

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

10 October 2001

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***This Information Bulletin is related to Appeal No. 32/01: Humanitarian Crisis; Launched on 21 September and revised on 3 October 2001 for CHF 40,280,340 in cash, kind and services to assist 300,000<sup>1</sup> beneficiaries for 6 months.***

### ***The Situation***

The humanitarian plight of hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan as well as of those who fled to the neighbouring Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and even Kyrgyzstan has been brought back into focus after 11 September. Two decades of conflict in Afghanistan and years of severe drought in the whole region have brought about many humanitarian challenges, including landmine casualties in Afghanistan, refugees in Iran (more than two million) and Pakistan (more than one million) as well as water shortage victims in Central and South Asia region as a whole. Mines are likely to represent a serious threat for all Afghans on the move while the arrival of large numbers of refugees into the neighbouring countries could overwhelm the fragile semi-desert environment there and further worsen the water situation. Another winter season is also approaching and by the middle of November mountain passes will be closed.

Following the initial movements from major Afghan cities after the first military action at the beginning of this week, no massive movements of population have been detected apart from small groups of people leaving for villages. The first civilian casualties, however, have been registered.

In Pakistan, anti-military protests have been reported in Quetta, Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad. The police officials state that security has been further tightened at airports, ports, railway stations, power stations and government offices.

The governments of all countries neighbouring Afghanistan as well as Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan continue to emphasize that coordination at the regional level is crucial in this humanitarian crisis while at the same time strongly supporting the idea of assisting potential Afghan refugees within the Afghanistan borders. Any newly arriving people from Afghanistan will be preferably called “externally displaced persons”. The situation on their borders is monitored very closely. So far, all neighbouring countries as well as Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan seem to be going on as usual.

Iran's Khorasan province was hit by an earthquake measured 5.2 in Richter scale damaging or destroying some buildings. No deaths have been reported so far.

<sup>1</sup> While the Federation's approach is fundamentally based on an initial beneficiary figure of 300,000, given the uncertainties associated with this evolving operation, the Federation has undertaken preparations to scale-up relief activities to deliver assistance to a proposed level of 500,000 beneficiaries.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Coordination and Action***

- As the greatest problem in supplying emergency relief is knowing where the people at risk are located, the Federation delegations in the region continue supporting the neighbouring national societies in monitoring and flexible approach, including possibilities of assisting Afghans on the move inside Afghanistan.
- The term returnees started appearing in discussions as all countries neighbouring Afghanistan have a number of different ethnic minorities living on their own territories. For example, Kazakhstan which is not bordering Afghanistan has a considerable Kazakh minority in Afghanistan, a number of which might choose to return to Kazakhstan if the situation deteriorates.
- The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran is well prepared to meet the influx. Together with the governmental agencies they are closely monitoring all border points in order to ascertain the need to go into full swing. They expect to meet the immediate needs of any internally displaced persons but will call on their partners for support as required. The Federation will be expected to extend support in re-stocking of emergency goods.
- In Tajikistan, the national society supported by the Federation continue monitoring the situation along the border very closely.
- The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has tasked a management team to be on stand-by for all monitoring preparedness and organisational issues. The national society has sent a proposal to the Federation regional delegation on logistical support related to the current situation.
- The chairwoman of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan had a meeting with the deputy minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to introduce the national society contingency plan. The national society is, at the same time, trying to contact all its branches bordering Afghanistan close to the potential entry points and puts them on alert. Close cooperation is maintained with the ICRC Herat sub-delegation head who is now stationed in Turkmenistan.
- The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has reported that there are no disaster preparedness stocks available with the national society at the moment.
- The first Federation Strategy Coordination Group meeting took place in order to ensure effective and coordinated cross divisional response to the current crisis including operational response, anti-discrimination advocacy campaign, resource mobilisation and long term implications
- The information sharing and coordination with the ICRC continues on a daily basis at Geneva (headquarters) level.
- A Red Cross and Red Crescent meeting on the present crisis will take place in Ankara on 18 and 19 October. It will be organised and chaired by the ICRC. All national societies neighbouring Afghanistan will be invited to participate including some other regional members (ex. China, India) as well as representatives from the Northern Alliance (lately Northern United Front) and Taliban.

