

# 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

## AFGHANISTAN

2 September, 2004

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### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.55/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 30 June, 2004; Appeal coverage: 41 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 6,511,975 (USD 5,151,879 or EUR 4,239,567).**

*[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)*

**Appeal target: CHF 11,090,663 (USD 8,494,084 or EUR 7,180,746)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [01.55/04](#)**

**Programme summary:** To date, 89.3 percent of the total appeal coverage has been utilised towards planned activities. While efforts continue to solicit the required funding for full realisation of the planned targets, vital services such as health in the 49 Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) clinics, response to disasters and emergencies, and key organisational development endeavours will remain priority areas. The appeal may have to be revised at the end of September to reflect funding levels.

Planned closures and conversions of ARCS health clinics were postponed due to the delays in implementation of the Ministry of Health's *Basic Package for Health Services* (BPHS) by contracted non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Instead, two post-conflict reconstruction experts conducted a study on ARCS clinics. The study recommended the identification of community needs and demands for ARCS clinics to be in coordination with the Ministry of Health at both the central and provincial levels, as it corroborates with the contracted performance-based partnership agreement of NGOs.

ARCS clinics continue to provide extensive service to communities. Health emergency mobile units (EMUs) responded to a pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak in Herat province, treating 18 cases, vaccinating 386 children while treating over 15,000 outreach patients for other conditions.

Through community participation the environmental health project achieved nearly 73 percent of its annual target. A total of 144 tube wells were constructed in Herat and Kandahar via the community-based first aid programme (CBFA). In the past three months, a further 384 volunteers joined the CBFA programme. There are now almost 17,000 CBFA volunteers across the country providing vital services to people based in their villages.

ARCS has set up a membership-based committee organisation to commence in the society. Though the membership-based committee organisation set up by ARCS has not progressed in the past quarter because of the ongoing constitutional review process, it will be a focus within the next three months.

*The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) for Afghanistan has been approved and the national society now has a clear mandate for its disaster management strategy, policy and planning.*

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## **Operational developments**

Following events of the past three months, security in Afghanistan has become more volatile. Among the more serious of the security incidents were the murders of two Afghans and three expatriate workers of the international non-governmental organisation Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF), on 2 June. They were gunned down when their vehicle was ambushed in the Qadis district of Badghis province. This brings the number of aid workers killed to 18 in the first five months of 2004 as compared with 13 killed during 2003. MSF has since suspended its operations nationwide, pending an imminent withdrawal.

There has been a significant increase in incidents in locations previously regarded as relatively safe. NGOs are now being targeted, with 11 Chinese construction workers killed in Kunduz and other agencies are beginning to withdraw from some areas. There is an upsurge of anti-election activities (killing of women election workers in Jalalabad and registered women voters on a bus in Kandahar, and attacks on registration centres), anti-foreigner/NGO campaigns, extensive night letter propaganda campaigns, letter/parcel/gift bombs and a trend toward kidnappings/killings for money, amongst other anti-government activities.

Military action by coalition force intensified in the south and eastern areas of country, with reports of numerous killings of Taliban elements. At the same time, neighbouring Pakistan experienced serious security deterioration in Quetta (where some NGOs have pulled out), Karachi, northern areas and South Waziristan, with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offering to help Afghans in South Waziristan to repatriate if they wish.

To complement the existing force of 6,500 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at the end of June agreed to provide an additional 3,500 troops, to address the serious security situation.

The first democratic elections, rescheduled for September 2004, have again been postponed and the date of 9 October 2005 has been announced for presidential elections with parliamentary elections planned in the spring of 2005. The UN identified a number of possible benchmarks earlier in the year to determine whether the conditions for free and fair elections could be met in time for elections provisionally planned for September, among these was 70 percent of the potential electorate have registered to vote. All indications suggests this is likely to be met. By the end of June, more than 5.6 million Afghans had registered out of an estimated electorate of 9.5 to 10 million, of which 38.2 percent are women. These numbers show that close to 90,000 Afghans register to vote each day, with 24 political parties registered.

The main phase of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) continues in Kabul, Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar Sharif and Baghlan and is envisaged to start soon in Takhar, Jalalabad, Herat and Bamyan. However, the

benchmark that 40 percent of the estimated 40,000 to 50,000 militia forces would be disarmed and demobilised by the end of June has not been met. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) expressed hope that the disarmament process which has demobilised almost 25 percent of the militia, will accelerate in the months leading up to the election.

Substantial numbers of Afghan refugees have opted to return to their country in recent months. UNHCR reports at the end of June showed 172,000 Afghans had returned back to their homeland from Pakistan this year, together with 150,000 from Iran. The Iranian figure includes 50,000 spontaneous returnees and the rate of return from Iran nearly doubled since May.

UNICEF recently reported that the significant increase in urban populations brought about by high numbers of returnees in the last two years placed a particular strain on the water and sanitation systems in Afghanistan's major cities, with households increasingly using contaminated ground water from shallow wells for drinking and food preparation. The population of Kabul has risen from 700,000 to three million since the beginning of 2002.

Agro-meteorological information indicates that inadequate snowfall early in the year led to drought in the northwest, west and southwest regions as well as part of the central region. However, normal conditions for the wheat crop are said to exist in some parts of the east, centre and north. The World Food Programme reinforced this picture of growing drought conditions referring to severe food insecurity in certain rural areas and drought "in expanding areas of Afghan territory".

Despite limitations on movements to the project sites due to security, much has been achieved. ARCS was able to implement all the planned activities by targeting safer zones and strategically involving the beneficiaries in many aspects.

## **Health and Care**

**Overall Goal:** Vulnerability to health hazards and emergencies in Afghanistan is further reduced.

**Program Objective:** To strengthen the capacity of ARCS to contribute to the improvement of the health status of vulnerable people and to respond effectively to disasters through health interventions in Afghanistan.

**Basic Health Centres Project Objectives:** To provide healthcare services to the vulnerable people of Afghanistan through ARCS health facilities.

