

## ***TAJIKISTAN: DROUGHT***

27 November,  
2000

*appeal no. 26/00*

*situation report no. 2*

*period covered: 20 October - 17 November*

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*The winter in Tajikistan has already started, and the scarce household food stocks have been used. Responding to the situation, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), with Federation support, launched an appeal intended to deliver critical assistance to those most in need, and to prevent potential starvation. The start of the operation has been delayed by a slow donor response and logistical constraints due to harsh winter conditions in some areas of the country. