

OPERATIONS 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

IRAN

12 December 2001

Drought Support for Afghan Refugees

No. 21/2000

Launched on: 22 August 2000 for CHF 2,268,146 for 12 months

Beneficiaries: 100.000

Appeal Operations Update No. 4 Period covered: August 2000 - November 2001

Last Update issued: 27 June 2001

Next Update expected March 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 108.3%

Related Appeals: Middle East & North Africa regional programmes 01.54/2001

The Disaster/Situation: The operation has provided effective support for vulnerable Afghan refugees during a severe drought in Iran. The operation is due to close in February 2002 as funding was such that continued assistance was possible. Overall, water, health and hygiene support to refugees has been implemented effectively.

Operational Developments:

A severe drought currently covering large areas of the Caucasus, South Asia and Central Asia had a particularly significant impact in Iran. To assist the Iranian Government to meet the challenges posed by the drought and to respond to the critical needs, on 22 August 2000 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

The operation, after initial delays, gained momentum and all the involved departments at IRCS (both centrally and locally) did their utmost to make up for time lost. The quantity of water distributed gradually increased as newly purchased and leased vehicles plus water-pumps were put into operation. Considerable savings were made by producing all the water tanks (fixed and mobile) in IRCS workshops, enabling more vehicles to be purchased and covering the lease of vehicles to compensate for the late delivery of the trucks. Although the programme was

initially planned to end in September 2001, funds were sufficient to cover running costs for at least another six months and donors were informed of this decision.

More recently, in response to the latest humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) created nine camps along the Afghanistan border (on the Afghan side). So far two camps are in operation for almost 10,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are receiving shelter, food, water and medical care. The Makaki and Mile 46 camps are both managed by the Sistan va Baluchistan National Society branch in Zahedan. Because of this, several of the staff have moved closer to the operational area (Zabul). The activities of this appeal are running well and all required capital equipment has been bought for the project.

Preventive health and hygiene programme

The IRCS, together with the local health department (under the ministry of health), has coordinated the implementation of preventive health and hygiene promotion programmes in Zahedan and Zabul. A contract was signed between the two parties for the health department to implement the agreed programme using its own staff and IRCS volunteers when needed. Home visitors checked on selected families, giving health and hygiene information and making interviews. A second home visit has been made in order to evaluate health and sanitation improvements, the results of which can be observed in the table below. Dissemination through brochures and posters were distributed during this programme and the activities were well covered by the media.

Observations	1st visit	2nd visit	Difference	Percentage
Toilet in compound	10127	12284	2157	21.3
Proper garbage disposal	7814	11419	3605	46.1
Updated health file	7693	10944	3251	42.3
Chi.& women care	7251	10761	3510	48.4
Vaccinated children	8017	11419	3402	42.4
Awareness of nutrition	2911	7674	4763	163.6
Awareness of diarrhoea effects	3927	8628	4701	119.7
Awareness of cholera & Typhoid transmission	1436	6767	5331	371.2
Awareness of malaria transmission	1266	6102	4836	382.0
Awareness of tuberculosis transmission	1331	6716	5385	404.6
Awareness of Ascarid	1640	4865	3225	196.6
Awareness of Talasemi	1370	8032	6662	486.3
Awareness of Breast feeding	6457	9806	3349	51.9
Awareness of Birth control	3480	7591	4111	118.1
Awareness of water chlorine	2944	9320	6376	216.6
Awareness of disinfecting vegetables & fruits	1265	6518	5253	415.3
Bathroom	5802	6998	1196	20.6
Using safe water	10694	12510	1816	17.0
Leading sewage properly	5293	7875	2582	48.8

Constraints

Late implementation of the programme has been a problem and more staff had to be trained and employed to ensure activities went ahead. During home visits it was planned that purchased soap bars as well as the hygienic/household items should be distributed. Unfortunately agreement could not be reached and these items will be distributed separately.

Water distribution

The IRCS has been responsible for the entire programme (planning, procurement, transport and implementation of all needed capital items). The Society has cleaned, gravelled and constructed the foundations for the fixed water tanks. The IRCS signed agreements with the well owners and set up a logistical base to distribute fresh water to the most vulnerable population in the selected area. The number of families being supported in full or totally is estimated at over 16,000.

Every day, except Fridays, water is delivered to 17 distribution points in Zahedan and 15 in Zabul - over 400.000 litres during Ramadan (315.000 litres in Zahedan plus 120.000 litres in Zabul). During the summer, the average figure was more than 500,000 litres. The average consumption per beneficiary in Zahedan is considerably lower than in Zabul because in Zahedan some areas have access to the community water system (only salty water). In Zabul, however, consumption is higher because the distributed water is their only source.

All the 13 new water trucks and 10 new tractors with water trailers have been purchased for this project. The entire fleet starts at 7 am with full water tanks, distributing water according to the roster. The first morning trip takes between one and two hours depending on the area. The next distribution round normally starts between 11 and 12. The reason for this delay is the queue time at the bore hole, which can take 3 - 4 hours during the summer. On top of this, all the vehicles have to queue for petrol daily as it is rationed due to the vicinity to Afghanistan, where the petrol price is 3 to 10 times higher. Unfortunately the well owners have not permitted us to collect water more than once at each bore hole. Due to this more vehicles have been added to the programme.

The water price has almost doubled during the summer (from 3 to 5 IRR per litre).