### **Progress/Achievement**

Further analysis of the clinic assessment survey on closing and conversion of ARCS clinics undertaken during the first quarter was completed. However, the delay in the functioning of the basic package for health service (BPHS) by the contracted NGOs postponed the implementations of ARCS clinics. Instead, a sustainability study of ARCS clinics conducted in April by two experts on post-conflict reconstruction recommended that the identification of community needs and demands for the ARCS clinics be coordinated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) at both the central and provincial levels in corroboration with the contracted performance-based partnership agreement (PPA) NGOs. The conclusions were derived after the mission's meetings with the ministry and other organisations involved in health, analysis of the PPA progress, discussions with ARCS leadership as well as a workshop involving ARCS health staff from HQ and regions that took place during this study.

The study advises that the decision on closing a number of clinics be taken after the identification survey on the needs and demands for ARCS clinics is conducted later this year. With the Federation's support, ARCS is in the process of developing a plan of action in reaction to the study which will address the issue of sustainability as follows:

- Determine the demand (three months duration – earliest starting date 1 July)
- Assess local capacities for participation of the community in the ARCS clinics (to be started during the fourth quarter of 2004 and completed in the second quarter of 2005)
- Pilot community involvement (to be started in the third quarter of 2005)

- Build community capacities (to be started in the second quarter of 2005)
- Review the capacity of ARCS to support community involvement (scheduled for the last quarter 2005)
- Constructing a vision for a sustainable service (to be started in mid-2006)

The 49 ARCS clinics maintained normal clinic activities rendering support to the needy by providing consultation and treatment, health education and essential drugs. Immunisation services to children and women of child-bearing age are also provided in 42 clinics while antenatal and postnatal care and child growth monitoring are offered in 35 clinics. Family planning services are offered in 32 clinics. All the clinics participated in the national immunisation days (NIDs) that took place from 19 to 21 April.

During this quarter, ARCS saw and treated over 180,000 patients with common diseases. Over 35,000 people received individual health education and over 149,000 people attended group health education sessions. Approximately 8,000 women received antenatal services, 1,800 women received postnatal services and around 9,000 children attended growth monitoring. Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) made over 13,000 home visits to pregnant and lactating women and attended around 2,400 deliveries. More than 9,000 couples received family planning advice and supplies.

The table below lists the cumulative figures of attendances and different services to the vulnerable communities during the reporting period.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Total</b>
Patients seen	63,808	50,517	67,869	182,194
Laboratory tests	2,417	2,343	3,968	8,728
Group health education	55,486	42,893	50,802	149,181
Individual health education	13,916	9,730	12,050	35,696
Antenatal visits	2,567	2,755	3,138	8,460
Postnatal visits	778	420	602	1,800
Children growth monitoring	3,230	2,943	2,895	9,068
BCG	3,603	3,364	3,089	10,056
DPT and polio	11,036	9,771	11,263	32,070
DPT and polio (3 <sup>rd</sup> dose)	3,447	3,295	3,402	10,144
Measles	3,171	2,944	2,927	9,042
Tetanus (women)	11,527	11,428	11,627	34,582
Family planning clients	3,478	2,957	2,910	9,345
TBA deliveries	840	830	707	2,377
TBA home visits	4,353	4,123	4,915	13,391
<b>Totals</b>	<b>183,657</b>	<b>150,313</b>	<b>182,164</b>	<b>516,134</b>

Further contacts were made with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the inclusion of ARCS clinics staff in the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) and tuberculosis (TB) direct observed treatment shortcourse (DOTS) training. The goal for the next three years is to have all ARCS clinics offering IMCI, DOTS and malaria control programs in line with BPHS standards.

Primary and refresher trainings were provided by the ARCS clinics for TBAs to increase their capabilities in assisting mothers during delivery as well as giving them appropriate advices during pregnancy and after delivery. Twenty new TBAs were trained in Ghazni in May and 20 more were trained in Kandahar. In Mazar, refresher training was conducted for 20 TBAs with a family planning session for women doctors. Herat also conducted a health education workshop for the health educators of the clinics in the province and a refresher course for 20 TBAs during June. In addition, a three-day workshop took place during the first week of June to introduce clinic staff from Herat and Kandahar regions to the new health management information system.

Regular supervision and monitoring of the clinics continued in spite of increased security. Branch presidents were encouraged to get further involved in the clinics activities and ensure better integration of clinics and ARCS CBFA volunteers.

### **Impact**

Funding constraints meant that the implementation of the first phase of BPHS is focusing on the rural and most under-served areas. Other areas will be targeted as more funding is secured over the three-year period for this programme.

Since the majority of ARCS clinics are located in urban areas, at least for the initial phase of BPHS, these services may provide the only access to medical care for many of the communities in which they exist. Many of the ARCS clinics provide the only access to healthcare for vulnerable people. There is confidence in the community that national society clinics will provide consultation by qualified and dedicated doctors and that appropriate drugs will be available free of charge. Health education is one of the most important health activities to advise and teach people how to prevent ill health and when to seek medical attention urgently. There is an increased emphasis on nutritional education in 2004 which is crucial in the country where the under-five mortality is 257/1,000 live births and stunting from chronic malnutrition is estimated to affect up to 59 percent of Afghan children.

In a country with a maternal mortality rate of 1,600/100,000 live births and an infant mortality rate of 165/1,000 live births, and where majority of women deliver with no trained health person in attendance, antenatal attendance and TBA services are vital. When mothers bring their children for growth monitoring they also receive advice on nutrition and other important health messages. Children showing signs of malnutrition are seen by the doctors to treat any medical causes and then referred to nutrition centres where available. With the alarmingly high prevalence of chronic malnutrition, the synergy of monitoring, nutritional education and IMCI initiatives are receiving increasing importance in all ARCS clinics.

