

# 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

21 May 2002

*This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.*

*Appeal No. 01.20/2002*

*Appeal Target: CHF 923,090 (USD 575,000/ EUR 634,000)*

*Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 1 January - 31 March 2002*

### “At a Glance”

*Appeal coverage: 28.9%*

*Related Appeals: 01.19/2002 Central America; 01.18/2002 Pan American Disaster Response Unit*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 656,316 (USD 408,000 / EUR 450,000)*

*Update: The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)/Federation focused during the quarter on the continuation of the drought and food insecurity operation through the distribution of food rations to vulnerable communities. The next phase to be implemented as of April, involves the setting up of an early warning system for malnutrition, in cooperation with local health authorities. Progress was made with regard to the revision of the GRC Statutes and the drawing up of the five-year national development plan, to be submitted to the National Assembly in late April. A technical water and sanitation unit was set up within the GRC in February and it is planned to create a volunteer unit during the next quarter to focus on improved management of volunteers. More effective coordination with the PNS working in the country has been achieved, and as a result, a cooperation agreement strategy is under development; in addition, priority has been attached to establishing strategic alliances.*

### **Operational Developments:**

Continued allegations of corruption and negligence at the highest levels of government have resulted in an increasing number of public demonstrations and open calls for top level resignations. The chronic drought / food insecurity situation continues to affect large areas of the country with the World Food Programme (WFP) estimating that around 30,997 families are affected, including 59,635 children with different levels of acute malnutrition. At least 126 children have died and the situation may be further aggravated with the anticipated approach of El Niño.

## ***Disaster Response***

The food insecurity operation has continued to take up much of the time of the delegation. Although these activities are reported against the regional emergency appeal 31/2001, they are also mentioned in this report since many of the areas which the Federation delegation is supporting also contribute towards the achievement of various longer term objectives.

In the first quarter of 2002, the Federation supported the GRC in the production of narrative and statistical reports following food distributions to some 3,000 families in December. This was followed by intense preparations for the second distribution including the training of over 30 volunteers in logistics procedures and conducting distributions. In March the second food distribution took place in 19 of the 21 communities that the GRC is assisting, with the following results :

Baja Verapaz : 1,328 families received maize, beans and oil

Jalapa : 770 families received maize, beans and oil - 35 families will receive the same distribution in early April finalising this phase

Chiquimula : 783 families received maize, beans and oil.

The maize and beans were provided by WFP, whilst the oil was purchased by the Guatemalan Red Cross.

Also in February, 33 GRC volunteers from four different branches and headquarters were trained in the detection of malnutrition with help from “Acción Contra el Hambre” (ACH or Action Against Hunger). As of April, the GRC and the Federation will take this training out to the 21 communities and, together with local health authorities, start implementing the setting up of an early warning system at the family / village level. This will take place using the middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement as a simple means to detect malnutrition and alert communities when children under 5 should be referred to a health/nutritional centre. The local health authorities have welcomed this initiative which is accompanied by the purchase and distribution of weighing scales and measuring equipment to allow more scientific height/weight analysis at the level of the health centres.

The remaining training in key health messages has been slightly delayed due to the limited human resources in the training department; however the GRC has now received the translations of calendars and pamphlets in local languages (Chorti, Achi and Kaqchiquel), and these will be distributed and explained in April in Chiquimula and in May in Baja Verapaz and Jalapa. These activities also take place together with the local health authorities and will re-inforce the training in key health messages which has already taken place.

To help boost capacity, a member of the national intervention team (NIT) was added to the GRC personnel who are managing the drought at central level. Future plans include the distribution of seeds and fertilisers and training in basic agricultural techniques between the months of April and May. This involves ongoing work identifying which beneficiaries are interested in participating, given that they will be required to return some of their seeds to a community seed “bank” if the next harvest is successful. The GRC is working with other organizations (FAO and educational establishments) in order to identify which agency is in a position to assist the National Society with the necessary agricultural training, and with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) to see whether there is a possibility to supply free or subsidized fertiliser.

In addition, the WFP has asked the GRC to continue as a partner in the next emergency operation which represents a further 6 month commitment as part of a food distribution specifically targeting families with malnourished children. This remains to be detailed and agreed, but nevertheless represents a positive and rewarding reaction to the work of the National Society and its partners.

Over the Easter holiday period the Guatemalan Red Cross set up 40 relief posts around the country with the help of more than 400 volunteers. More than 500 individuals received assistance from the National Society.

