

ANNUAL 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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Appeal No. 01.57/2002; Appeal target: CHF 3,745,706; Appeal coverage: 42%

Overall analysis of the programme w

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied/autonomous territories continued throughout 2002, its third year. The conflict between Palestinians and Israelis remains deep and violent. Curfews and other restrictions have had major economic and social impacts. More than 60 per cent of the population in the territories is dependent on external aid.

In this situation, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has benefited from being part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. For most of the year the National Society (NS) and its Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) partners among the only institutions able to carry out their humanitarian mission, despite major problems. The primary health centres (PHC) were closed for weeks at a time due to movement restrictions. The premises of the society were also occupied for days, and emergency medical service (EMS) and its staff members were shot at and arrested on several occasions. Two staff members on duty in ambulances were killed and a large number were wounded, some seriously.

Several appeals from the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and one joint appeal from ICRC and the International Federation's Secretariat to the involved parties did not have a major effect. It was stated clearly that what was going on was a grave violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Within this situation the PRCS was heavily involved in emergency response programmes. The ICRC and the Federation have both, together with a few participating National Societies (PNS) intensified their support to the NS. Due to the effectiveness of the PRCS, an increasing expectation was observed in the territories for it to deliver more services, outside of its objectives.

The humanitarian impact on Palestinians remained severe. It was reported that more than ten per cent of the children under five years of age suffer from acute malnutrition and more than 13 per cent suffer from chronic malnutrition. Findings related to anemia show more than 20 per cent of children under five suffer from anemia, while anemia rates of non-pregnant Palestinian women of childbearing age are above 11 per cent.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints w

Disaster Management w

Disaster Response

With the armed conflict devastating Palestinian Autonomous and Occupied Territories (Palestine A/OT), response to this man-made disaster took much of the capacity, energy and time of the staff and management of the PRCS. The Federation's delegate, who since late December 2001 was alone in the Federation's office was to a great extent engaged in responding to the emergency programme of the NS. In particular this was in relation to monitoring and supervision of the PHC programme and possible increase of capacity and response of the PRCS.

The security situation and movement restrictions for all Palestinians inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WB and GS) left the NS with overwhelming challenges. Staff members and volunteers of the PRCS were on alert 24-hours a day. In particular the staff members of the EMS had to carry the main burden. Within this difficult environment, the delegates of the ICRC and the Federation were working closely with the NS, coordinating with the Israeli authorities the access to sick people for ambulances and medical staff. Despite coordination problems remained. Two staff members of the PRCS were killed on duty and others number injured. In many cases the only way for the NS to carry out its humanitarian mission was for ambulances and health workers to be escorted by the delegates of the Federation or ICRC.

Even though the general situation has deteriorated, the PRCS has, due to good disaster preparedness been able to mobilize staff members and volunteers and run programmes in an environment and under conditions not experienced before. Much was based on the disaster preparedness plan of the NS and the experience gained through the internal processes with the vulnerability and capacity assessment carried out in 2000 with support from the Federation.

Integration of EMS and PHC services

In many villages the PRCS has a PHC centre and an EMS station. This structure was to the benefit of both programmes. Measures were taken to further strengthen the ties and the daily cooperation in terms of replenishing supplies and equipment, as well as monitoring, follow up of training, and providing health services in particular in the remote areas. The PRCS was, due to the support from its RC/RC partners, able to run almost according to the plan. In some centres the NS was providing 24 hour services. A special "medical hotline" project, partly supported by the French Red Cross, provides medical advice and support through the telephone network.

Emergency Response Unit (ERU) with field hospital

Equipping an ERU field hospital, ready for deployment in the Palestine A/OT or in the MENA region is continuing. In the current situation, with closures and severe movement restrictions it is unlikely that this field hospital will be deployed as one unit outside the territories. However, with its structure, comprised of smaller units, this project is of greatest importance for building the capacity of the NS. Training of the personnel of the ERU was conducted in the headquarters and some of the major branches. At the end of October, eight staff members of the PRCS together with staff and volunteers of its sister societies in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Norway attended an ERU workshop in Oslo, Norway.

Rapid Needs Assessment, Water & Sanitation programme, and Camp Management

The PRCS developed and is using rapid damage assessment as a tool to collect data for being able to detect growing problems in the communities, due to the border closures and poverty, and to intervene at the earliest possible stage. The society is able to alert other organizations in times of imminent need in specific pockets of the territories. Data is collected from satellites of the PRCS, and from the other components of the Movement. Water and sanitation workshops were provided, and equipment for purification of water was deployed in a number of the branches.