Immunisation is one of the most effective preventive measures. Children can be protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles and tuberculosis, while pregnant women who have received the tetanus vaccine not only protect themselves but also their unborn child. This vaccine is offered to all women of child-bearing age. Family planning impacts positively on the health of those families who are able to space their children, thus ensuring that women have time to recover from one pregnancy before embarking on another. Expansion of expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) to all clinics will ensure that the national society makes a greater impact on increasing immunisation coverage. Out of 49 clinics, 42 now offer EPI.

As CBFA and health teams continue to work in a more intergraded way, greater trust and understanding slowly builds up between volunteers and the clinics, which improves services delivery to patients referred to clinics by volunteers. The national society is working towards setting up clinics that has volunteers following up on patients, particularly poor attendees for immunisation or antenatal clinics.

### **Constraints**

A recently completed ARCS/Federation survey of national society clinics has identified clinics that may be redundant to MoH when the BPHS is implemented. During the sustainability study conducted in April, it was recommended that another survey be planned jointly with MoH and other relevant organisations before any decision is made on closing clinics. Conversion of 10 clinics into basic health centres (BHCs) under the BPHS was postponed until the up and running of BPHS by the contracted NGOs in around three years' time.

United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA) could not source enough reproductive health kit supplies; consequently it could only provide 20 percent of the normal requirements. ARCS and all the organisations which depended entirely on these supplies have to find other means to meet the unexpected shortfall, which affected ARCS clinics during the reporting period.

Other constraints include the lack of qualified staff, especially women, offering these services in all clinics. A proactive recruitment drive with transportation provided has had some success in attracting the appropriate staff, but like the MoH, all health facilities continue to have difficulties meeting these needs because of the cultural sensibilities of the Afghan population.

For malnourished children, there are referral centres in most regional capitals. However, the difficulty of finding qualified staff is still a problem for malnourished children in more remote areas.

## Emergency Mobile Units Project (EMU)

**Objective:** To respond to disasters and emergencies through mobile medical units in coordination with the ARCS disaster response unit and in close collaboration with other partners, and also provide community outreach services to under-served communities.

### Progress/Achievements

A six-day training workshop for emergency mobile units (EMUs) staff was conducted in Kabul in the month of May and was attended by staff from Kabul and Jalalabad. This follows similar trainings held at the beginning of the year for Herat and Mazar staff. The first four days of the workshop focused on the theory while the last two days concentrated on field exercises, such as setting up of a camp and using water and sanitation equipment.



In June, the mobile teams in Herat participated in the response to a pertussis outbreak in Kohsan district of Herat province, treating 18 cases of pertussis and vaccinating 386 children. All mobile teams were active in the NIDs during April in corroboration with other health service stakeholders. Their participation in the social mobilisation before, during and after the NIDs monitoring was applauded by the partners.

During the second quarter, the mobile teams treated over 15,000 patients in remote areas without access to primary healthcare facilities, providing health education to most of these people individually or in group sessions.

The figures below show the monthly attendance breakdown:

	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Total</b>
Patients seen	5,228	7,463	3,063	15,754

There are two mobile teams in each region, with second teams being established recently in Kabul and Jalalabad. With support from the Federation, ARCS is still trying to set up a cold chain to offer outreach vaccinations through EMUs to remote areas. They continue to keep contact with the MoH and UNICEF for provision of equipments and supplies with no considerable progress to date.

### Impact

The training for EMUs will further improve their quality of service when responding to the health emergencies which in turn contributes to the improvement of the lives of the country's vulnerable population.

The mobile teams work in remote areas where they provide health services to the most vulnerable people who otherwise have no access to health services in their areas. The ARCS volunteers trained in CBFA cooperate with the mobile teams to make their villagers utilise the teams in ways that effectively better the lives of the villagers.

### Constraints

Deteriorating security in recent months is a constraint that limits the mobility and deployment of the units in some circumstances. Loss of key staff is another constraint, for example when the doctor of a mobile team in Mazar quit his job in June and was replaced only after two weeks.

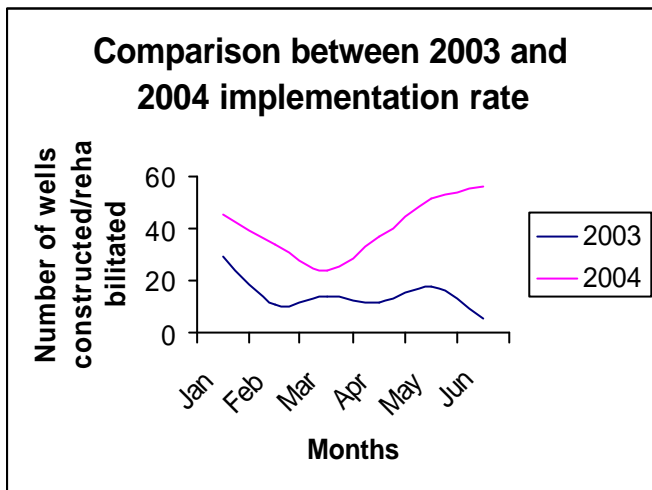
In Kandahar and Herat, the mobile teams, despite many contacts and discussions with MoH and UNICEF, are still not able to establish a cold chain for immunisation programmes in remote areas.

## Environmental Health (Water and Sanitation) Project

**Objective:** To supply clean water to vulnerable populations and increase the availability of sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion, integrated with community-based health and DM programmes.

### Progress/Achievements

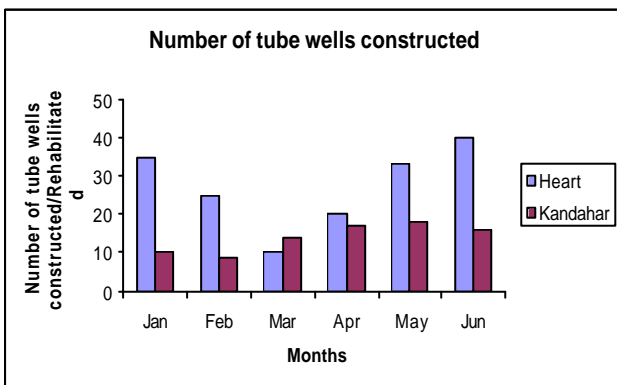
Security issues and funding constraints mean planned activities will be significantly reduced in the coming quarter. However, as shown in the implementation rate graph below, excellent progress has been made in the year to date, largely due to the willingness of communities to participate in projects. Greater community involvement was a deliberate strategy which has paid dividends.