### **Health w**

***Objective: In support to the National Societies in the region, strategically pre-position medical and human resources, including health ERUs, aiming at obtaining maximum response capacity to a major population movement while taking into consideration other alternatives not necessarily involving refugees but focusing on supporting operations inside Afghanistan.***

- The activities of the clinics run by the Afghan Red Crescent Society with support of the Federation have been publicized through mass media and the Afghan Red Crescent society volunteers. The clinics would represent the collecting points in case of a mass evacuation of wounded by the national society and ICRC. All 48 Afghan Red Crescent Society clinics throughout the country have continued running. Most of them have enough stocks of medicaments at least for one month but some of them might run out of supplies within two weeks. Fifty out of the total number of 500 medical kits used in the clinics in their usual programmes have been already forwarded to Pakistan for further shipment. Fifty medical kits can treat 250,000 people within 3 to 6 month period.
- The Norwegian Red Cross emergency response unit (referral hospital) is presently on alert for possible deployment to Iran with the support of a water/sanitation ERU.
- The Japanese Red Cross expressed their readiness to deploy an ERU (clinic) to Pakistan if a need arises.

## **Water and Sanitation w**

**Objective:** *In support to the National Societies in the region, strategically pre-position water and sanitation activities, including ERUs, aiming at obtaining maximum response capacity to a major population movement while taking into consideration other alternatives not necessarily involving refugees but focusing on supporting operations inside Afghanistan.*

- See under Logistics for data on arrivals of water/sanitation material to the region. Deployment of a water/sanitation emergency response unit (ERU) depends on the deployment of the Norwegian Red Cross referral hospital (see under Health).

## **Relief and Shelter w**

**Objective:** *Provide basic shelter, food (high protein biscuits) and non-food relief items to an estimated beneficiary population of 300,000 persons.*

- The provincial branch of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in the North-Western Frontier Province has been allocated a location for a refugee camp in Landikotal. This area is on the main route to the Khyber Pass and is a little over an hour from Peshawar by car. The government of Pakistan pointed out that camps individually should not be allowed to grow beyond the population of 10,000. A figure of a total number of 28 potential camps in the country has been stated.

## **Logistics w**

**Objective:** *Re-enforce the logistics systems and supply chain elements where needed, including at airports, ports, main supply routes, customs clearance procedures and warehousing operations.*

- In Iran, logistical preparations are underway to transport a consignment of tents from Iran to Pakistan. Preparedness assessments in Khorasan province are continuing.
- In Pakistan, six Japanese Red Cross vehicles as well as water/sanitation material and equipment containing 990,000 water purification tablets, four 5,000 litre bladder tanks, eight tapstands with hoses, 27 rolls of plastic sheeting, 500 latrines, 10,200 jerry cans and 10,200 pieces of soap donated by the Austrian Red Cross have reached Islamabad. One of the two Norwegian Red Cross new health emergency kits (NHEK) reached Peshawar while the other NHEK is still awaiting security clearance to be forwarded to the final destinations in Quetta.
- A warehousing assessments have been completed jointly with ICRC in several Turkmen cities. It has been agreed that the warehousing space will be shared in Turkmenabad. The capacity of the warehouse seems to be adequate. The national society will also be a party to the warehousing contract. The national society logistics officer was visiting Mary and Lebap and one warehouse was identified and will be contracted for the humanitarian crisis operation.

## **Telecommunications w**

**Objective:** *Implement a telecommunications network and reinforce the communications for this operation.*

- Given the present situation in Afghanistan, the Federation is exerting efforts in maintaining communication with the Federation delegation in Kabul as well as sub-delegations through the Afghan Red Crescent Society HF radio.

## **Delegates - Federation Delegations w**

**Objective:** *Recruit and position appropriate levels of human resources to support the relief operation.*

- All national staff in the Federation delegation in Kabul and in all sub-delegations (Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat and Kandahar) are in place. Due to daylight military activities, the future working hours are presently under discussion with the ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

- The delegation in Pakistan closely liaises with the government regarding the security issues and will deploy delegates from Islamabad to Quetta and Peshawar as well as for the assessment missions as the situation allows.
- In order to accelerate visa procedures for delegates bound for Turkmenistan, the Head of International Relations Department of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan had a meeting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Federation recruited logistics delegate arrived in the country.