## ***Disaster Preparedness***

All activities in this area have been limited due to a lack of funding and the demands of the drought operation. As a result, activities and expected results for 2002 will be prioritized and amendments to the appeal and operational plans made accordingly.

**Objective 1:** To strengthen the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme increasing the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to both natural and man-made disasters.

The delegation's activities in this area have been limited to participating in the regional CBDP review process implemented through the regional delegation.

Meetings have been held with MSF to gain experience in the implementation of micro-projects.

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

Activities in this area have been primarily limited to supporting the GRC in the drought operation, using practical experience to develop capacity. This has been conducted with some success including improved procedures during the second food distributions and increased understanding within the GRC relief department of its role. In the first quarter, the Federation country delegation received no funds for disaster preparedness activities. However, the GRC completed a revision of needs vis-a-vis radio communications, and with Federation support, has started the process of revising the national response plan (an initiative that lost some impetus after the departure of the former relief director last year). Future support plans include establishing four regional response centres and linking these with revitalized national intervention teams, should funding allow. These ideas are being promoted with the PNS, together with the revision of the GRC response plan.

In March a representative of the CRG took part in a NITs workshop in Panama. At least one member of the GRC will participate in the regional intervention team (RITs) course to be held in Bolivia in April.

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

The disaster preparedness delegate has been active in this area participating, together with the GRC, in meetings with national disaster coordination organization, CONRED, UNDP, WFP, ACH and MSF. The decision of the WFP to seek to continue to work with the GRC proves the value of the GRC/Federation work and the GRC/delegation are hopeful that initial approaches towards ECHO and also towards local businesses and associations such as ANAM, will prove successful in raising the profile of the National Society.

## ***Humanitarian Values***

**Objective 1:** To assist the GRC in the internal promotion of peace culture and humanitarian values.

Again due to a lack of funding and limited capacity in this area (both within the GRC and in the Federation delegation), progress against this objective has been limited. Meetings have been held with the GRC to discuss how to incorporate training on the fundamental principles in all courses, however this has not yet led to concrete action given financial restrictions.

The proposed multi-lingual first aid / humanitarian values programme will benefit from a greater focus of attention as of April onwards, given that contributions have been made available through the Capacity Building Fund.

## ***Health and Care***

Activities in this area have also been affected by the drought operation which reduced the capacity of the delegation to be able to devote as much time as foreseen to the annual appeal objectives. However, the integrated nature of disaster programming has resulted in progress in relation to the annual appeal objectives,

at the same time as working with communities affected by the drought. Nevertheless, it will be necessary to reduce the number of activities the GRC hoped to complete this year, and in particular, the number of training workshops.

**Objective 1:** To assist the GRC through strengthening its organizational capacity and focusing on preventive activities in community health.

Key activities in the drought operation: dissemination of health messages, training in nutrition and food preparation and the setting up of a nutritional alert system are focused on this area. The training of volunteers in MUAC and height and weight measurements to detect malnutrition is a key component of community health, and after considerable preparation and support from the Federation delegation, will be delivered to communities in the next quarter. The key health messages are focused on preventive community health and include themes around breastfeeding and nutrition, hand washing, drinking water and the use of latrines. The translation of these messages into local (Mayan) languages is now complete and it is possible to proceed with the second phase of training.

The delegation has helped the GRC to draw up a profile for a community health assistant and it is hoped to fill this position in April/May to continue progress with IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses). Meanwhile, the local staff member responsible for health in the delegation has joined the GRC and the American Red Cross in a number of meetings and branch visits to learn about IMCI in order to begin preparatory work in the four branches identified for Federation support. He has also met with representatives from PAHO and from the Ministry of Health as well as with MSF coordinators to discuss micro project ideas and methodologies.

An proposal relating to HIV/AIDS presented by the GRC's youth coordinator will be jointly funded by the Federation and the American Red Cross. This centres on peer education through working with young people in 12 departments of Guatemala.

The Federation is also supporting the elaboration of a GRC national health plan together with the PNS and the ICRC.

**Objective 2:** To assist the GRC to promote safe water use, community hygiene and preventive activities in the identified communities and to raise GRC water and sanitation capacity in disasters.

The Federation participated in the interview and selection of a candidate who took up his position as coordinator of UTAS (Guatemalan Red Cross water and sanitation technical unit) in early February.

