

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

GUATEMALA

01 February 2002

Appeal No. 01.27/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 966,415

Programme Update No. 3 Period covered: 23 October - 31 December 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 67.7%

Related Appeals: 01.25/2001 Pan-American Disaster Response Unit; 01.26/2001 Central America; 01.28/2001 Honduras; 01.29/2001 Nicaragua

Outstanding needs: CHF 311,718

Update: During the final quarter of the year, the delegation was much involved in supporting the implementation of the drought and food insecurity operation that is assisting 2,856 beneficiary families in the worst affected departments of the country (Appeal 31/2001). In the area of organizational development, the delegation is providing support to ensure revision of the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) Statutes. A health assistant was recruited and has begun work with the GRC; the focus is maintained on water and sanitation and integrated management of childhood illnesses, defined as priorities.

The context:

Main news coverage in Guatemala has focused on corruption in the government, misappropriation of government funds and a looming economic crisis. Around 20 of the 78 convicts who escaped from a maximum security jail in Escuintla in June are still at large.

Humanitarian news has covered the continued deterioration of food security in different parts of the country that, combined with a lack of paid work for agricultural labourers, has exacerbated the crisis situation in many of Guatemala's poorest communities. In response, the Guatemalan Red Cross has distributed food in some of the most affected areas as well as providing training in nutrition and key health messages. Over 25,000 families are affected and agricultural production is at less than 50% of normal levels in Chiquimula, El Progreso, Baja Verapaz and Jalapa.

Disaster Response

Much of the time and effort of the GRC and the Federation delegation over the reporting period has been spent ensuring a timely and beneficial response to the communities affected by food insecurity. The new management team of the GRC have relatively little experience in this kind of operation and the support of the delegation and of the PNSs (American Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross) has been crucial.

217 MT of food donated by the World Food Programme (WFP) has been distributed to over 2,600 families in Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula and Jalapa. All communities have received training in nutrition and food preparation and in Baja Verapaz and Jalapa training has also covered basic health messages in hygiene and sanitation (see separate report on the emergency appeal for Central America - Drought and Food Insecurity). Posters and pamphlets complementing the training have been distributed and will also be translated into local languages. The key health messages covered include nutrition and breastfeeding, handwashing, drinking water and the use of latrines.

A second distribution will take place to the same families in late January / early February. This will be followed by further training including methodologies for the early detection of malnutrition. We have yet to confirm whether this, in turn, will be followed by the distribution of seeds and fertilisers, but this seems more likely given the slightly improved donor response to the regional emergency appeal. For more information on the drought and food insecurity appeal refer to Appeal 31/2001.

Press coverage of the GRC has been plentiful and positive and the profile of the National Society has received a much needed boost as a result.

A new relief director of the GRC was contracted in October.

Disaster Preparedness

The disaster preparedness (DP) delegate was primarily involved in the drought operation as well as preparing for the end of his mission and briefing his successor, attending a disaster preparedness course in Geneva and undergoing his debriefing.

Objective 1: “To strengthen the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme at all levels, to increase the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to both natural and man-made disasters”.

The CBDP education programme has achieved the following results in Retalhuleu and Guatemala city during 2001:

- 11 leaders from the GRC trained and motivated (mainly members of the governing board).
- 16 trainers trained who remain with the programme.
- 26 high risk communities trained with 5 leaders in each community.
- All communities received training in putting together community and family emergency plans. This was especially successful in Retalhuleu where 12 community plans and 15 family plans were completed.
- 6 emergency committees established in the communities of Flecha and Santa Isabel (Retalhuleu).
- 6 microprojects established. 4 of these have been completed (a bridge in Santa Isabel Retalhuleu, a water tank in Flecha Retalhuleu and in Zone 6 of Guatemala city, the construction of a protecting wall to minimise the danger of landslides and construction of a communal meeting room).

In total 1,850 community members, 3,246 students and 234 teachers received training in disaster prevention.

The delegation participated in the evaluation of the CBDP programme which will be revised and presented again to donors in 2002.