Decentralized emergency and logistics management

Based on the experience in the first part of the year, with reoccupation of most cities and villages in the West Bank, and strict curfew conditions, the NS strengthened its emergency and logistical

structure at headquarters and at the branch level. Operation rooms were established and people trained in disaster management. The newly established disaster management unit in the headquarters is the driving force in improving the disaster response capacity of the PRCS. Closure and other logistical constraints have made it important to adopt a regional approach as far as storage of relief supplies is concerned. Three new sub-warehouses in Hebron, Nablus and Gaza branches were equipped and stocked with non-food relief items.

Disaster Preparedness w

Objective 1: Develop skills and experience in professional response to disasters.

The PRCS gained enormous experience in how to act professionally in times of man-made disaster and armed conflict. Last autumn two EMTs of the PRCS together with two EMTs from Magen David Adom (MDA) were in Norway for three weeks, working with their Norwegian colleagues. This exchange programme was followed up with four paramedics from Norway spending three weeks in the region, two with the PRCS and two with MDA. The success of the PRCS as an effective provider of humanitarian services to people in times of conflict is due to good planning and management within the society. It is also based on the experience and development gained through building a disaster management unit in the headquarters and workshops in several branches. Similar initiatives will follow in 2003. More volunteers have joined the society and were trained in first aid and disaster response. International volunteers are working with the PRCS in different fields like health, EMS or relief programmes. These volunteers are an important contribution to the NS and the people in times of severe movement restrictions.

Objective 2: Build up resources, enabling the PRCS to carry out its part of a disaster preparedness plan.

The NS learned how best to mobilize, utilize and coordinate available resources, and at the same time develop and look for new ones. In particular through its EMS and the PHC programmes, training was continuously conducted on various levels. The EMS schools are a central places for higher education within the NS. Students from around the WB and GS receive education or refresh their knowledge. The headquarters organized a drill/exercise for its volunteers and employees. The ICRC, Federation and French Red Cross also took part in the exercise.

Humanitarian Values w

Hostility has grown between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Like all other groups, children and youth are suffering from traumatic experiences. Children have been unable to go to school. Poverty is growing rapidly. Some children and youth have been involved in the uprising. Violence in the family is a growing problem. With the objective to give an alternative and to change this negative development, the PRCS is, with financial support through the Federation, running a number of summer camps for the younger generation. The RC/RC principles and ideas are on the agenda. The branches of the PRCS in Bethlehem and Hebron are providing mental health programmes focusing on reducing violence at home and in the street. The two branches are focusing on families and family members with traumatic experiences. The PRCS is under the administration of the headquarters running a psychological support programme for EMTs.

With support from Danish Red Cross as well as from the ICRC and Federation, the PRCS established an international humanitarian law (IHL) unit in the headquarters, carrying out dissemination lectures for internal as well as external audiences.

Rehabilitation work for children and youth with disabilities was one of the most important activities of the NS for years. Under the slogan "*Ability Development*" the PRCS continued this work in 2002.

As part of the rehabilitation programme the community-based special education (CBSE) project continued with the Federation's support, focusing on disabled children in families and their integration into Palestinian society.

Health and Care w

Primary health care programme of the PRCS

The PHC programme operates 25 health centres in the WB (21) and GS (4). Support from the Federation for the last years has gradually changed, from giving financial and professional input to more logistical and monitoring support. The PNS with interest in the programme have gradually altered their support to a more bilateral approach. Started a few years ago through the Federation, the programme focuses on the preventive aspect and more community-based approach. This PHC programme, partly funded by German Red Cross, aims at strengthening the community health committees (CHC) attached to and operating out from the PHC. Meetings and training continued throughout the year. Due to logistical constraints this was carried out with various success, but as a whole the community approach is becoming increasingly vital for the programme. The objective of the CHC is to improve the health of the population through facilitation of community health education and health awareness campaigns. Health education was provided to the main target groups like elderly people, children, women, and disabled.

Women and children's health (WCH)

The WCH component of the PHC programme, supported in the past by the Australian Red Cross and currently under a bilateral agreement with French Red Cross was implemented in 12 PHC centres, and now started in another four. The project is providing training and assuring quality services to women and children. The safe motherhood component was well received by the local communities. Women are committed to improving general health and knowledge among mothers. Under this project there is also a delegate based in the PRCS headquarters.

