

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN: WATER SHORTAGE

Appeal no. 05EA007
14 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 495,000 (USD 412,500 OR EUR 330,000) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 43,315 BENEFICIARIES FOR 12 MONTHS

Budget is attached at the end of the appeal and includes CHF55,000 carried forward from previous appeal, 19/2002, which was closed at the end of March 2005. As such, the net required funding is CHF495,000 [<click here>](#)

[<click here for further information on other programmes in Iran>](#)

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Seyed Hadi Samaei, Director General of International Affairs Department, Iranian Red Crescent Society, Tehran; email: intdep@rcs.ir; mobile: 98. 912 384 7050; tel: 98-21-8662618/8662619; fax: 98-21-8662652
- Mohammed Mukhier, Head of Delegation, Tehran; email: ifrcir05@ifrc.org; mobile: 98-912-3144250; tel: 98-21-8890567/8911271; fax: 98-21-8895346
- Evgeni Parfenov, Regional Desk Officer, Geneva; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org; tel: 41-22-7304325; fax: 41-22-7330395

All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website. For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

After decades of war, instability and displacement, Afghanistan has embarked on a new road to the transition from a chronic conflict situation towards relative peace and stability. Despite some slow progress in this transition, the country still faces a number of challenges. In addition to the ongoing reforms of public institutions, infrastructure reconstruction, disarmament and demobilisation of former combatants, it has to address the issue of reintegrating returning refugees. In 2004, an estimated 500,000 Afghans returned home, creating a problem of sustainable reintegration, employment and urban population pressures. Faced with this new challenge and with a view to providing for a smooth transition, the Afghan authorities requested the Iranian Government in November 2004 to postpone the repatriation process of Afghan refugees living in Iran. The governments of Afghanistan and Iran and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are expected to sign a tripartite agreement soon in order to reschedule the repatriation process.

The temporary halt to the repatriation process, which was supposed to be completed by the spring of 2005, obliges the Afghan refugees to stay in Iran for at least one more year. Their prolonged stay represents a number of problems as humanitarian assistance projects of international organizations are coming to an end in March or April 2005. For instance, the Federation's drought relief operation under the Appeal No. 19/2002 ended in March 2004. The prevailing situation may lead to a new crisis unless some urgent measures are taken to contain it. Under these new circumstances, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) requested the Federation to continue supporting Afghan refugees in Sistan-Baluchestan for one more year before they are eventually able to return home.

Sistan-Baluchestan is one of the poorest provinces in Iran with the biggest settlement of Afghan refugees and has been hit by the severe drought lasting more than seven years. The Federation issued two appeals (Appeal No. 21/2000 in August 2000 and Appeal No. 19/2002 in July 2002) to assist these refugees with water supply and health promotion. Afghan refugees are densely populated in outskirts of Zahedan and Zabol cities. According to the Bureau for Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Iranian Government and UNHCR, about 130,000 Afghans returned home from this province in 2002-2004, whereas around 240,000 refugees still remain there. They are not allowed to have an employment and, therefore, have no legal source of income. Worse still, their settlements have neither been covered by the city water network nor by health services. As a result, they have been dependent on humanitarian assistance in meeting their basic needs.

In May 2004, the Federation Delegation in Iran commissioned an evaluation of this project in order to formulate an exit strategy. As part of the exit strategy, it was recommended to connect the refugee settlements with the city water supply network. Implementation of this crucial task started in November 2004, however, the available funding has not allowed fully implementing this recommendation. Therefore, adequate response to this new appeal will also provide an opportunity to complete this unfinished job.

The needs

Immediate needs:

In light of the prolonged repatriation of Afghan refugees and with a view to preparing them for smooth reintegration into the Afghan society, it is necessary to complete the implementation of the task that has already begun, especially because the repatriation process is put on hold.

The appeal is aimed at addressing the needs of these refugees and providing for a final phase out of the project. This will be done by:

- Extending the permanent city water supply network to reach all groups of refugees (so far the task has been completed on approximately 50 %) in need and thus allowing the termination of the water trucking,
- Ensuring uninterrupted water trucking while the construction for extending the water network is in process,
- Providing health-related training and education.

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The extension of the city water network will enable people in refugee settlements to have permanent access to water and, at the same time, partly contribute to solving the water supply problem in Zahedan, a drought-affected city, in general.

Health facilities are non-existing in refugee settlement areas in Zahedan. In the light of the fact that these refugees are to return to their home towns in less developed and most drought-affected provinces with poor health services such as Kandahar, Harat, Konduz and Helmand, it is necessary to equip them with some basic health skills. Teaching self-help skills through health training and education will not only help prevent a health crisis in refugee settlements but also pay back when they return back home.

To promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian values is important for all people, especially for Afghan refugees who have come from a country that has long been dominated by a culture of violence and war. The dissemination of these principles and values will provide them with guidance on peaceful coexistence, friendship, tolerance, non-discrimination, non-violence and other aspects of humanitarian values, and inspire them to assist the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in their activities on their return home.

This project for supporting Afghan refugees also provides the IRCS with an opportunity to improve cross-border cooperation with the ARCS.

In the course of implementing the two previous appeals, the Federation and IRCS have secured the necessary staffing and structure in place and gained much experience in working with Afghan refugees. There is a balance of CHF 55,000 carried from the previous appeal. Therefore, the primary and critical need is a new funding of up to CHF 495,000, which will allow the Federation and IRCS to complete the work that has already been started and thus give sustainable solutions to problems faced by refugees.

