approximately, 2,600 beneficiaries received 60,000 litres of water per day.

In July-October 2003, efforts were made to increase water delivery in Zahedan which was at the level of 450,000 litres per day. At that time, water was brought from a private borehole, the only available water source there. This source did not have capacity to meet actual needs of the project. Negotiations were undertaken with the local authorities to tap water from the newly installed pipeline covering some parts of the city. The access to the pipeline was granted on 30 October 2003. Meanwhile, in September 2003, negotiations started with the Oil Products Distribution Company (OPDC) to solve the problem of fuel deficiency for water trucks. As a result, a fuel tank with the capacity of 50,000 litres was installed inside an IRCS relief warehouse. These steps resulted in the increase of the daily water delivery to 520,000 litres in November 2003.

From December 2003 to March 2004, 600,000 litres of drinking water was daily distributed to the beneficiaries.

Unused water tanks in Zabul were brought to Zahedan to create 5 more distribution points. As a result, the number of fixed distribution points in Zahedan increased to 22. From April to July 2004, approximately 644,000 litres of water was daily distributed in Zahedan and Zabul (18.6 litres in Zabul, 9.7 litres in Zahedan per person/per day). The average water consumption per beneficiary in Zahedan

was lower than in Zabul because some areas have access to saline water. In Zabul, the water consumption per beneficiary is higher because they get water only from the water distribution points.

The water trucks used to go round the settlement areas and filled the tanks with water.

Table 1. Water distribution points in Zahedan

Tank	Name of settlements	Fixed tank (in litre)	Location
1	Karimabad	20,000	End of lane Jamejam Gas Station
2	Karimabad	20,000	Next to Ave. Pasgah 14
3	Karimabad	20,000	After Pasgah 14
4	Shirabad	20,000	Bolv. Keshavarz, Ave. opposite Keshavarz
5	Shirabad	20,000	Hemmatabad
6	Shirabad	20,000	Shirabad, Majdieh
7	Isolated settlement	20,000	Keshavarz Square, Siksuzi
8	Shirabad	20,000	By Camel Market
9	Shirabad	20,000	End of Ayadi Avenue
10	Shirabad	12,000	Bagh-e-Rakhshaniha
11	Isolated settlement	5,000	Keshavarz Square, right hand
12	Shirabad	5,000	Esmaiel Abad, 1 st Chahardivari
13	Isolated settlement	5,000	Siksuzi (Qasemabad)
14	Isolated settlement	5,000	End of Jadeqadim
15	Isolated settlement	5,000	Behind RC warehouse
16	Isolated settlement	5,000	Behind Haqqani mosque
17	Isolated settlement	12,000	By Haqqani mosque
18	Isolated settlement	20,000	Jadeqadim, Bazr 1 (Shahid Rajaie)
19	Isolated settlement	5,000	Jadeqadim
20	Shirabad	5,000	Hematabad Square, Bulukzani
21	Shirabad	5,000	Meydan-e-Keshavarz
22	Karimabad	5,000	After Pasgah 14

Table 2. Water distribution points in Zabul

Tank	Name of Village	Fixed tank (in litre)
1	Dahanebagh	20,000
2	Bazikhalesi	20,000
3	Palgi-Bazi	20,000
4	Dargi	5,000
5	Eisa	5,000
6	Allahkadar	5,000

In Zahedan, the IRCS used 11 trucks (6 with 12,000 litres capacity, 4 with 5,000 litres capacity, 1 with 30,000 litres capacity), as well as 10 mobile water tractors. In Zabul, three trucks of 12,000 litres capacity were used for water distribution.

Community members, including women, were selected to guard water tanks, oversee water distribution and keep records of delivery. They were recruited from refugees to give them some employment opportunities.

In a few cases some guards did not carry out their duties properly as described in their job descriptions and they were replaced by others. The IRCS provincial branch improved control over the distribution points by contracting a supervisor. He looked round them every day to monitor water distribution and acted as a liaison between the beneficiaries and the provincial branch co-ordinator.

During the field visits to the water distribution sites, it was found out that the beneficiaries were using worn-out water containers. In order to ensure the safety of the water delivered and to help water collectors, 40,000 20-litre water containers were procured and distributed in Zahedan and Zabul in April 2004.

Although the water trucking operation contributed to preventing a water crisis among Afghan refugees and vulnerable Iranian people in Zahedan and Zabul, it failed to provide sustainable solutions to the problems faced by them. Every month, the Federation had to pay CHF 28,000 (out of which CHF 13,750 is the average monthly cost for the 4 areas where the water stations were built in the phase 2) on average to cover all costs related to the water supply (water purchase, water trucks, maintenance, salaries, etc) but the beneficiaries continued to depend on the Federation and IRCS for drinking water, hence the need to look for alternative and long-lasting solutions. This issue was addressed in the phase 2 of the project by the construction of 4 public water distribution stations.

Objective 2: Clean up solid waste in non-camp settlements, especially in areas close to the existing water distribution points

The solid waste disposal project was implemented in Zahedan to increase the hygiene condition of the targeted areas, especially around water distribution points which were not covered by the local municipality's garbage collection scheme. The IRCS recruited, trained and equipped two teams (11 solid waste workers and 2 drivers). One team was in charge of cleaning the defined sites in Karimabad and the other was in charge in Shirabad. They transported the collected waste by two tractor-trailers to a special disposal area allocated by the municipality, located 12 km away from Zahedan city. An average of 7 metric tons of waste was disposed on a daily basis. The garbage collectors were equipped with safety gear and tools.

b) Health and care

Objective 1: Establish a community based preventive health and hygiene promotion programme, in order to improve the living conditions of the Afghan refugee population in non-camp settlements.

In March 2003, the IRCS started implementing the project with 40 volunteers trained in public health. They visited beneficiaries' households, collected information on the general health situation and provided face-to-face advice and guidance on safe use of water, hygiene, general and productive health. A comprehensive questionnaire was designed for the purpose and the information obtained was entered into a database. Pamphlets containing information on personal hygiene, safe use of water and environmental health were printed in Farsi and used in the health and hygiene education.

IRCS volunteers encouraged target families to participate in health and hygiene education given at IRCS training facilities. After the educational classes, they were given hygiene kits packed by the volunteers. Each month, 300 families attended these health educational classes and received hygiene kits.

**Table 3. Contents of a hygiene kit
(March-August 2003)**

Item	Quantity
Detergent	2 pcks
Dishwashing liquid	1 unit
Toothpaste	2 pcs
Toothbrush	3 pcs
Shampoo	2 units
Soap	5 pcs
Garbage plastic bags	2 pcks
Sponge	1 pcs
Insect killing spray	1 pcs
Plastic garbage bin	1 pcs

From September 2003 to March 2004, more volunteers were involved in the project in order to target 1,300 beneficiaries each month. Besides, more items were added to the contents of hygiene kits. Each month one specific area was selected for home visits. While questioning families on health matters, the volunteers filled in the questionnaire and handed out a coupon to be signed. After the health class, coupons were signed and the beneficiaries collected hygiene kits. A second evaluation visit was then performed.

The health education project was carried out by a health education team consisting of a nurse who presented short and simple hygienic tips with intervals. It was then followed by one Afghan teacher's elaboration and explanation in Afghani. 10 trained relief workers directly worked with individuals, demonstrating various skills. The mode of teaching shifted from lecturing to discussions on health issues, which was well received by the beneficiaries with active participation.

In April-July 2004, the project was modified in three phases. During the first phase, volunteers visited 1,300 families at their homes and educated them in health and hygiene for 10 days. In the second phase, 1,300 kits were packed in 5 days and in the third phase these 1,300 families were further educated in environmental, water, and personal hygiene for 10 days. After that, each family got one hygiene kit. Hygiene kits were enlarged and modified to prevent beneficiary families from sharing individual hygiene items and to consider gender issues as well.

Table 4. Distribution of hygiene kits

Year	Month	No of hygiene kits distributed
2003	March	300
	April	300
	May	300
	June	300
	July	300
	August	300
	September	1300
	October	1300
	November	1300
	December	1300
2004	January	1300
	February	2306
	March	2420
	April	1300
	May	1300
	June	1300
	July	1300
Total		18,226 kits

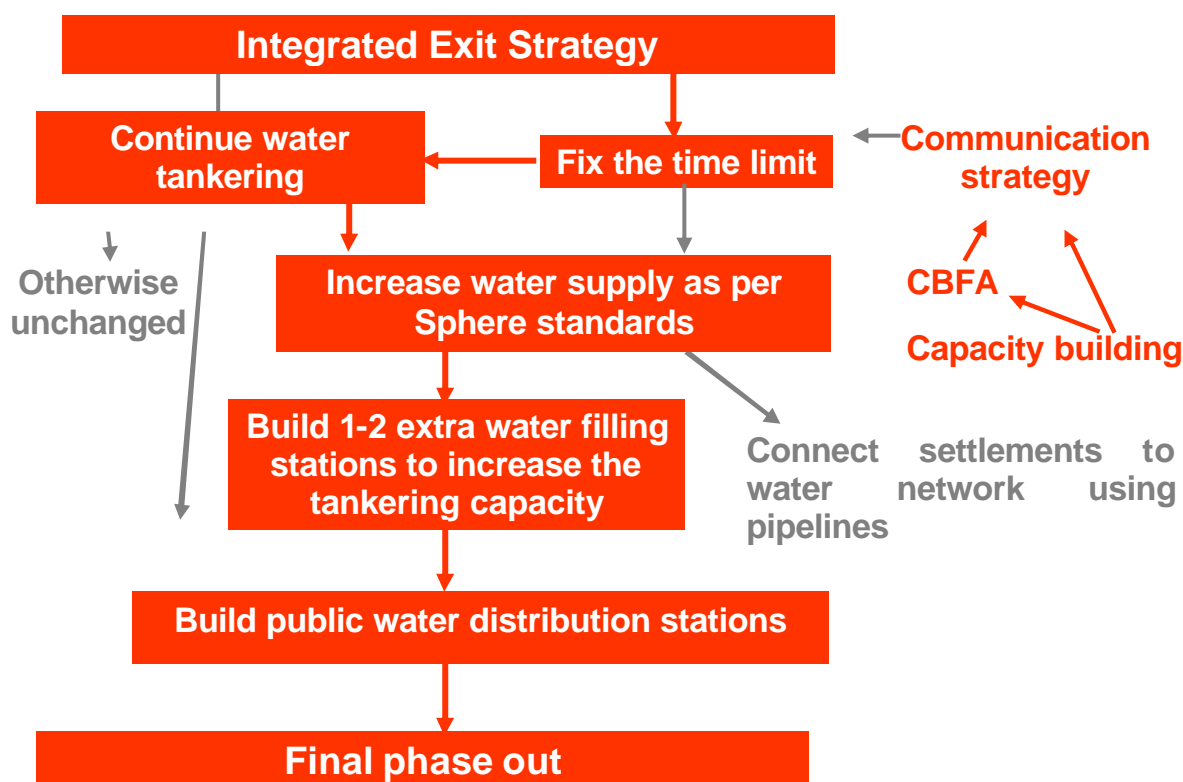
During field visits, it was found out that many Afghan children did not go to Iranian schools due to the lack of legal residential cards and educational costs. To lessen the Afghan parents' burden of covering their children's educational costs, it was agreed to provide some stationary kits to Afghan students. 4,400 stationary kits were procured and distributed to Afghan children in May 2004.

Table 5. Contents of a Stationary Kit

Item	Quantity
Note Book	4 (100 Sheets)
Note Book for drawing	1
Coloured Pencils	1 Package
Pencil	8
Red Pencils	4
Pen	5
Pencil Sharpener	2
Eraser	2
Ruler	1

2. Phase 2 (from August 2004 to March 2005)

In May 2004, the Federation commissioned an evaluation of the programme with the help of external consultants and experts from the Federation and IRCS. The purpose was to analyze the issues concerning the future of the project and find alternative solutions to meeting the beneficiaries' basic water needs. Having examined various solutions to these issues, the evaluation team suggested an integrated exit strategy, which would make it possible to ensure a smooth phase out of the project.

Table 6. Integrated exit strategy proposed by the evaluation team

Based on the recommendations of the evaluation team, the Federation revised the Plan of Action in August 2004 and extended the operational period till March 2005. The second phase of the programme covered a period from August 2004 to March 2005 and targeted 45,335 beneficiaries. In this period, the Federation and IRCS focused their efforts on providing more sustainable solutions to the problems faced by Afghan refugees and increasing their capacity to deal with their health problems by themselves.

a) Water and sanitation

Objective 1. Beneficiaries have better access to water through the improvement of the water trucking system and construction of a permanent water supply system.