The recruitment of an ARCS water and sanitation (watsan) officer was a major breakthrough, providing much needed monitoring in the targeted Kandahar districts of the area of operation.

Additionally, the local communities realised that development was not as forthcoming as most of the international organisations were restricted from going to the field. However, the locals developed their water resources through community-based activities and the implementation process has been very smooth. This, together with the community motivation, has contributed to nearly 72.8 percent achievement rate of the target for the year.

The above chart illustrates number of wells constructed/rehabilitated during the six months in Herat and Kandahar. A total of 144 tube wells were constructed in Herat and Kandahar during the period under review. A total of 51 tube wells were constructed in Kandahar while 93 tube wells were drilled in Herat.



Kandahar region continued with the training of women volunteers involved in the house-to-house hygiene promotion while Herat engaged the newly-trained hygiene promoters in both the house-to-house visits and public awareness campaigns. A total of 2,402 women and children benefited from hygiene sessions conducted by the Kandahar team. Some of the sessions were conducted in the conservative district of Dand, by the newly-trained community hygiene promoters and 15 women participated in the sessions.

Hygiene promotion activities also gained momentum in Herat region during the month of June with the engagement of women volunteers. A total of 421 women and children benefited from the sessions held in Peek village.

Latrine construction was also one of the activities which gained momentum, especially in Herat where there was a huge demand from the villagers. However, only a few latrines were constructed owing to budget limitations. A total of 50 latrines were constructed during the reporting period in Herat province while Kandahar managed to distribute 75 slabs to the beneficiaries.

### Impact

Health improvements in the targeted locations are easily visible as the behaviour of the communities has greatly changed; communities no longer have long queues at water points and all waste is properly disposed of. One major significant impact is that communities now take a keen interest in preventing waterborne diseases. A good example is that of Peek village which has been a victim of dysentery outbreak in the past and now after the provision of

water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion can boast of a waterborne disease-free environment. Figures at the health centres indicate that there has been a downward trend of waterborne diseases in the last three months.

The introduction of women volunteers conducting hygiene sessions in the villages is a major force which greatly contributed to the improved well-being of the targeted communities. It is a well known fact that women and children are catalysts in the family for hygiene-related behavioural change.

### **Constraints**

The continued deterioration of security has made it impossible to carry out monitoring visits and organise meeting with the targeted communities. The lack of funds and commitment from donors to support the project has led to the suspension of activities except for hygiene promotion. Environmental health activities are ideal for prevention of outbreak of diseases and also promote the health well-being of the targeted communities.

## **Community-Based First Aid Project**

**Objective:** To deliver preventive health services such as first aid, health education, HIV awareness, participation in immunisation campaigns – particularly in rural communities – through community-based volunteers linked to branches and health centres to continue the provision of timely responses to disasters and disease outbreaks.

### **Progress/Achievements**

The focus on reorganisation and reorientation of trained volunteers continued in the western and northern areas and the programme is now active in 25 of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Training is progressing according to the set up plan for 2004 in each of the provinces. The programme was expected to expand into a further three provinces (Paktia, Kunduz, and Bamyan) but has not yet been accomplished following funding constraints.



During the second quarter, a total of 384 volunteers covering 108 villages (comprising of 344 male and 40 female volunteers) have been trained. This brings the total number of CBFA volunteers to 16,912 across the country, organised in 797 groups in 166 districts and covering 13,727 villages of 25 provinces. Most of the trained volunteers have received first aid kits with material.

Team leaders and trainers follow up sessions targeted over 12,000 volunteers, of which 8,000 participated in the gatherings conducted at village and district levels. Volunteers discussed activities and progress, including provision of first aid or advice to almost 113,000 people and health education, mine and disaster awareness to over 203,000 individuals.

No progress was made in this quarter on the goal of doubling the existing number of 71 ARCS first aid corners due to the socioeconomic and security situation.

The CBFA volunteers continued to spread HIV/AIDS awareness through their health education activities in their respective areas. Simple messages on transmission and prevention are passed on to the communities to sensitise them on HIV/AIDS issues.

### **Impact**

The team approach continues to enhance the profile and visibility of volunteers and improves the scope for communicating health messages. The continued provision of timely first aid, coupled with relevant health messages, will in the long run contribute to increasing the coping capacities of the vulnerable in the country.

Communities in remote area are benefiting from the health education activities of CBFA volunteers, gaining knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from common diseases and conditions such as diarrhoea, malaria and HIV/AIDS. There is also high awareness of the importance and benefits of immunisation for children and mothers, and women volunteers are also having a significant impact as they are able to reach the women in families.

### **Constraints**

Insecure working environments, high rate of transportation costs, and a lack of adequate funding for follow up activities are the major constraints. Trainers cannot reach all team leaders monthly, conduct group meetings with every trained volunteers or refill first aid kits on time, which could lead to de-motivation of the volunteers.

## **Disaster Management (DM)**

**Programme goal:** Vulnerability of communities to natural and man-made disasters is reduced.

**Programme objective:** Reduce impact of disasters on vulnerable communities in disaster prone areas by strengthening their disaster preparedness and raising community awareness through well structured ARCS Disaster Management Department.

### **Progress/achievements**

The Government National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) for Afghanistan has finally been approved after a long consultative process. ARCS has been given several roles providing a clear mandate for its disaster management strategy, policy and planning. The ARCS-DM programme will therefore adopt a comprehensive approach, to enable the national service to embrace a more inclusive policy-making and programming procedure that encompasses all aspects of disaster management (disaster prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation).

