

# 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

## ***LEBANON***

### ***Palestine Red Crescent Society - Lebanon/Syria Branches***

27.09.2002

*Appeal No. 01.58/2002*

*Appeal Target CHF 3,200,735 (USD 2.14m/ EUR2.18m)*

*Programme Update No. 1*

#### ***“At a Glance”***

*Appeal coverage: 35.2%*

*Related Appeals: MENA regional programmes (01.54/2002)*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 2,078,798*

*Update: Steady progress has been made to support vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria. Donor support has been modest. There is still a need for stronger backing, particularly in the area of medical supplies to clinics and hospitals.*

#### ***Operational Developments:***

There were no in country development in the period that directly affected the humanitarian situation of the targeted beneficiaries in Lebanon and Syria. The political and security situation is however tense due to the potential for a further escalation of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict that could spread to Lebanon. The economic situation for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is still very hard due to lack of full financial and material coverage through internal and external sources. The refugees are still affected negatively as a result of the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian communities on the West Bank and Gaza.

The PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria have however managed to deliver sufficient quality services to the refugee population on a regular basis thanks to the support from the Movement and other external sources. The negative prospects of the Lebanese economy does not make the situation better.

## ***Disaster Response***

The main objective has been to support the health care structures of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria with medicines and medical supplies. 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.

In Lebanon, this appeal objective has so far reached with 40 % through the implementation of the support from ECHO through the Netherlands RC, distributing medical supply to 5 PRCS/L hospitals and 9 health centres related to the refugee camps throughout the country.

This has been implemented through the seventh ECHO project that ended 31. January and the launch of the eight support project from ECHO/Netherlands RC that started 01. June. Each project has an approx. budget for medical supply of USD 260.000 plus delegate costs. This constitutes approx. 30 - 40 % of the total consumption of medical supplies within the PRCS/Lebanon institutions.

There was also a grant of USD 35.000 for medical supplies from the Swedish RC in the reporting period. Besides this there has been no other support to this appeal program for PRCS Lebanon. No support has been received either for the PRCS branch covering the Palestinian refugees in Syria.

Through support from the Netherlands RC, a health education program has been launched during the last part of the reporting period, mainly containing planning for the implementation in 2002. The program is implemented by a project co-ordinator recruited from the Netherlands RC.

## ***Humanitarian Values***

Humanitarian Values contains a separate program of First Aid Voluntary Training for youth that will be launched in the upcoming reporting period due to the late incoming funding in the reporting period.

The First Aid Voluntary Project, based on co-operation between LRCS and PRCS/Lebanon, has only a minor budget intended to be a starter for further expansion through appeal support in 2003. The program is aimed at training first aid trainers who will continue the community based first aid training throughout the refugee communities in Lebanon. The project will then be integrated into the health education project and with a separate project within Humanitarian Values for the next appeal period. The program will fulfil several objectives such as mobilising youth, enhancing disaster preparedness, develop co-operation between the two NSs and integrate humanitarian values with the first aid training itself.

## ***Health and Care***

### ***Rehabilitation of health facilities:***

One main objective for 2002 is to finalise the support to rehabilitation and reorientation of the service lay out in the 5 hospitals and 9 health clinics run by PRCS Lebanon, (objectives 1 and 3). The main components of these objective have been planned and prioritised during the reporting period and finalising the rehabilitation of the air conditioning and training centre of the main referral hospital, Hamshari Hospital in Saida. The refurbishing of at least two or three health centres is planned for the second half of 2002. The remaining health centres will not be supported in 2002, but given priority in 2003.

Due to late incoming support, (May/June), only the work at Hamshari hospital has been completed. The remaining funding will be utilised in the next reporting period, focusing on primary health care (PHC) clinics and as such improving the conditions for curative and preventive activities within the health centres.

The support so far is not sufficient, covering only 25-30 % of the needs. The institutions will however still be able to provide quality services despite the lack of support to the mentioned objectives.

### ***Health Education:***

During the last four years the PRCS/L implemented a reconstruction plan for its hospitals and primary health care centres that rehabilitated the buildings and provided new equipment and medical supplies. The improvement made in equipment and facilities is considered to be relatively adequate, though the human resource performance and level within preventive health care has vast room for upgrading and development.

During 2000 PRCS/L made a study, sponsored by the IFRC/Lebanon Delegation, of Palestinian refugee health needs in Lebanon. One conclusion among others was to provide a well planned and organised health education program.

The conclusion of PRCS/L was subsequently to give priority to health education within the context of the IFRC appeal 2002/2003. This was supported through the Netherlands RC with a 3-year program that was launched in January 2002.