Home based care (HBC)

The HBC is part of the integrated health care programme. This started in early 2000, and is now part of the programme in all PHC centres. The project, currently supported by the Spanish Red Cross is providing care to 40-60 patients every month from each centre. The service is mainly for patients who are bedridden without any other professional health care, partly due to closures and movement restrictions around WB and GS.

Objectives 1: Continue to operate and strengthen all primary health centres of the PRCS.

The PHC programme, from all of its health centres, was able to continue providing vital services to the people. However, for some centres it was difficult for some of the staff members, who live outside the village to work and report to duty every day. A special monitoring system was developed and is a useful tool for more coherent and controlled development in the various health centres. Due to effects of the *intifada*, a mobile health clinic service project was developed to cover neglected and closed areas. This started early in 2003 and will be supported financially and professionally through the Federation.

The situation in Palestine A/OT forced the society to assess new ways to deliver health care services to those whose movements are restricted due to curfew or through one reason or another have no access to health facilities. With about 160 volunteers around the territories, the NS was running a "medical hotline" for months, with 24-hour services provided by telephone consultations when needed. The project was partly supported by the French Red Cross on a bilateral basis.

A new project was introduced in one of the PHC centres, aiming at detecting disabilities of children at the earliest possible stage. The project, with funding from Empress Shoken Fund was developed and

is a great success. Funds will be sought for similar projects to be implemented in other PHC centres. Those who are thought to benefit from the rehabilitation programme of the PRCS will soon be included into its developmental activities. Other children are referred to various specialists for professional treatment. With some promotional materials and small funds through the Amman regional delegation a project was introduced in most centres, focusing on prevention of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and TB.

Community-Based Special Education (CBSE)

In the last three years this project for disabled children was implemented in six different rehabilitation centres of the PRCS. Self-care, gross motor muscles, fine motor muscles, expressive language, receptive language, social interaction and sensation are the main areas of focus. The objectives to enhance community involvement of people with special needs, enhance rehabilitation workers' and families' skills in working with disabled children and to change attitudes with regard to the role of disabled people in the society were an ongoing process which takes time and works in all six locations. A number of workshops and meetings with teachers and parents were carried out. The project is aiming at getting disabled children, hidden at home, out of their isolation.

Organizational Development w

Objective 1: Reduce dependency on financial support from external donors.

When preparing the appeal for 2002 some objectives were based on the assumption that the security and general situation in the territories would improve compared to the year before. However, this did not materialize, in fact it has further deteriorated, and the NS has become even more dependent on external funding.

Objective 2: Establish a long-term development plan of the PRCS.

Even though the working conditions in the WB and GS are extremely difficult, the NS is constantly focusing on developing its headquarters and branches. However, to implement a long-term developmental programme is not an easy task due to the rapidly changing environment, with the reoccupation of Palestinian towns and villages. Regular contact between the headquarters and branches has become difficult. An overall integrated approach was adopted, consolidating and utilizing available resources for the overall mission of the NS.

The new IHL department and the disaster management unit at the headquarters, have both become active and important contributors to further development of the NS. The planning unit became the focal point for preparing new applications to external donors, inside as well as outside of the RC/RC Movement. It also produced a comprehensive documentation of the inventory of the NS as well as the strategy document for the entire PRCS.

Objective 3: Develop the human resources of the National Society.

As with other programmes it became difficult to run training programmes on a central level. However, training was implemented regionally as well as in the branches and health centres using local resources or personnel from the headquarters. The EMS schools in the headquarters and Gaza location continued without major interruptions. The PRCS continued building human resources through external courses, such as BTC, EMT exchange and ERU courses.

Objective 4: Improve awareness of the role of the PRCS both internally and in its communities.

The PRCS has proven to be the most efficient and effective provider of emergency services during the uprising, resulting in an increasing number of expectations towards the NS. Even though the PRCS is aware of the danger of this trend, it is difficult to reject requests in the current crises, where needs are overwhelming, everywhere and at all times.

Objective 5: Develop the youth and volunteer programmes.

More volunteers are joining the National Society. A new database was developed, categorizing all volunteers and youth of the PRCS. This makes it easier for the NS to call on the most competent person(s) whenever needed. All new groups of supporters of the PRCS have been trained in basic first aid as well as dissemination.