Roster for the tanker trucks

No	Volume	Location	Truck No	Serial No	Driver	Donated truck by
1	20000	Karimabad(By the Airport)	7	2535	Shahbeyg i	ECHO/NRC
2	20000	End of Karimabad	7	2535	Shahbeyg i	"-"
3	20000	Karimabad(Poshtepasgah)	1	2518	Shahri	Allocated IRCS
4	20000	Shirabad(Near Gas station	1	2518	Shahri	"-"
5	20000	Hemmatabad	3	2539	Sirus	ECHO/NRC
6	20000	Shirabad(Majdieh 33)	3	2539	Sirus	"-"
7	20000	Shirabad(Mosque Lane)	5	2537	Bikasa	ECHO/NRC
8	20000	Shirabad(Barahouieha)	6	2540	Narouie	ECHO/SRC
9	20000	End of Azadi Ave.	4	2538	Kabari	ECHO/SRC
10	12000	Shirabad(Rakhshaniha)	12	2216	Naderi	ECHO/SRC
11	5000	Siksuzi(Dakhelekuche)	9	2489	Shahraki	SwissGov/RC
12	5000	Siksuzi(Dorefalake)	12	2216	Naderi	ECHO/SRC
13	5000	Siksuzi(Qasemabad)	9	2489	Shahraki	SwissGov/RC
14	5000	End of Jadeqadim	8	2488	Safjuie	SwissGov/RC
15	5000	Behind the RC warehouse	10	2486	Yasini	Neth Gov
16	5000	Behind the Haqqani mosque	2	2536	Yahyabaz i	ECHO/SRC
17	12000	By the Haqqani mosque	2	2536	Yahyabaz i	ECHO/SRC
		Used in rotations during service in Zahedan (& Zabul)	11	2487	All drivers	Neth Gov

Water distribution by Tractors

Tractor No	Serial No	Driver	Mobile Water Distribution Location	Donated by
1	88,316	Amirjan Jafari	Shirabad(Mal Square)	ECHO/SRC
2	88,418	Ali Ali	Majdieh 25	ECHO/SRC
3	88,986	Reza	Karimabad(By the Airport)	ECHO/

		Sargazi		SRC
4	88,132	Mir Shekar	Shirabad(Ahmadi Mosque)	ECHO/ SRC
5	88,317	Qadir salmani	Shirabad(near the Bagh e Rakhshaniha	ECHO/ SRC
6	88,320	Mohammad Salmani	Shahrak-e-Shirabad	ECHO/ NRC
7	88,977	Naseri	Shirabad(Barhouieha	ECHO/ NRC
8	88,965	Sirus	Opposite the Gas station	ECHO/ NRC
9	88,988	Mansur Sargazi	By the Camel Market	ECHO/ NRC
10	88,975	Panjekubi	Chahardivari-e- Barahouieha	ECHO/ NRC

Constraints

The main constraint has been the late arrival of vehicles. However this problem was solved by leasing trucks and tractors (capacity 5.000-30.000 litres) to keep the distribution of water at an acceptable level. The purchase of the water has been difficult after the low water table caused the price to rise. In the budget, the price was estimated at two Rials per litre, but has since July 10 increased to 5 Rials per litre. This cost might still increase if rain does not increase during winter.

Solid Waste disposal programme

The programme focused on selecting, equipping and employing 23 workers and two drivers for tractors to collect garbage in Zahedan. The prioritised areas were chosen near to the planned and erected water distribution sites. A special area 12 km south east of Zahedan was given by the Zahedan municipality for dumping waste.

Constraints

The entire staff for this programme have been Afghan refugees living in the settlements in Zahedan. Since then, a law has been passed in Iran preventing organisations from employing Afghans, without a work permit. In Iran only 2.5% of all the refugees have a valid work permit. IRCS was called to court twice but has managed to keep the entire team of workers in operation.

Distribution of hygienic items and household items

4322 sets of hygienic/household items have been purchased in order to distribute to families identified during the first interview of the health programme. Each set contains: 1 waste container, 1 toilet water can, 2 tubes of tooth paste, 2 detergents, 1 dish washing liquid, 1 insect spray, 2 shampoos, 2 water containers and 4 tooth brushes.

Distribution of relief items

According to IRCS, the original plan was for home visitors to distribute the soap and the household/ hygienic items. Unfortunately the health department in Zahedan and Zabul could not reach an agreement with IRCS on this. Distribution took place with IRCS and volunteers when 30,000 pieces of soap were distributed (under ECHO contract 14007). However, the distribution was discontinued because beneficiaries harassed staff and even damaged the health post where the distribution took place. A new distribution was planned but did not begin because both IRCS staff and volunteers are busy running two refugee camps close to the border on the Afghanistan side.

Telecommunications

The Zahedan office had to struggle for several months before a proper international telephone line was installed. Consequently high expenses for using the hotel telephone have been incurred. Mobile phones are used in the project but unfortunately huge areas in Sistan va Baluchistan are not covered. For local communication VHF is

frequently used and very reliable. Since late November the office has a satellite telephone, both local and international communication is now working as well as can be expected (with poor lines and frequent cuts).

Outstanding needs

The drought appeal was covered and all needs identified in 2000 have been met. The project has been extended, as well as MoU signed between the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Federation, Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

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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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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IRAN - Drought - Afghan refugees						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No 21/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			12.12.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'268'146		TOTAL COVERAGE
						108.3%
ECHO/NRC		400'000	EUR	611'120	05.10.00	
ECHO/SRC (19004)		500'000	EUR	769'200	09.02.01	
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	
KUWAIT - RC		7'500	USD	13'301	15.08.00	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		472'760	NLG	322'634	02.10.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC				2'986	06.10.00	
NORWEGIAN GOVT/RC		657'498	NOK	124'447	05.12.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'500'000	SEK	280'650	22.09.00	
SWISS - GOVT/RC				200'000	19.10.00	PURCHASE OF TRACTORS AND WATER TANKS, AND PSP
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'456'016	CHF	108.3%