It is anticipated that the health education program alone will reach 20.000 individuals directly in 2002 with an objective to improve the health status of the Palestinian refugees living in refugee camps in Lebanon by implementing a health education program through the PRCS/L health care structures. The funding came late in the period, (May/June 2002) and the time was used for preparations such as: selecting health educators with a medical background in each of the 5 main areas where refugees are settled, to select one health instructor with the relevant background to set-up and implement a project on HIV/AIDS and STD, to collect and develop health education materials from various sources, to design leaflets for the beneficiaries to be taken home after the lectures and to provide the needed office and teaching equipment and materials for the health centres and hospitals. As such, the preparations were nearly finished in the reporting period and the health education lectures will be launched in July/August 2002.

### ***Organisational development:***

The PRCS/Lebanon in co-operation with IFRC launched a comprehensive four-year training program through the appeal in 2000. This has been ongoing in a smooth and successful manner with a coverage so far of 70 % of the 2002 appeal.

The funding came late for the program, (May/June) so within the reporting period only 2 of 13 training courses have been implemented with a total number of 50 students. The program itself will continue during the next reporting period, covering subjects such as management of medical services, quality assurance for health personnel, research in the health sector, occupational health and safety, patient and family education. Participants are medical doctors, nurses and paramedical professions coming from all Palestinian communities in Lebanon and with participation from PRCS Syria with a number of nearly 300 in 2002.

The appeal has been responded to by the Norwegian, Swedish and Netherlands RC and support is expected as well to come from various embassies in Lebanon. So far the individual training objectives have been successfully achieved, which is confirmed through the positive feedback received from the students and the health institutions.

### ***Regional Co-operation***

The country delegation has participated in one regional meeting, general knowledge sharing and regional planning as part of MENA. The delegation has as such been an active asset to the regional team that is covering the MENA region.

The regional program activity in Lebanon has witnessed a positive development in the reporting period, with 2 HIV/AIDS projects for youth and professional staff in PRCS/Lebanon. PRCS staff have participated in MENA activities within HIV/AIDS (Damascus), Psychological Support Program (Amman) and Basic Training Course (BTC) (Amman).

The delegation in Beirut has co-ordinated closely with the Amman based French Red Cross' activities in Lebanon throughout the reporting period.

### **Co-ordination and Management**

The main objective of the CD has been to contribute to the development of the capacities of LRCS and the PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria. The delegation has as such been an instrument for promotion, co-ordination of support, provision of professional guidance to the NS and participation in the regional MENA team activities through the RD in Amman.

The main challenge has been to cover the core costs of the country delegation, with only one PNS, the Norwegian RC giving substantial contribution. This situation has led the regional team to analyse alternatives to the IFRC structure in Lebanon for the future and a decision has been made to continue with HoD, a project co-ordinator for ECHO and Health education with PRCS/L and a minimum of local staff.

Key activities have been the planning, co-ordination and implementation of programs, contacts and co-ordination with ICRC and other humanitarian organisations, plus the UN, EU and embassies. A security assessment was performed in June by the Secretariat and the outcome was positive.

### **Outstanding needs**

For PRCS Lebanon the main outstanding needs are related to the DR component of the appeal, i.e. support to medical supplies for the hospitals and the clinics. This is the main activity performed by PRCS in Lebanon and is crucial to the refugee population. PRCS/L has an agreement with UNRWA that covers nearly 50 % of the hospital beds, which gives a predictable income - however without any surplus. 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/L activities, with no margins or reserve from UNRWA, PRCS/L 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.

*For further details please contact: Evgeni Parfenov, Phone : 41 22 730 4251; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: parfenov@ifrc.org or Cynthia Petrigh, Phone 4312, email: petrigh@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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

John Horekens  
Director  
External Relations

Dr. Ali Said Ali  
Head  
MENA Department

NAME:	PRCS: Lebanon / Syria branches						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.58/2002	PLEDGES RECEIVED						20.09.2002
DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>							<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					<b>3'200'735</b>		<b>35.2%</b>
CFCASH	CASH CARRIED FORWARD				0		
ECNS	ECHO/NETHERLANDS - RC (06004)		380'000	EUR	560'994	19.06.2002	MEDICAL SERVICES
NET	NETHERLANDS - RC		77'398	EUR	113'287	27.02.2002	DISTRIBUTION COSTS
NOR	NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'863'374	NOK	360'213	20.05.2002	ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT, REHABILITATION PHC, HV/YOUTH, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWE	SWEDISH - RC		500'000	SEK	79'050	28.05.2002	MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TRAINING, PROGRAMME SUPPORT, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
UAE	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5'000	USD	8'393	10.03.2002	EDUCATION PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH					1'121'937	CHF	35.1%