Due to the limited funds available, the project focused till November 2004, on meeting the basic water needs of beneficiaries by continuing the water trucking operation with the American Red Cross fund. Then, the new funding from ECHO in November 2004 made it possible to construct 4 public water distribution stations in 2005.

- Water trucking operation

There was visible movement of Afghan refugees in the target areas. While some refugees were returning home, new refugees were coming to Zahedan and Zabul for various reasons. Although the number of beneficiaries remained more or less same in Zahedan, it considerably dropped in Zabul, where only 45 families or 350 refugees are living in two villages (namely Dargi and Eisa).

A total of 45,300 beneficiaries (43,000 in Zahedan and 2,300 in Zabul) continued to be supplied with fresh drinking water. In the light of the new situation, the IRCS used 10 trucks (previously 11) and 22 fixed tanks in Zahedan (please see the above Table 1 for their locations) and 1 truck and two water tanks in Zabul (previously 3 trucks and 6 tanks) to ensure smooth water delivery to beneficiaries. Water delivery became routine, guaranteeing the water supply six days a week. Water trucks went around the target villages once or twice a day in Zabul and thrice a day in Zahedan, filling the water tanks with clean drinking water. Then beneficiaries fetched water in jerry cans from the water tanks.

The construction of 3 water collection points in December 2004 had positive impact on water delivery. Previously, the collection of water by trucks was very time-consuming as they had to use only one collection point rented from the Zahedan Water and Sewage Company. But with the construction of three more collection points near the settlement areas, this process was shortened, enabling the trucks not only to save time in water-filling but also to increase the amount of water delivered. With the increase of water supply, each beneficiary got 13 litres of water per day.

- Construction of public water distribution stations



The construction of 4 public water distribution stations have provided the beneficiaries with permanent access to safe drinking water

With the funding of ECHO in November 2004, the Federation and IRCS started the process of constructing 4 public water distribution stations in order to provide beneficiaries with permanent access to drinking water.

In December 2004, the IRCS and the Federation Delegation discussed with local authorities the issue of allocating the sites where the water stations would be built. These sites are close to the Afghan settlement areas. The criteria used in the selection process was that the maximum distance from any household in the settlement area to the water station should be less than 500 meters and that the station should be located in a place to which many people could have easy access.

In parallel to the above process, the Water and Sewage Company worked on designing the water distribution stations and their connections with the city's water network through extended underground pipelines. The actual blueprints for the construction of water stations were ready by the end of December 2004.

Through a competitive bidding process, the IRCS and Federation decided to select the Ojabadi Company as a winner of the bid. The decision was taken with due account to the best offered price, good previous reputation in the respective field, proven practical expertise and capacity to handle water-related construction projects. The results of the competitive bidding process and the actual price offered by the Ojabadi Company made it possible to take a decision regarding the increase of the number of water distribution stations from three to four without the increase of the initial budget allocated by ECHO. On 2 February 2005, the Federation Delegation and the Ojabadi Company signed a contract concerning the construction of 4 water distribution stations (2 stations in Shirabad and 1 station each in Karimabad and Akhare Jadeh Ghadimareas).

Having made necessary preparations, the Ojabadi Company started digging the land for laying pipes on 12 February 2005. The scope of works consisted of digging the trenches, laying and connecting pipes, refilling the trenches, repairing the damaged asphalt pavement, building concrete water distribution stations, mounting counters, etc. At the beginning only one team was deployed to dig the trenches and the work progress was rather slow. Following the Federation Delegation's demand, as of 21 February 2005, the company deployed several teams to work simultaneously on all four construction sites. Despite a series of unexpected problems concerning the land allocation and the 2-week suspension of work during Novruz, the Iranian New Year (21 March), the constructor managed to complete the construction of 4 water distribution stations by the end of April 2005 as agreed with ECHO. As per the agreement signed between the Federation, IRCS, local authorities and the Water and Sewage Company, the Water Company has taken over and run these water stations.



The beneficiaries celebrated the construction of the water distribution stations with an inaugural ceremony

As a result of the construction of the water distribution stations, the amount of water supplied per beneficiary has increased from 13 litres by the water trucking services to 15 litres a day. Now, 363,150 litres of drinking water is supplied to approximately 24,000 beneficiaries 24 hours a day and they no longer need to wait in lines for water trucks to come. Moreover, the Federation and IRCS have finally stopped the water trucking services in these areas which lasted for more than four years. The average monthly costs for water supply in these 4 areas decreased from CHF 13,750 during the phase 1 to CHF 7,200 (mainly for maintenance, repair, security guard, etc), which are covered by beneficiaries themselves (100 Iranian Rials per 20 litres).