Objective 2: “To strengthen the capacity of the Guatemalan Red Cross to respond quickly and effectively to local and national disasters”.

A week long disaster management course for volunteers in Puerto Barrios was funded by Spanish Red Cross and was attended by the DP delegate.

In December, 26 participants from the GRC, CONRED and other local organizations completed a logistics course that was jointly funded by the Federation and PAHO. The majority of formats presented were standard Federation formats from the delegate handbook.

Objective 3: “To strengthen the inter and intra-institutional coordination, networks and strategic alliances for disaster response and preparedness”.

In December, 31 participants successfully completed the diploma in disaster information, the official closing ceremony and presentation of diplomas was hosted by the GRC on 1 December with great aplomb and much hope for the future. The Federation funded programme has been a huge success with participation from CONRED, The World Health Organization, The Pan American Health Organization, the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, channel 3 television, the ICRC and the American, Spanish and Guatemalan Red Cross Societies. The governing board of the Guatemalan Red Cross has approved the elaboration of further diplomas and it is hoped that this activity will continue in 2002.

In October, an agreement was signed with WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) and the Foundations for Social Investment (FIS) governing cooperation and assistance in the GRC food security operation. In addition the GRC, the Federation, the American Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross Societies signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) setting out roles and responsibilities for support to the programme.

Together with the GRC the delegation attended regular meetings with WFP, FIS, MAGA and CONRED. The new disaster preparedness (trainee) delegate arrived in December for briefing and hand over.

Humanitarian Values

Limited support for this programme continues to restrict activities.

In October, over 30 youth volunteers from different branches of the GRC received a course in developing leadership capacity. This was funded by the Federation and the American Red Cross and included trainers from Red Cross national societies in Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama as well as the Federation.

Training on the principles was included in the governance and management workshop and it is hoped that an introduction to the principles will be included in all programmes in 2002.

Health and Care

The delegation has continued to be active in providing technical and financial support towards the establishment of a water and sanitation technical unit in the GRC. A draft MoU has been drawn up and joint funding between the Federation, American Red Cross and the GRC has been confirmed. A decision regarding funding from the Spanish Red Cross remains pending, but the Spanish Red Cross has confirmed continued assistance and support for the initiative from their delegates and local staff. Interviews for a coordinator of the unit took place in early January and, together with the PADRU water and sanitation delegate, the delegation is helping to plan a participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) workshop that will take place at the end of February 2002.

The delegation has confirmed a new member of the local staff as health assistant. He started his contract in early January. This extra capacity in health will allow the delegation to follow up more closely on its support to activities in water and sanitation and integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) that have been defined as priorities by the National Society. The Federation will support IMCI activities in up to four branches during 2002.

Organizational Development

Objective 1: “To assist the GRC in elaborating its national development plan”.

Work has continued together with the consultants, funded by the American Red Cross. The governing board of the GRC has defined the broad policies of the organization and now needs to take this forward. Two jointly funded workshops were held in November to disseminate these ideas to the senior management team and to promote improved planning at departmental level.

Unfortunately, the GRC did not participate fully in a workshop jointly funded by the American Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Federation in December, designed to bring the branches, the board and management together in the planning process. However it is hoped that by the end of March 2002 the plan, which is three months behind schedule, will be finalized.

Objective 2: “To support the GRC in strengthening its governance and management bodies”.

A governance and management workshop, funded by the ICRC, with facilitation by the Federation, the ICRC and the GRC, was held between 30 November and 1 December. Attendance and participation from board members and the management team was excellent. They requested further training on the Seville agreement and we hope to be able to follow up on this in 2002.

The Netherlands Red Cross has agreed to fund the purchase of computer equipment necessary for running improved finance / administration software. They will also fund related training for key personnel in the GRC in late January 2002.

The National Society has made little progress on following up on the recommendations put forward by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. As a result, the Federation delegation, American Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross are emphasizing the revision of Statutes and the elaboration of a national development plan before further support can be given.