As indicated in the previous report, the ARCS Herat branch organised a second exercise on the local disaster emergency fund (DEF) in Ghoryan district of Herat province where the community contributions reached AFS 70,000 (approx. USD 1,500) in addition to 1,400 kg of rice and assorted non-food items. Similar actions have also taken place in Jalalabad along with two others planned in the next quarter.

Volunteer training and community awareness on disasters within target groups in disaster-prone activities have started in two Herat schools.

The community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) director took part in the second global vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) training of trainers organised by the secretariat in Spain, which was a continuous effort to improve human resource skills and ARCS capacities.

National headquarters key staff and regional disaster management supervisors participated in the quarterly disaster management meeting held in June. Activities undertaken, projected activities for the last half of 2004, and directions and priorities for 2005 were among the issues discussed.

A two-day training workshop for the disaster response unit team organised by ARCS-DM drew a total of 15 national society staff of diverse profiles trained in operating standards, deployment procedures, needs assessment and designs of action plans for emergency relief operations. The training is part of ARCS/Federation strategy to improve the rapid response capacity.

As a precursor to an effective disaster management policy and plan at national and branch level, VCAs are in progress in districts/communities. A VCA was completed in Arghandab district of Zabul province where 10 villages have been identified as disaster-prone areas. Around 3,000 families are considered to be living in a high risk area. Likewise, during the reporting period VCAs have also been conducted in four areas of Adraskan district in Herat province, where 86 villages representing 15,800 were found to be living in high disaster risk areas.

In coordination with the government department of disaster preparedness (DPP), joint VCAs are currently taking place in central provinces of Logar and Kapisa and have started in the eastern region.

The ARCS leadership approved a new DM structure after protracted consultations with the Federation. The new structure consists of 29 staff members, including five regional DM supervisors, as opposed to the previous one

which had 57 staff. With the support of the Federation, the national society is now in process of redefining the roles and revising job descriptions of the new structure.

In response activities, ARCS, through its branches, assisted more than 33 families with food and non-food items following a windstorm in Zabul province. Similarly, 175 families in Sar-e-Pul and 75 families in Kunduz provinces affected by floods and landslides also received the much-need assistance. The national society also completed the distribution of baby parcels donated by Swedish Red Cross last year which benefited 1,595 families to four regions of Afghanistan. The plan for distribution of Icelandic donation to internally displaced persons (IDPs) around Kabul is underway.

In continuation with the improvement of communication and information, four computer sets and radio equipment were procured and installed in ARCS branches for disaster management activities as efforts continue on the prospect of getting the national society connected to the internet.

The ARCS participated in the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation consultative group meetings on IDPs and returnees. The information received from both government and UNHCR regarding maps and locations of population on the move in Afghanistan was quite significant in national society efforts to position itself in line with the population movement (PM) activities in the Manila action plan. An ARCS rolling out workshop on PM for the key stakeholders is scheduled to take place in early July 2004.

### **Impact**

Recruited and trained volunteers/communities will enable the national society to approach communities and implement successful risk reduction measures involving the direct participation of people most likely to be exposed to hazards. Greater sustainability will come about if communities are involved in planning, decision-making and operational activities at all levels of responsibilities. This is an on-going process and the real impact will be measurable in the longer term.

The response activities undertaken in assisting the vulnerable families with essential relief supplies will ease the disaster impact on affected communities. These activities enable ARCS to increase its response capabilities at various levels. The new disaster management structure will further build a sustainable and strong preparedness and response capacity in the national society to better assist vulnerable communities.

### **Constraints**

The lack of adequate qualified human resources in the national society is still an issue and discussion with national society management on a realistic compromise is ongoing.

Delay in donor response to the disaster management appeal coupled with some operational constraints, dictated a revision in the work plan. This has led to the suspension of construction of two new strategically located regional warehouses in Herat and Kandahar. Given these constraints, the targets set in 2004 have been over-ambitious and although significant progress has been made on a number of important issues, the programme will concentrate on a process of consolidation and refinement of certain activities.

## **Youth and Humanitarian Values (HV)**

**Goal:** The ARCS' humanitarian message contributes to reduced vulnerability of Afghans to violence and intolerance.

**Objective:** The capacity of ARCS to advocate and act for tolerance and humanitarian values among the community is increased.

### **Progress/Achievements**

A two-hour session on humanitarian values was facilitated by the Federation during the IRC dissemination workshop held in June in Kabul for 10 ARCS disseminators from central region branches. The participants valued the tenets of the principles and values and pledged to apply them to their lives.

The Herat youth team conducted two first aid courses where 22 youth volunteers took part. First aid bags were also distributed to 15 schools in the province. Youth volunteers participated in the ARCS-DM campaign for the establishment of the ARCS charity boxes and were encouraged to contribute to the noble cause and other students followed suit.

Up to 50 young men and 50 young women donning ARCS t-shirts and waving ARCS flags welcomed guests during the world health day commemoration in Herat.

Youth volunteers from all regions celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ARCS and Red Cross/Red Crescent (RCRC) international day on 9 May with the theme "Stop Discrimination". In Mazar, a youth rally comprised of 1,500 youth and teacher volunteers paraded through the city carrying banners with messages of tolerance. Poems and sketches on ARCS's humanitarian activities and roles of youth in bringing peace and coexistence were part of commemoration activities. Beside these, the youth visited the ICRC orthopedics centre in Mazar city where they cheered patients and distributed 75 gift packages. Similarly, they visited the Mazar ARCS Marastoon "Home for the Destitute". For RCRC day, a local language magazine produced and distributed to participants included various topics on the Movement as well as peace messages. A musical show by the youth volunteers marked the climax of the celebrations.



*Youth volunteers distributing gifts on the occasion of RCRC day to the patients of Mazar orthopedic hospital.*

The youth leaders in Kabul participated in the opening of Aaisha Durani High School, where the German Foreign Minister was also in attendance.