### **Communications and Advocacy w**

***Objective: Coordinate with other components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in drawing the attention of the media and a global audience to the plight of the refugees and other vulnerable groups, and how the Federation and National Societies are addressing their needs.***

- Interviews were given to the following media in Spanish: Grupo Zetta Radio, TeleMadrid Radio, Tele 5 (TV), TeleNova Mallorca, RNE (radio), Cadena SER, ABC, Diario Digital. Digital publication Canoa.com, Canal 7, the Ecuatorian RC, TeleNova, TV Balear, CNN Spanish, El Pais, Agencia Press, Radio Estel Barcelona, Eco News Costa Rica .
- English and French media coverage includes information provided to Radio Canada Montreal, Radio Canada Toronto, France 2, LCI TV, Radio France International, Radio Montecarlo, Radio Austria, BBC World TV - The World Today, CNN Interational, BBC World Service Radio, GMTV - UK, CBC radio Toronto, Reuters TV, BBC Radio Wales, AP radio, Romanian National TV, Media Fax news agency romania, BBC radio Romanian Section, Localia TV, Radio Gallega, TV Gallega, TM Radio.

### ***Coordination***

- The Federation participates in UNHCR and inter-agency coordination of the operation in and around Afghanistan. All inter-agency meetings held in Geneva in the reporting period focused on safety and security of potential or suggested refugee camps (primarily in Pakistan), refugee protection and respect and promotion of humanitarian principles. While a number of donor countries continue pushing for open borders, Iran and Pakistan indicated that among other concerns they share the fear of pull factors in setting up refugee camps.
- Driven by the principle of humanity and in order to alleviate suffering, major humanitarian agencies are committed to following the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organisations in disaster relief. Central to this code are the principles of impartiality and independence.
- An inter-agency coordination meeting was held in Kazakhstan related to a possible influx of refugees/returnees to Kazakhstan. The main topic of the meeting was the draft contingency plan prepared by the UNHCR and IOM on behalf of the UN agencies in Kazakhstan. The Federation was the only non-UN organisation present at this meeting.
- At the last inter-agency meeting held in Kyrgyzstan, several population movement scenarios involving secondary movement were considered by the government.
- Federation representatives visited the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Geneva requesting the government support for their national society and highlighting the Red Cross and Red Crescent need for support in practical matters such as visas and other logistical arrangements.

### ***Outstanding needs***

While the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement has responded generously with verbal cash and in-kind commitments to the Federation Appeal, total funds already received are far from sufficient. Recognising that it might be difficult for national societies to commit firmly at the present moment due to uncertainties which still exist when it comes to exact locations, numbers of potential beneficiaries and needs, it is important to bear in mind that contingency plans need immediate financial support to ensure people are protected adequately from the bitter winter that is approaching regardless of the potential location.

The fact that Iran and Pakistan are already hosting a large refugee population and the need for urgent further emergency capacity building of other national societies in the region (skills, contingency stocks, equipment, warehouses and human resources) call for immediate funding.

National societies are urged to make this funding available in addition to other support in order to ensure and maintain the global approach and support to victims of other disasters which should not be relegated to the sidelines.

For the present coverage of the Appeal (in hard pledges), refer to the attached Annex 1. Also attached is the regularly updated Mobilization Table for Humanitarian Crisis (Annex 2) with outstanding in-kind needs as well as soft and hard pledges received from different Red Cross Red Crescent societies.