* 1 USD is equivalent to IRR 8,900.

b) Health and care

Objective 1: Afghan refugees have increased their capacity to deal with health-related issues by themselves.

The rate of morbidity and infant mortality is high among Afghan refugees living in refugee settlement areas in Zahedan because they cannot afford to pay for medical services. Since teaching self-help skills to refugees through health training and education will help prevent the health situation in refugee settlement areas from getting worse, the Federation and IRCS included in the revised Plan of Action the training in traditional birth attendants (TBA) and community health workers (CHW) and the public health education in healthy living and environmental hygiene. However, the actual implementation of this project was delayed due to the lack of funding. The funding from the Swedish Red Cross in December 2004 made it possible to organize the training in 2005. Owing to the time required for TBA and CHW training, the project which started in January 2005 will be completed only in July 2005.

Given the professional nature of health training and education, the Federation and IRCS chose the Provincial Health Centre (PHC) of the Sistan-Baluchestan Province as an implementing partner of the project. A contract was signed in this regard between the Federation Delegation and PHC in January 2005.

On 24 January 2005, the PHC started the intensive courses at the Urban Health Centre building to train 22 female TBAs and 60 CHWs (20 men and 40 women). The trainees were selected among 560 Afghan applicants aged 15-40, on the basis of their educational background and willingness to work for their communities.

The TBA training included four-month theoretical lessons and two-month practice at PHC hospitals. The curriculum of theoretical lessons included such topics as safe delivery, pre- and post-delivery care, pregnant mother care, baby care, birth control, duties of traditional birth attendants, etc. The CHW training included three-month theoretical lessons and one-month practice in hospitals and communities. The curriculum of theoretical lessons included such topics as primary health services, vaccination, environmental health, disease control, health promotion, duties of CHWs, etc.



The CHW trainings have provided the trainees to work on medical files, vaccination, consultation, public health education and medical care

The TBA and CHW training started with theoretical classes at the Zahedan Urban Health Centre. The students studied 6 hours a day, from 7:30 a.m. to 13:30 p.m., except on Fridays and public holidays. At the end of the theoretical lessons, the TBA and CHW trainees practiced what they had learned at 2 child delivery posts and 10 clinics in the city, which were introduced by the Zahedan Health Department. While the TBA trainees were assisting in actual child delivery, the CHW trainees worked on medical files, vaccination, consultation, public health education (drug use, nutrition, birth control, disease prevention, etc) and medical care with the help of medical doctors and nurses. Working in three shifts a day, each TBA trainee assisted 20 deliveries during the practice period.

Final examinations were given to the participants in the CHW training when it was completed early in June 2005. 58 trainees passed the examinations and two trainees who failed were given more time to study and come back for further examinations. The TBA training is scheduled to be completed in mid-July 2005 and then final examinations will be given to the students. The students will receive TBA and CHW kits before graduating from the training courses. A joint certificate-giving ceremony for the two training workshops will be held as soon as the courses are completed. With a TBA certificate, one can work as an official midwife and with a CHW certificate one can work as an official nurse/hygienist.

To carry out the public health education, the PHC made an initial analysis of the general health issues of beneficiaries as well as their knowledge about health, environmental hygiene, etc. Based on results of this analysis and considering the languages spoken by beneficiaries, it printed the following public educational materials in three languages (Farsi, Urdu, and Pashtoo) early in April 2005:

No	Kind	No of copies	Contents
1	Pamphlet	4,000	Safe water, washing vegetables and fruits, safe ways of keeping food
2	Pamphlet	4,000	Control of infectious diseases in families and communities
3	Pamphlet & poster	4,000	Birth control, mother and child care, breast feeding, child upbringing
4	Handout	6,000	Garbage collection & disposal, hygiene in families and communities

Hygienists of the PHC distributed these educational materials to beneficiaries during their visit to settlement areas. They gave public health education to them through face-to-face meetings with individuals and group discussion in houses, mosques, and health centres and by using video films and slide shows. A total of 15,000 people were given public health education by these hygienists.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental principles and priorities

In the course of implementing the programme, the IRCS and the Federation advocated the need for the provision of a minimum standard of assistance to the refugees, by using various opportunities such as official meetings with authorities, inter-agency meetings and face-to-face discussions.