Youth volunteers in Kabul and Jalalabad applied first aid to 124 school students who had sustained minor injuries and youth volunteers from five schools of Kabul city participated and assisted in the Afghan national teachers' day celebration. They distributed ARCS calendars, newsletters, and magazines to guests, teachers and students.

Twenty youth volunteers in Kabul participated in the national vaccination campaign and participated in planting and watering the trees and greenward an activity which was appreciated by the Ministry of Education.

The Kabul youth club's inauguration on 12 June drew more than 220 teachers and youth volunteers from 98 schools. The president of ARCS and representatives of the Federation and ICRC were present during the occasion. The youth clubs in both Mazar and Kabul are now running successfully, where 100 youth volunteers participate daily in club activities. They are imparted with knowledge ranging from the Movement Fundamental Principles, English language, computer, tailoring, drawing and entertainment tools.

The head of ARCS youth department visited Mazar region where he held discussions with the representative of the Ministry of Education, Federation, ICRC, ARCS programme officers, teacher volunteers and around 200 youths on the importance of the youth and humanitarian values in the Afghan community.

As the youth programme is active with numerous events taking place in schools, youth officers and their assistants held monthly monitoring visits and meetings with youth and teacher volunteers in all regions. First aid materials are distributed regularly to the youth leaders in the schools.

Three teacher volunteers from Mazar region's youth office travelled to Herat in an exchange visit to share ideas on volunteerism and to learn about each others' activities.

A commission has been designated in ARCS headquarters to organise a summer camp for youths in Kabul in the last week of August. The camp aims at to bring together over 250 youth aged 10 to 13 and their guardians from around the country.

### **Impact**

As youth are the future leaders and catalysts to advocate tolerance, coexistence and disseminate positive messages in Afghan society which was ravaged by decades of war and faction fighting, the Afghan Red Crescent youth programme continues to be highly valued by the Ministry of Education. The programme continues to enhance the image and profile of the national society as a vibrant part of the civil society.

### **Constraints**

Lack of adequate funding has impeded the expansion of the programme and limited its activities to follow-up monitoring and encouragement of youth volunteers to participate in community welfare services.

As security affected the progress of the programme in Kandahar, the newly recruited youth assistant could only limit activities within three schools.

The understanding of the humanitarian values concept in the national society is still low and more efforts are being made to increase the knowledge of the programme within the ARCS.

The price for the construction of Mazar youth clubs is five times more than the amount allotted by the budget which may affect the project's launch as per design by the Mazar ARCS branch until more funds are identified. Meanwhile, activities continue in rented premises.

## **Organisational Development (OD)**

**Overall Goal:** ARCS has improved its capacity in service delivery to vulnerable people.

**Programme Objective:** The capacity of the ARCS to implement sustainable programmes has been increased.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Support for ARCS towards preparation of the national society's strategic development plan for 2005/8 continued. The Federation introduced the working process during the period under review by organising various meetings and discussion sessions with staff of both ARCS and the Federation. Part of the objective was to motivate ARCS towards taking ownership of the process. With the respective programming delegates support, the first drafts were received mid-June, and additional technical support has been provided by the Federation's OD team towards ensuring that the second drafts, expected during the first week of July, would be of a much-improved standard.

In an effort to promote financial sustainability and self-reliance in the society, the Federation engaged an external consultant who successfully conducted an introductory workshop last November. The next set of activities with the formulation of the related national society policy as well as preparation for a realistic plan of action and budget for 2005/8, will be held after the national elections scheduled for October this year. To enhance the fundraising and financial development process in the national society, the Federation continues to seek the services of a finance development officer (FDO) which has so far been unsuccessful in spite of a number of interviews. The process nevertheless continues with fresh adverts for the position.

At the beginning of May, the ARCS leadership gave written authority for the commencement of a provisional membership organisation in the national society. This activity did not start earlier as the constitutional review process in the national society is ongoing, and therefore no working constitution was defined. Following this development, a concept paper on membership prepared with the support of the Federation was widely discussed in the ARCS headquarters and branches. In June, an ARCS advisory committee on implementation of the membership process was instituted with decisions taken in regard to conditions for membership eligibility and fees. The pilot branch concept is to be introduced in the subsequent meeting of the committee in July. The ICRC has also been actively involved in the process.

With Federation support, the ARCS Herat branch completed the additional construction and refurbishment of its community training centre project. The centre will provide facilities for computer training, tailoring and other income generating activities for young people in the province.

Preliminary discussions between ICRC, Federation and ARCS concerning support to ARCS for construction of three branch office buildings in Kapisa, Khost and Paktia took place in April. In June the decision to provide financial support (CHF120,000 by ICRC, and CHF80,000 by the Federation) for the constructions was taken and the architectural plans and legal documents prepared. A tripartite (ARCS, ICRC, Federation) agreement for the purpose is to be signed in July, and ARCS would undertake public bidding for eligible contractors in the same month. Decisions on contractors are to be made in August, and the constructions are to commence later in the same month.

Discussions commenced in June concerning ICRC and Federation support in the set up of three new branches in the remaining provinces of Panshir, Kabul and Daikundi. ARCS already have branches in 31 of the now 33 provinces of the country. ARCS is to provide the partners with written proposals and budgets for the purpose, which should include details of activities to be undertaken initially by the branches, at a meeting to be organised in early July.

Towards strengthening the national society branches communication capacities and thus improving their capacity to deliver services, brand new computers and base HF radios were donated to ARCS and were installed during the period. These equipments are already in use in the recipient provincial branches, namely Kunduz, Parwan, and Ghor (computers), and Kunduz and Helmand (base radios). Still to receive a computer is Laghman branch, and to receive radios are Logar, Paktia and Khost branches. An internal telephone system with a capacity for 50 lines was also installed at the ARCS headquarters.

