

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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY - LEBANON/SYRIA BRANCHES

17 December 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.69/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,402,499

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: 01 July - 15 December 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 32.3%

Related Appeals: Middle East & North Africa regional programmes 01.64/2001

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,303,407

Update: The main activity has been the support of health care for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria. Support has been given to five hospitals and nine clinics and progress has been made in improving the lives of vulnerable people although more funding is required.

Operational Developments:

There were no in-country developments during the reporting period that directly affected the humanitarian situation of the targeted beneficiaries in Lebanon and Syria. The political and security situation is, however, tense because of the potential that the Palestinian/Israeli conflict may spread to Lebanon. The economic situation for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is still very difficult. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) branches in Lebanon and Syria have, however, managed to deliver sufficient quality and quality services to the refugee population on a regular basis.

Disaster Response

The main objective has been to support the health care structures for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria. This is especially important for the refugees in Lebanon due to the limitations of access to income and services caused by the political situation in the country.

This objective has been partially reached (estimated at 40 percent implementation) through the support of ECHO and the Netherlands Red Cross, who assisted the distribution of medical supplies to five PRCS hospitals in Lebanon and nine health centres serving refugee camps.

There has been no other support to this appeal programme in the reporting period for PRCS Lebanon. No support has been received either for the PRCS branch covering the Palestinian refugees in Syria. An application to ECHO for this branch was rejected.

Through support from the Netherlands Red Cross, a health education programme has been launched during the last part of the reporting period, mainly containing planning for the implementation in 2002.

Humanitarian Values

There were no specific programme or appeal within Humanitarian Values. However, in the Health and Care programme, the initiation of a First Aid Voluntary Project was intended to start in the reporting period. This will be further developed as a separate programme in 2002, including cooperation between the Lebanese Red Crescent (LRC) and PRCS Lebanon.

Health and Care

A principal objective for 2001 was to finalise the support to rehabilitation and reorientation of the service lay-out in the five hospitals and nine health clinics run by the PRCS Lebanon, (objectives 3 and 5).

The main components of these objective have been fully met during the reporting period, finalising the rehabilitation of the operating theatres of Hamshari Hospital and the refurbishing of two health centres, Shattila and Al Buss. The remaining health centres will not be supported in 2001, but given priority in 2002.

The objective related to renovation of doctors' residence in Hamshari hospital, has been downgraded and has not been supported in 2002. The objectives related to medical equipment (no. 2 and 4) have been met through other donors and PRCS in Lebanon.

The institutions will still be able to provide sufficient quality services despite the lack of support to the mentioned objectives.

As commented above under Humanitarian Values, the Health and Care programme included a First Aid Voluntary Project, based on cooperation between LRCS and PRCS/L. The project had only a minor budget intended to be a starter for further expansion through appeal support in 2002. The programme was aimed at training trainers who would continue the community based first aid training throughout the refugee communities in Lebanon.

Because of capacity reasons, lack of funding and reduced priority, this project has been postponed until 2002. The project will then be integrated into the health education project and with a separate project within Humanitarian Values.

Institutional and Resource Development

The Federation launched a comprehensive four-year training programme through the appeal in 2000. This has been ongoing in a smooth and successful manner with a coverage of 80 percent of the 2001 appeal.

Within the reporting period, funding through the appeal has allowed 8 of 12 training courses to be implemented with a total number of 200 students within managerial, medical, nursing and paramedical professions coming from all Palestinian communities in Lebanon and with participation from PRCS Syria. The courses cover subjects such as economy, personnel administration, management, medical administration, team building, primary health care, computer training, quality assessment of services and other related subjects. A total of eight computers covered the training needs for the entire organisation in Lebanon. Additional students also came from PRCS/Syria. The appeal has only been supported by the Norwegian Red Cross. Two courses are currently not funded. Individual training objectives have been achieved, confirmed by the feedback from students and health institutions.

Regional Cooperation

The country delegation has participated in regional conferences, general knowledge sharing and regional planning on a regular basis. The delegation is an active asset to the regional team covering the Middle East & North Africa region. There are no explicit objectives developed for regional co-operation beyond the established working modalities for the MENA team.

Coordination and Management

The main objective of the country delegation is to contribute to the development of the capacities of LRC and the PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria. The delegation has achieved this by being an instrument for the promotion of support, coordination of support activities, provision of professional guidance to the National Societies and participation in the regional MENA team activities through the regional delegation in Amman.

The main challenge has been to cover the core costs of the country delegation, with only one participating National Societies, the Norwegian Red Cross, giving direct contributions of substance. It is, however, agreed that the Federation presence in Lebanon is required.

Key activities have been the planning, coordination and implementation of programmes, contacts and coordination with ICRC and other humanitarian organisations, and the UN, EU and embassies.

Outstanding needs

For PRCS Lebanon the main outstanding needs are related to the disaster response component of the appeal, i.e. support to medical supply for the hospitals and the clinics. This is the main activity performed by PRCS in Lebanon and is crucial to the refugee population. PRCS has an agreement with UNRWA that covers nearly 50 percent of hospital beds, which provides some income.

A reduction of medical supply support might endanger the agreement with UNRWA as well as the health and social standards of the refugee population. This is a sensitive area of the PRCS activities, with no margins or reserve neither from UNRWA, the PRCS itself or the Lebanese and international community.

The lack of support to PRCS Syria can be handled on a short term basis, since the refugee population there has access to the health services provided by the Syrian authorities.

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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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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PRCS: Lebanon / Syria branches						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.69/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			12.12.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'402'499		32.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
ECHO / NETHERLANDS RC (12011)		350'000	EUR	517'720	07.11.2001	PRCS HEALTH INSTITUTIONS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'570'000	NOK	491'651	26.04.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, PRCS LEBANON BRANCH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		315'000	NOK	58'838	27.11.2001	REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'068'209	CHF	31.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			30'883		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				30'883	CHF	0.9%