Between 25 February and 1 March, 33 participants attended a PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) workshop. Participants from six branches of the GRC as well as from headquarters were involved, as were key personnel from the Federation, the American Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The event was deemed a success by all involved and the GRC is considering how to develop PHAST in the future. Federation support was critical, including that received from the PADRU water and sanitation delegate, and financial support was shared with the American Red Cross.

On the 21 and 22 March, the GRC hosted world water day putting together a presentation of Red Cross activities and appearing on national television. The Federation supported the event which was well attended, including participation from 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the sector. Through the new UTAS coordinator the GRC was able to raise its water and sanitation profile considerably.

## ***Organizational Development***

**Objective 1:** To support the GRC in the strengthening of selected branches.

Little progress has been made in this area due partly to commitments relating to the drought operation, but mainly as a result of a joint decision (Federation/PNS) to prioritise support to the national development plan

and the revision of GRC Statutes during the first quarter. In the meantime, it is expected to reach a final agreement in April on a project that the Federation and the American Red Cross will support jointly. This project focuses on supporting branch and headquarters staff in project management including project identification, planning, monitoring, evaluation and also using ideas from the Better Programming Initiative.

It has become clear that despite the Federation's intention to support branches more fully, it remains essential to prioritise development assistance at central level, thereby giving the GRC and the PNS the possibility to be able to work more effectively with, and provide support to, the branches.

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

The GRC's national development plan (2002 - 2006) is now complete and it is expected that it will be approved during the National Assembly at the end of April.

Together with the ICRC, the delegation has been much involved in the process of revising the GRC's Statutes. A final draft has been released by the governing board for the consideration of members of the National Assembly who will make comments and it is hoped that an approved version that can be sent to the Secretariat following the meeting in April.

With funding from the Netherlands Red Cross, the GRC has completed training in new finance and administration software. New computers will be purchased shortly, however, the system is already partly operational using the existing equipment.

The Federation currently supports the GRC with salary support for key personnel.

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

This proposed study and establishment of a fundraising department will take place in April and May following a preparatory meeting with Aragon & Associates, the proposed consultants, in January. The HoD also participated in meetings with the regional delegation and local businesses that we hope will give both the Federation and the National Society increased access to local resources and open up improved marketing possibilities.

**Objective 4:** To assist the GRC in improving volunteer management.

With funding now confirmed from the Capacity Building Fund, it is hoped to set up the volunteer unit between April and May 2002.

## ***Coordination and Management***

**Objective 1:** To ensure efficient and effective use of resources made available through the Federation.

Revised budgets for 2002 were prepared by the HoD.

The HoD participated in the regional planning meeting in Panama between 10 and 15 March.

**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.

Meetings of the Movement (GRC, PNS, the Federation and the ICRC) continue to take place every week or every other week. The HoD has also been involved in a number of board meetings this year.

The cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process has started with all GRC partners presenting plans for 2002 plans to the National Society, which is a new initiative. This was followed up in February with a day long meeting between the Federation, the PNS and the ICRC during which a number of issues were raised and

possible solutions were agreed. This will now be broken down into the priority areas in relation to Strategy 2010 before organizing a joint meeting with the National Society to discuss how best to support implementation of the national development plan.

The delegation helped to coordinate the visit of the Norwegian Red Cross which took place in February 2002. Other meetings this quarter include those held with ECHO representatives informing of the GRC/Federation's work in the Central America region, attendance during discussions with the Inter American Development Bank Conference on Guatemala, various discussions with FAO and ANAM, a local government association, Prensa Libre, a high circulation newspaper in Guatemala and Saatchi & Saatchi, to look at possible strategic alliances with the GRC, and to promote the work of the National Society and the Federation.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The GRC/delegation is striving to address all appeal objectives, however, the size of the delegation, the increasing number of activities and expectations, together with the limited capacity of the National Society, constitute a major constraint. The GRC/Federation will review the possibility of utilizing regional resources and how best to share some of our objectives with PNS; however it may be necessary to consider recruiting more staff or further reducing appeal targets.

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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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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<b>Guatemala</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.20/2002</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			15.05.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>923'090</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 28.9%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				158'107		
BRITISH - RC		11'236	USD	18'865	11.01.2002	WATSAN ACTIVITIES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				176'972	CHF	19.2%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			54'538		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			35'318		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				89'856	CHF	9.7%