### **Impact**

A good constitution and membership system would enable the national society to define the roles of governance and management while financial development through funding raising and sound financial management enables the national society to have a sound resource base and gain greater confidence from partners. Longer term planning will help the Afghan Red Crescent to prioritise its own objectives to serve the vulnerable in a more sustainable and systematic manner.

Through regularly (bimonthly/quarterly) regional consultative meetings, organised jointly by the branches in each region, the Federation, ICRC sub-delegations and branches are becoming more aware of their responsibilities. In some instances, many branches are beginning to report on activities entirely through their own efforts and resources. Charity boxes, under the disaster management community-based development programme (DM-CBDP) project are among the examples of such initiatives in communities that will provide initial assistance in emergencies to the vulnerable. The branches initiative is an indication towards self-reliance and ownership, and a hope for the future.

Communication among branches is beginning to yield positive results. There is an increasing trend towards branches discussing issues of common interest such as common approaches to responding to emergencies, planning, agendas for regional meetings and contact with the headquarters by means of radio. This development contributes greatly to effective operations of the national society in serving the needy and improving the links between the grass root functioning units (ARCS branches) and its headquarters.

### **Constraints**

The ARCS human resource (HR) system continues to be problematic, with frequent unexplained dismissal, transfer and recruitment of staff. Of particular concern is that well-trained and relatively experienced staff are affected. At regional level, ARCS programme officers also encounter problems with branch presidents who insist on administratively (and sometimes technically) supervising them. Through constant dialogue with branch presidents and the ARCS management, coupled with the delegation support towards a review of the national society HR department in 2005, it is hoped to bring some improvement in the HR system.

The national society constitutional review process made little headway during the period. The national society deliberated nearly on every article in their draft document with language translation being one of the stumbling blocks to understanding the basic requirement in the guidelines. The intention by some in the national society to retain the status quo in terms of separation of governance and management was another obstacle to progress. However, the delegation in consultation with the national society leadership to decide on a new strategy which might involve making an objective changes to the composition of the constitution committee.

Concerning matters relating to types of ICRC donations to the national society, and how some of these relate to future self reliance and capacity building of branches and the society, were observed during this period and will be addressed with Federation management in ongoing cooperation discussions.

## **Representation, Management and Implementation**

### **Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

In coordination with the ICRC delegate, the Federation conducted a visit in May to the ARCS Marastoon institution in Kabul with a review of German Red Cross (GRC) programme. In a follow up meeting, GRC representative examined the possible involvement of Federation in future support to Marastoons and sustainability after ICRC move on from the delegated project at the end of the year, paving a way for a two-to three-year tripartite /quadripartite (ARCS, ARCS, the Federation and possibly ICRC) partnership.

The Norwegian RC desk officer visited the delegation in May and held discussions about ongoing programmes and continued funding which is unfortunately reduced this year following follow Norwegian Government policy. Plans for the available funds to tune for ARCS OD and health programmes were submitted. Norcross assure the delegation of continued support to the ARCS programme and explored possible interest for the Federation service agreement in the bilateral Kabul ambulance project which was previously operating under ICRC delegated project.

A concept for a working meeting with key PNS desk officers, developing participatory approaches and commitment to the 2005 funding plan has been created to take place in September in one of the European PNS countries.

Winter clothes for women and children were received from Icelandic RC and handed over to ARCS, provision of TV and radio interviews when goods delivered to ARCS DM centre. HoD met with Danish RC, desk officer, head international and president in Islamabad-Pakistan.

Several meetings between the Federation head of delegation (HoD) with ICRC, HoD and deputy HoD, including ongoing communications with cooperation delegate, attendance at fortnightly security meetings, social introduction to new HoD, briefing meetings in early June and the need for close harmonisation and understanding as the two organisations approach the area of cooperation. Progress is being made in the two organisations' coordinated efforts to construct three branch offices in the central region, with assistance in establishing three new branches in Kabul, Daikundy and Panshir respectively. Liaison continued between the Federation heads of sub-delegations and their respective ICRC counterparts to ensure effective cooperation and coordination between the two institutions.

The delegation attended regular bi-weekly ICRC and agency coordinating body for Afghan relief (ACBAR) coordination meetings, and weekly UNAMA security and emergency taskforce meetings.

#### **Impact**

Through improved coordination, ARCS is forging stronger links with other key humanitarian actors in Afghanistan, to better coordinate humanitarian efforts, thus avoiding duplication and providing adequate and effective support to vulnerable groups.

#### **Constraints**

The ARCS capacity for effective networking with the national authorities and other stakeholders is still weak. Through counterpart mentoring and current progress with partnerships, and the ARCS' comparative advantage as a nationwide organisation, the Federation will continue to encourage the national society to take ownership of participation in different forums, in order to position itself as major stakeholder serving the vulnerable Afghan communities.

## Effective representation and advocacy

### Progress/Achievements



Niamatullah Shahrani, vice president of Transitional Government of Afghanistan giving a speech at World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day celebrations.

World Red Cross Day, which coincided with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ARCS founding, was celebrated together on 9 May in all ARCS branches with the main function in Kabul attended by a number of government dignitaries, with speeches and a variety of activities. The Federation and the ICRC were fully involved, and together provided much of the funding.

The HoD met on various occasions with the UNAMA resident humanitarian coordinator and chief of staff to get updated on development of Afghanistan reconstructions and humanitarian activities. The delegation also met with the deputy minister of foreign affairs to among other, formerly introduce the new HoD and matters of the mutual relationships pertaining to the signed Legal Status Agreement.

Disaster management programme attended several meetings with key stakeholders; ICRC, UNAMA, government department for disaster preparedness (DDP), ACBAR and ministry for rural rehabilitation development. Particular contact was made with World Food Programme to explore the possibility of possible partnership with ARCS. World Food Programme was interested in working with ARCS as an implementing partner in food distribution and food for work programmes through the Federation.