Objective 3: “To assist the GRC in developing its fund-raising capacity”.

If advances are made with the Statutes and the national development plan, the Federation will fund a consultancy on fundraising with the aim of establishing a fundraising unit within the GRC. A consultancy firm has been identified, terms of reference agreed and the consultants will be involved in the initial implementation of their own recommendations to ensure that these are understood and known within the GRC. The GRC will then be able to contract and pay for a fundraiser without needing external help to cover salary or other costs.

This work will follow up on previous studies on image / marketing carried out by the same consultants, implementing previous ideas such as newspaper advertisements and television slots.

External training in pulmonary resuscitation was given to 150 students from the university of San Carlos in Guatemala city. 27 people from the Mount of Olives church were trained in basic first aid. It is hoped to develop the number of external training in 2002 and to increase income derived from providing such services.

Objective 4: “To support the GRC in the strengthening of selected branches”.

The Federation and the American Red Cross continued to provide support to the GRC in Jalapa. In November, similar support in organizational development (focusing on planning and management) was started in Escuintla branch as part of the initial phase of OD specifically aimed at branches.

Objective 5: “To assist the GRC in strengthening the capacity of its volunteers”.

In October, 27 volunteers from Mazatenango completed a basic first aid course. In addition, 30 female volunteers (“damas voluntarias”) from Quiche and 30 from Escuintla completed basic first aid training.

In November, 36 “damas voluntarias” from Coban were trained in basic first aid. 25 women from Escuintla, Mazatenango and the headquarters were trained in pulmonary resuscitation.

In December, 20 youth volunteers from Chiquimula branch were trained in basic first aid.

Coordination and Management

The delegation is now made up of an HoD, a DP delegate, a local health assistant, an administrator and driver. The HoD will cover OD responsibilities with help from the regional delegate and no change in the size of the delegation is envisaged in 2002.

Objective 1: “To establish and apply criteria for efficient (cost benefit) and effective (objectives-results) use of resources made available through the Federation for programmes, in order to allow a rational use of available resources and to establish common criteria and standards for each of the programme components, in line with the priorities of “Strategy 2010” and applying Federation procedures and guidelines”.

The 2002 appeal was finalised and is available on the Federation web site. The delegation also participated in the DFID evaluation and the evaluation of the Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme.

The country assistance strategy (CAS) process is on hold in the hope that this strategy can be better developed once the National Society Development Plan has been drafted.

Objective 2: “To support the Guatemalan Red Cross in promoting coordination between the Participating National Societies, the Federation Secretariat and the ICRC, as well as with external partners”.

The Federation delegation continued to coordinate Movement meetings on a regular, weekly basis. The “serving leader” role has also been particularly important in coordinating shared response to the deteriorating food security situation and in setting up the water and sanitation technical unit in the GRC.

Regular meetings have been held with external partners involved in the food security operation. The delegation also coordinated a visit from the British Red Cross, including a meeting with the British Embassy.

Outstanding needs

The delegation continues to need support in all areas of the appeal. DP and OD activities remain crucial and there will be renewed emphasis on health with the arrival of a new member of local staff responsible for this area.

For further details please contact Olaug Bergseth, Phone : 41 22 730.45.35; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: bergseth@ifrc.org.

All International Federation 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.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Guatemala						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.27/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			31.01.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				966'415		TOTAL COVERAGE 67.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				3'193		
REALLOCATED FUNDS				200'000		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		629'245	NOK	118'486	30.03.2001	NATIONAL COORDINATION, HUMAN DEV.
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		170'000	NOK	31'754	27.11.2001	OD & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	34'740	20.03.01	ID DELEGATE COSTS
SWEDISH - GOVT		810'000	SEK	136'485	17.05.2001	HEALTH AND CARE
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		400'000	SEK	67'400	17.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		90'000	SEK	15'165	17.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				607'223	CHF	62.8%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			23'491		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			23'983		OB re JGB
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				47'474	CHF	4.9%