Coordination and Management w

With the *intifada* in its third year, people of both sexes, of all ages, classes and backgrounds are suffering. National and international humanitarian workers have also been hampered in their daily work. Even though the Movement was not an exception in this respect, where the PRCS and its employees have suffered tremendously, the National Society has as a coordinated and cooperating group been able to keep programmes going. For the Palestinian Authority and for most organizations the difficult situation forced them to reduce programmes to the minimum, or in many cases close them. The overlap of programmes is rarely noted. The needs are far from being covered, but the security situation and closure will always be major obstacles to consider. There are meetings on a bilateral basis between different national and international actors attempting to coordinate, but what is possible to implement is often limited.

Exceptionally good cooperation and coordination were seen between the different components of the Movement. With the ICRC as the lead agency, the Federation follows up with coordinating the interventions from PNSs under the overall Strategy 2010.

Objective 1: Strengthen links between the PRCS and international partners.

The Federation's representative in the territories works closely in cooperation with the NS. Links to potential donors or partners are encouraged and facilitated. Through its web site the PRCS established many new partners or potential donors. The capacity and proficiency of the society as a reliable source of information and implementor of programmes over the past couple of years has attracted the interest of international organizations to support the PRCS.

Conclusions w

While preparing the objectives and budgets for the annual appeal for 2002 the prolonged *intifada* was not expected to continue for the whole appeal period. Also it was impossible to foresee the deterioration in 2002. Therefore the whole operation turned out to have more of an emergency character than a developmental one. Nevertheless, the NS was able to continue its development, in particular within the headquarters and the national programmes, which, to a great extent were in the spirit of integration and with a clear emergency approach. The Federation launched an emergency appeal in 2002, while the ICRC expanded its budget to the PRCS in order for the NS to be able to meet the enormous challenges experienced.

The low level of the Federation's representation in Palestine A/OT, due to financial constraints (only one delegate for the whole year) limited the capacity of the office in living up to the expectations of the NS. However, due to the excellent collaboration between all RC/RC partners in the territories, the Movement was the most successful provider of humanitarian services to the vulnerable people in the WB and GS.

For further details please contact: Evgeni Parfenov, Phone: 41 22 7304325; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: evgeni.parfenov@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>***

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.57/2002 Palestine Red Crescent Society

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PPS000, 009, 401

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	3,745,706				
less Cash brought forward	22,474				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	3,723,232				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Australian Red Cross (DNAU)	43,610				43,610
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	826				826
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	10,066				10,066
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO)	782,241				782,241
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	88,693				88,693
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	639				639
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	1,095				1,095
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)	439				439
Norway				59,959	59,959
TOTAL	927,609			59,959	987,568

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	22,474
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	927,609
CASH EXPENDITURE	-899,382

CASH BALANCE	50,701

Appeal No & title: 01.57/2002 Palestine Red Crescent Society

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PPS000, 009, 401

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	5,000					5,000
Clothing & Textiles						
Food & Seeds						
Water & sanitation	7,167					7,167
Medical & First Aid	602,605					602,605
Teaching materials	17,500					17,500
Utensils & Tools	91,667					91,667
Other relief supplies	8,750					8,750
Sub-Total	732,689					732,689
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	120,575	1,802			1,802	118,773
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	82,950					82,950
Sub-Total	203,525	1,802			1,802	201,723
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	104,267	6,002			6,002	98,265
Sub-Total	104,267	6,002			6,002	98,265
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	352,260	39,971		59,959	99,930	252,330
Personnel (national staff)	1,248,665	2,608			2,608	1,246,057
Sub-Total	1,600,925	42,579		59,959	102,538	1,498,387
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	57,890					57,890
Travel & related expenses	137,411	785			785	136,626
Information expenses	61,793	262			262	61,531
Admin./general expenses	276,628	-3,890			-3,890	280,518
External workshops & Seminars	158,550					158,550
Sub-Total	692,272	-2,843			-2,843	695,115
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	252,573	29,527			29,527	223,046
Technical services	75,607	8,840			8,840	66,767
Professional services	83,848	9,807			9,807	74,041
Sub-Total	412,028	48,174			48,174	363,853
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies		803,668			803,668	-803,668
TOTAL BUDGET	3,745,706	899,382		59,959	959,341	2,786,364