In order to ensure better coordination with Ministry of Health and other organisations involved in health and building capacity for ARCS to deliver quality service, the ARCS and Federation HQ staff regularly attend the consultative group on health and nutrition meetings and taskforce meetings on health emergency preparedness and response, health management information system, EPI and communicable diseases. The Federation health staff along with their ARCS counterparts in regions attended the coordination meetings with MoH and other organisations involved in health.

The heads of sub-delegations played a pivotal role in representing the Federation in several coordination and security meetings with UNAMA and ICRC, in addition to monthly coordination meetings, regional DM task force and monthly INGO coordination meetings.

Follow-up meetings were held with UN electoral office on the possibilities of ARCS providing first aid in the voter registration/polling stations. It is unlikely that ARCS will be able to provide these services in the current security and political context.

HoD is now developing plans for regular programme of external representation, based on future plans and priorities for rest of year and 2005.

Supported by ICRC, ARCS continued to produce and distribute the bi-weekly newspaper Sriamiast to various stakeholders.

### Impact

The visibility and credibility of the Afghanistan Red Crescent as an important humanitarian actor and partner continues to increase.

### Constraints

The ARCS need continued support to demonstrate strongly its added value as a nationwide, indigenous, community-based organisation, by meeting the humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan, and through its unique role guided by the Movement's fundamental principles and values.

The success of various processes: constitution review, reintroduction of the membership system, financial development, advocacy through contacts with embassies and other humanitarian actors would contribute lifting up the profile and credibility of national society.

## **Governance support**

The ARCS leadership continues to benefit working with the country delegation. Initial discussions to gain understanding of the leadership vision for the national society between new HoD and ARCS president/secretary general. Key issues relate to finance management and development, sustainability of national society and urgent need for proper communication systems at headquarters. The vision will assist the delegation to define its support strategy to the national society in line with change strategy and the capacity building framework.

ARCS appointed a new international relations department head in May. The working relationship between the Federation and ICRC showed immense signs of improvement since the appointment.

### **Impact**

Continued dialogue within the Movement continue to increase the national society's understanding of management and integrity issues including ownership, sustainability and programme priorities.

### **Constraints**

There is a need for continued commitment from ARCS to better position itself as an auxiliary to the public authorities and to fulfil its role in the humanitarian challenge facing the country by securing government support. Implementing change management and developing appropriate strategies is one such action in a changing country's context.

### **Delegation management**

New HoD arrived in the country on 28 April and the former HoD departed on 5 May upon briefing the incumbent and undertaking necessary handovers. The incumbent brings in a vast experience from this region where she has been working in a regional position as well as HoD in Pakistan for a number of years.

The delegation introduced the annual Federation appeal process with formal information sent to ARCS in May. Consultation process with ARCS branches and input for the appeal are to take place in July.

To better support the national society to adjust to the changing situation in-country, it is essential that the delegation realigns itself. To meet this end, the delegation is looking at better integration of programme planning between it and the national society. A full internal review of delegation structure and function to be undertaken shortly while personnel procedures are under review, with measures aimed at addressing the heavy core running cost. Dialogue on similar measures has started with the national society in cooperation with ICRC. In the forthcoming 2005 appeal, the delegation will further consider the appropriate numbers of expatriate necessary to run the programme whilst promoting more programme ownership in the national society. At the end of the mission of the HoD for Herat in mid-July, the delegation will experiment with covering the sub-delegation with the Kandahar HoD.

Sub-delegations are working as best they can under deteriorating security situation and good support is being provided to branches to do whatever is possible in the circumstances.

### **Impact**

The Federation continues to have a key role to play in supporting and enabling the ARCS to develop as a key and consistent stakeholder in providing services to the vulnerable community. It adds value in representation, advocacy, information exchange, resource mobilisation and appropriate support to the national society.

**Constraints**

The national society still relies a great deal on the Federation and ICRC support for its programmes and core structure, and there is still much to do to further encourage national society ownership of its programmes and activities. While significant support from the Federation is necessary, in the coming year the delegation will work with the national society towards better management of their own resources and more ownership and only providing the resources and structure suitable to implement the activities articulated in the appeal.

*[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)*

APPEAL No. 01.55/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

31/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	11,090,663					TOTAL COVERAGE 39.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				2,068,525		
AMERICAN - RC				132,700	23.01.04	HEALTH COORDINATOR
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				50,000	29.01.04	
DANISH - RC				120,000	22.01.04	TRAINING OF TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS
DANISH - RC				100,000	01.06.04	HEALTH & CARE, HEALTH CLINICS & CBFA
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				100,000	03.03.04	
FINNISH - RC	20,000		EUR	31,510	19.03.04	CBFA PROGRAM IN JWAZJAN PROVINCE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	27,000		EUR	42,107	23.04.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT/VCA
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC	20,693		HKD	3,348	02.07.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
ICELANDIC - RC	500,000		ISK	8,750	08.06.04	CLOTHES OPERATION
ICELANDIC - RC	49,529		ISK	867	08.06.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
JAPANESE - RC	60,776		USD	76,973	17.03.04	INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP
NETHERLANDS - RC	102,496		EUR	161,483	17.03.04	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN HERAT
NEW ZEALAND RC	5,000		NZD	3,975	30.06.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	754,000		NOK	137,605	22.07.04	BRANCH DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,079,800		NOK	379,564	22.07.04	EMU PROJECT, & HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT	1,900,000		SEK	320,150	06.04.04	HEALTH, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC	1,500,000		SEK	252,750	16.04.04	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,990,307	CHF	36.0%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATES			70,000		
CANADA	DELEGATES			107,000		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			67,000		
GERMANY	DELEGATES			3,600		

# Afghanistan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.55/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

31/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			72,000		
JAPAN	DELEGATES			23,400		
NORWAY	DELEGATES			54,800		
ICELANDIC - RC		799,688	ISK	13,995	08.06.04	9517 KGS SECOND HAND CLOTHES
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				411,795	CHF	3.7%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	