Regarding in-kind contributions, with all of the technical sectors identified above, it is important that National Societies refer to and follow the Federation and ICRC Standard Catalogue/Guidelines: Please refer any questions to the respective technical departments at the Secretariat.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in these or other countries, as well as for relevant National Society profiles, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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Humanitarian crisis						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 32/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				10.10.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>40'280'340</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 13.0%</b>
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		273'088	GBP	658'142	04.10.2001	
CANADIAN - RC		50'000	CAD	54'470	21.09.2001	
FINNISH - RC		67'275	EUR	102'190	26.09.2001	
IRISH - GOVT		250'000	IEP	477'375	08.10.2001	
KUWAIT - RC		250'000	USD	408'250	09.10.2001	IRAN & PAKISTAN
LIBYA - RC				5'000	29.09.2001	
MONACO - RC		200'000	FRF	45'860	21.09.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		771'750	NOK	144'452	21.09.2001	PAKISTAN
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		6'500'000	SEK	1'017'250	10.10.2001	
SWISS - GOVT				55'500	26.09.2001	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>2'968'489</b>	CHF	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIAN - RC		87'210	EUR	131'173	10.10.2001	WATER SANITATION MATERIAL
AUSTRIAN - RC				15'000	10.10.2001	TELECOM DELEGATE, 3 MONTHS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		627'884	GBP	1'513'200	04.10.2002	TENTS, BLANKETS, KITCHEN SETS, TARPULINS FOR TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN AND PAKISTAN
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		18'900	GBP	45'000	04.10.2001	RELIEF DELGATE & LOGISTICS DELEGATE FOR TURKMENISTAN, RELIEF DELEGATE FOR UZBEKISTAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'935'000	NOK	362'185	21.09.2001	PAKISTAN: JERRY CANS AND DELEGATE BOXES
SWISS - GOVT				129'245	26.09.2001	6'000 BLANKETS, 1'200 KITCHEN SETS, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			5'585		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			16'427		
SWISS - GOVT				68'180	26.09.2001	3 DELEGATES, 3 MONTHS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>2'285'995</b>	CHF	<b>5.7%</b>



<b>INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES</b>							
<b>LOGISTICS AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION DEPARTMENT</b>							
<b>MOBILIZATION TABLE FOR WATSAN MATERIAL FOR HUMANITARIAN CRISIS - Appeal 32</b>							
Commodity	Total Quantity needed	Unit	Quantity needed per each destination				Donors
			Pakistan (PK)	Turkmenistan (TM)	Tajikistan (TJ)	Abu Dhabi (AE)	
<b>WATSAN</b>							
Jerry Can, 20 litre, collapsible LDPE 55mm handscrew cap, built in handle	130'000	pce	50000	30000	20000	30000	
			50000				Norwegian RC
			4000				TBC /Pakistan stock
Outstanding	76'000		-4000	30000	20000	30000	
DelAgua Water Testing Kit, plus extra Consumables Test Kit	7	pce	2	2	1	2	
Outstanding	7		2	2	1	2	
Bladder Tank, 5000 litre,with accessories	110	pce	40	30	10	30	
Outstanding	110		40	30	10	30	
Bladder Tank, 10000 litre, with accessories,	78	pce	30	20	8	20	
Outstanding	78		30	20	8	20	
Bladder Tank, 15000 litre, with accessories	70	pce	30	20	0	20	
Outstanding	70		30	20	0	20	
Oxfam type Tank, 95000 litre	20	pce	8	4	4	4	
Outstanding	20		8	4	4	4	
<b>WATSAN</b>							
Oxfam type Tank, 70000 litre	20	pce	8	4	4	4	
Outstanding	20		8	4	4	4	
Tap Stand with hoses and couplings Red Cross standard for bladder tank	510	pce	200	140	30	140	
Outstanding	510		200	140	30	140	
Atalanta Pumps, diesel type, 2", 30m head	18	pce	8	4	2	4	
Outstanding	18		8	4	2	4	
Water Purification Tablet, 1 tab=20litre	4'400'000	ea	2000000	1200000	0	1200000	
Outstanding	4'400'000		2000000	1200000	0	1200000	
Water Purification Powder 100gm/pack =10,000 litre	4	MT	0	2	0	2	
Outstanding	4		0	2	0	2	
<b>WATSAN</b>							
Water Purification Tablet, 1 tab=1 litre	800'000	ea	0	0	800000	0	
Outstanding	800'000		0	0	800000	0	
SanPlat Latrine Mould Kit	15	kit	6	4	1	4	
Outstanding	15		6	4	1	4	
Squatting Plates	1'500	pce	1000	0	500	0	
Outstanding	1'500		1000	0	500	0	
Back Pack Sprayers, 15 litre	90	pce	50	15	10	15	
Outstanding	90		50	15	10	15	
Chlorine	12	MT	5	2	3	2	
Outstanding	12		5	2	3	2	
Aluminium Sulphate	33	MT	15	5	8	5	
Outstanding	33		15	5	8	5	
Lime	12	MT	5	2	3	2	
Outstanding	12		5	2	3	2	