Coordination

The Federation and IRCS have been carrying out this operation in close cooperation with the local authorities, including the Zahedan Public Health Department, the Zahedan Water and Sewage Company and the Sistan-Baluchestan Regional Water Department. They cooperate with the Federation and IRCS by providing technical support in water supply and sharing regular information on the general drought situation in the region and on-going water supply projects. In Zabul, regular meetings are being held with the Zabul Rural Water Department to facilitate water collection and distribution.

In addition, coordination meetings are held at the field level between the Federation, IRCS, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The Federation and IRCS closely coordinate their activities with UNHCR which is responsible for the implementation of the voluntary repatriation scheme.

The proposed operation**Water and sanitation**

In accordance with the recommendations made by the assessment team in May 2004, the Federation and IRCS took several steps to improve the water supply by building 3 water collection points and 4 public water distribution stations. With the construction of these water collection points and water distribution stations, the water trucking services have been improved and 24,210 beneficiaries in Zahedan have permanent access to water from the water distribution stations. With the repatriation of refugees, there are only 315 people in Zabul, who still need external support in water supply.

Objective: Meet the basic water needs of 43,315 beneficiaries by using both the water trucking system and the public water distribution stations

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The Federation and IRCS will ensure that 24,210 beneficiaries in Zahedan get enough water from the public water distribution stations which have been constructed within the framework of the Appeal No. 19/2002. A total of 19,105 beneficiaries (18,790 in Zahedan, who are not covered by the public water distribution stations and 315 in Zabul) will be supplied 15 litres of water per person a day as per the SPHERE¹ standards through the continuous, yet limited water trucking services for 4 months. 6 trucks and 9 water tanks purchased during the previous operation will be used to this end.

In the meantime, 4 public water distribution stations will additionally be built in refugee settlements to ensure that all beneficiaries in Zahedan have permanent access to water. Once these water stations are constructed, the water trucking services will stop in Zahedan and continue only in Zabul with one truck and two water tanks.

Health and care

In 2004, the Federation and IRCS organized the training for 20 traditional birth attendants (TBA) and 60 community health workers (CHW), in close cooperation with the Provincial Health Centre (PHC) of Sistan-Baluchestan. The PHC also assisted the Federation and IRCS in improving the health and hygiene situation in refugee areas through health promotion activities. This notwithstanding, much remains to be done to teach self-help skills to refugees.

Objective: Increase the capacity of Afghan refugees to deal with health issues in their own communities and help them carry their health capacity back home.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The Federation and IRCS will organize a second round of health training for 20 additional traditional birth attendants and 60 community health workers. 15,000 refugees will be educated in primary health care, environmental health, family health, disease prevention, first aid and hygiene. The health training and public health education will be carried out in close cooperation with the PHC.

Promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values

The promotion of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and humanitarian values is an effective way of bringing about a positive change in people's behaviour. The dissemination of these principles and values among refugees may influence their behaviour and inspire them to work for the ARCS on their return back home.

Objective: Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among Afghan refugees.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The Federation and IRCS will train selected Afghan refugees as promoters of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and engage them in dissemination of these principles and values among the refugee population with the help of IRCS volunteers. Various publications such as handouts, pamphlets and posters will be produced and distributed to this end. Writing and drawing competitions will be organized among children with the topics relevant to humanitarian values so that these values remain long with both the children and their parents. Refugees will also be given an opportunity to see various Red Crescent activities in Zahedan and Zabul to inspire them to work for the ARCS when they return to Afghanistan.

¹The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. For details, please see the website at www.sphereproject.org

Cross-Border Cooperation

Reintegration of returning refugees and gender represent two potential areas where the IRCS and ARCS can cooperate with each other.

Objective: Promote the cross-border cooperation between the IRCS and ARCS in the fields of refugee reintegration and gender issues.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The Federation will help the IRCS develop cross-border cooperation with the ARCS by sharing information on returning Afghans who have received Red Crescent and vocational training in Iran, as well as gender materials produced. Based on discussion with various focus groups in refugee communities, the IRCS will organize gender training workshops for both Afghan men and women and engage them in promoting gender issues among the refugee population. Exchange visits between the two national societies will be encouraged to achieve positive results in these activities

Capacity of the National Society

The IRCS is one of the biggest humanitarian relief organizations in Iran, with rich experience in emergency response, medical treatment and rehabilitation. Many of its activities are carried out by IRCS volunteers and youth. Assistance to Afghan refugees in Zahedan and Zabul is the only water and sanitation project run by IRCS.

In the course of implementing the programme over the past five years, IRCS branches in Zahedan and Zabul have increased their capacity in terms of project management and human and material resources. Besides, they have gained much experience in working with Afghan refugees and vulnerable communities.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation is working in close cooperation with the IRCS and has permanent offices in Teheran, Bam and Zahedan. They are staffed with 5 expatriate and 16 local staff. A Federation office in Zahedan is in charge of daily supervision, monitoring, and coordination of activities related to the implementation of the assistance programme to Afghan refugees.

Monitoring and evaluation

The IRCS will continue to be responsible for implementation of the project. Monitoring of the project implementation will be done by the IRCS and Federation Delegation. The IRCS will provide regular narrative and financial reports in accordance with the Federation's standard reporting formats.

Developments in refugee areas concerning the repatriation will closely be monitored and regularly assessed to guarantee the success of the operation. Final evaluation will be made at the end of the operation in March 2006.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA007

Iran - Afghan refugees

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	248,000
Water & sanitation	55,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	303,000
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<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	36,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Transport & vehicle costs	22,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	24,000
National staff	47,000
Workshops & training	89,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	12,000
Information expenses	10,000
Administrative & general expenses	7,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	247,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	550,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	55,000
NET REQUEST	495,000
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