The inclusion of the vulnerable Iranian population from the same settlements in this operation ensured a balance in provision of assistance and adherence to the criterion of vulnerability as the most important one in identifying target groups.

Due attention was given to female beneficiaries in view of their central role in the maintenance of households, including the use of water and family hygiene. They were especially targeted in the health training and education and provided with information on safe use of water, proper hygiene and preventive health measures. Women were also involved in programme design and supervision of water distribution from fixed water tankers.

National Society Capacity Building

This was the biggest operation with water/sanitation and health components ever mounted by the IRCS branch in Sistan-Baluchestan province with the support of the Federation, participating national societies (PNSs) and other donors. In the course of implementation of the programme, it was exposed to various issues concerning refugees, water/sanitation and health training and education and got valuable experience in these fields. The programme contributed to strengthening its material and human resources to run on its own such projects as those for assisting Afghan refugees in the fields of water supply and health and care. Over 100 staff and volunteers were trained in planning and running refugee projects and managing budgets. By involving volunteers in health and hygiene education campaigns, the branch was able to strengthen its volunteer base and help them have necessary skills for Red Crescent activities.

The implementation of the project also provided the IRCS, particularly the International Affairs Department and the Relief and Rescue Organization, with an opportunity to improve its international

accountability by working directly with the Federation Delegation on project evaluation, planning, budgeting and overall management.

Assessment and lessons learned

The implementation of the programme was monitored by IRCS staff, Federation Delegation, and field progress reports. Monitoring results were used in improving the programme implementation and reporting the progress. A total of 6 Operations Updates were issued in the period covered by this Final Report.

The programme was also evaluated on several occasions, particularly by an evaluation team of experts specialized in health, water/sanitation, disaster management, etc., in May 2004. In general, the evaluation team observed that the objectives as formulated in the proposal were achieved and that the programme had positive impact on improving health situation in operational areas. It also expressed some concerns about the future of the project. Both the Federation and IRCS initially approached the project as a short-term emergency response operation. The “emergency-response” approach proved to have worked at initial stages of the operation, when an efficient system of water distribution was quickly created. But, being an essentially prolonged relief intervention, the project also needed to pay attention to such issues as sustainability of the project, dependency of beneficiaries and IRCS’ capacity to work with beneficiary communities. Having examined various options to address these issues and ensure a smooth phase out, the evaluation team suggested an integrated exit strategy for the Federation and IRCS. The recommendations made by the evaluation team were useful to the Federation in revising the Plan of Action for August 2004-March 2005 and focusing more on providing long-term solutions to the Afghan refugees living in Sistan-Baluchestan.

The events that took place in 2005 proved that it was the right decision of the Federation to move away from the water trucking operation and concentrate on working for long-term alternative solutions. The process of repatriation of Afghan refugees, which should have been completed by March 2005, has been postponed due to a request from the Afghan authorities to the Iranian counterparts, stating that conditions are not appropriate for repatriation by refugees. Therefore, the Afghan refugees are likely to stay in Iran for more than a year. Moreover, regarding the refugee project as an emergency operation, the Iranian Government has not been supportive of any long-term interventions with refugees.

In the course of carrying out the programme from July 2002 to March 2005, the Federation and IRCS have learned a number of lessons, which can be summarized as follows:

- The IRCS’ experience in disaster response, particularly the experience gained in its previous relief operations in Afghanistan, was very useful in implementing the project for supporting Afghan refugees.
- The strong volunteer base of the IRCS was helpful in carrying out public awareness campaigns among beneficiaries.
- The water and sanitation project, the first of its kind ever implemented by the IRCS in Iran, was instrumental in developing its capacity in this field.
- Timely evaluation of the project is crucial in measuring its impact on beneficiaries and shaping its future directions and exist strategy.
- The IRCS needs to review its current system and procedures of working advance payment and reporting between the Federation, IRCS headquarters and branches in order to improve the financial management of the projects funded through the Federation.
- The IRCS needs to pay more attention to building up the capacity of its branches in developing project proposals and submitting narrative and financial reports.
- The involvement of beneficiaries in project activities needs to be combined with efforts to encourage better organization among refugee groups in order to make the project produce better results.
- Close cooperation/coordination with the local authorities is crucial in providing needy support to beneficiaries especially when the national society plays an auxiliary role in the respective area.

