

IRAN: DROUGHT SUPPORT TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

*25 September
2000*

appeal no. 21/2000

situation report no. 1/2000

period covered: 22 August - 21 September 2000

The National Society, with support from the International Federation, has immediately taken action to begin delivering the planned assistance to the intended beneficiaries. Donors are encouraged to turn expressions of support into hard contributions.

The context

The severe drought currently covering large areas of the Caucasus, South Asia and Central Asia is having a particularly significant impact in Iran. In order to assist the Iranian Government to meet the challenges posed by the drought and to respond to the critical needs, on 22 August the Federation launched a twelve month appeal, on behalf of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to:

- increase water supply to Zahedan and Zabul camps, and, whenever possible and needed, cities and surrounding areas;
- carry out a community based sanitation campaigns in the Afghan refugee camps; and
- establish a community based preventive health care scheme and promote hygiene.

Latest events

The weather situation has not improved, and any significant rainfall is not expected before January, 2001. The situation of the most vulnerable is increasingly serious, and the water-supply network in

Zabul is soon expected to deteriorate to unacceptable levels. In spite of the repatriation program, there are reports of new refugees arriving from Afghanistan due to the drought situation in that country.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

National Society •

The National Societies provincial branch is using the only available water tanker to deliver limited supplies of water on an interim basis before the implementation of the program. All IRCS departments and staff have been briefed on planned activities related to the drought program, and on required co-ordination and information. Deputies of relief affairs of the neighbouring provincial branches (mainly Kerman, Khorasan, Hormozgan and Yazd) were also briefed on the water supply program. They have been asked to set up stand-by relief teams with relevant equipment. IRCS branches in Zabul and Zahedan have been informed of the activities undertaken thus far, and preparations have started with co-ordination and information channels arranged with the local authorities. The local branch has also taken on the responsibility of assessing water resources, reviewing the program with water sellers, carry out training of staff and volunteers on the importance of the program, and setting up water distribution points. The National Society is closely monitoring the situation in the province and providing updated information. In terms of health, there have been no confirmed cases of epidemics, but an assessment of the health situation will be undertaken.

Co-ordination •

The Federation Secretariat is co-ordinating the delivery of international assistance, communicating information, providing fund-raising services, and monitoring implementation and reporting standards. Following a meeting in Geneva on September 8, it was agreed to draft a memorandum of understanding and a plan of action between the Federation, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, and donors.

Outstanding needs

On the basis of two pending ECHO contracts and with the expressions of support or soft pledges received from donors to date, further funding of CHF 300,000 will be required only for the following: water tanks, water procurement, fuel, maintenance costs, and local staff.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The National Society is in close contact with the authorities and UNHCR. Regular meetings are being held to address the drought situation and to advance program implementation. The local branch is also co-ordinating with the city authorities, particularly with the municipality, for the cleaning of the area and the location of water distribution points.

A donor's meeting was held at the UN in Geneva on August 24. All UN humanitarian agencies were represented, as well as around 25 diplomatic missions and the Federation. The urgent need for mobile water tankers was stressed.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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IRAN - Drought - Afghan refugees						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No 21/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			10/04/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,268,146		TOTAL COVERAGE 18.2%
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	52,383	11.09.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
JAPANESE - RC				75,000	30.08.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1,500,000	SEK	280,650	22.09.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				412,328	CHF	18.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						