Financial report is attached below. Please click here to return to the title page and contact information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

19/02 IRAN DROUGHT: SUPPORT TO AFGHA

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2002/01-2005/05
Appeal	M02EA019
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
Budget (A)		2,249,198.00				2,249,198.00
Opening Balance (B)		-				-
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		649,998.00				649,998.00
ECHO		211,980.00				211,980.00
ECHO / Swedish RC		389,368.00				389,368.00
Finnish Red Cross		29,380.00				29,380.00
German Red Cross		76,865.00				76,865.00
Japanese Red Cross Society		29,930.00				29,930.00
Swedish Red Cross		322,741.00				322,741.00
Swiss Government		150,000.00				150,000.00
United States - Private Donors		218.00				218.00
Cash contributions (C1)		1,860,480.00				1,860,480.00
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Red Cross		-				-
Reallocations (C2)		-				-
Inkind Personnel						
Swedish Red Cross		15,106.00				15,106.00
Inkind Personnel (C4)		15,106.00				15,106.00
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)		1,875,586.00				1,875,586.00
Total Funding (B + C)		1,875,586.00				1,875,586.00

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)		-				-
Income (C)		1,875,586.00				1,875,586.00
Expenditure (D)		-	1,839,459.00			- 1,839,459.00
Closing Balance (B + C + D)			36,127.00			36,127.00

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

19/02 IRAN DROUGHT: SUPPORT TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2002/01-2005/05
Appeal	M02EA019
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget						TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		2,249,198.00					2,249,198.00	
Supplies								
Construction	250,000.00		4,779.00			4,779.00	245,221.00	
Food	-		533.00			533.00	533.00	
Water & Sanitation	400,000.00		460,267.00			460,267.00	60,267.00	
Teaching Materials	25,000.00		20,927.00			20,927.00	4,073.00	
Utensils & Tools	150,000.00		677.00			677.00	149,323.00	
Other Supplies & Services	65,000.00		186,259.00			186,259.00	121,259.00	
Total Supplies	890,000.00		673,442.00			673,442.00	216,558.00	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	-		82.00			82.00	82.00	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm	62,000.00		96.00			96.00	61,904.00	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	62,000.00		178.00			178.00	61,822.00	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	-		634.00			634.00	634.00	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	80,000.00		166,990.00			166,990.00	86,990.00	
Total Transport & Storage	80,000.00		167,624.00			167,624.00	87,624.00	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	242,000.00		70,785.00			70,785.00	171,215.00	
Delegate Benefits	-		113,972.00			113,972.00	113,972.00	
Regionally Deployed Staff	-		838.00			838.00	838.00	
National Staff	495,000.00		396,426.00			396,426.00	98,574.00	
National Society Staff	-		46,415.00			46,415.00	46,415.00	
Consultants	21,000.00		15,526.00			15,526.00	5,474.00	
Total Personnel Expenditures	758,000.00		643,962.00			643,962.00	114,038.00	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	210,000.00		51,809.00			51,809.00	158,191.00	
Total Workshops & Training	210,000.00		51,809.00			51,809.00	158,191.00	
General Expenditure								
Travel	18,000.00		17,468.00			17,468.00	532.00	
Information & Public Relation	25,000.00		14,213.00			14,213.00	10,787.00	
Office Costs	-		6,218.00			6,218.00	6,218.00	
Communications	-		7,039.00			7,039.00	7,039.00	
Professional Fees	-		1,752.00			1,752.00	1,752.00	
Financial Charges	-		9,260.00			9,260.00	9,260.00	
Other General Expenses	60,000.00		8,509.00			8,509.00	51,491.00	
Total General Expenditure	103,000.00		64,459.00			64,459.00	38,541.00	
Program Support								
Program Support	146,198.00		131,338.00			131,338.00	14,860.00	
Total Program Support	146,198.00		131,338.00			131,338.00	14,860.00	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	-		106,647.00			106,647.00	106,647.00	
Total Operational Provisions	-		106,647.00			106,647.00	106,647.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,249,198.00		1,839,459.00			1,839,459.00	409,739.00	
VARIANCE (C - D)			409,739.00			409,739.00		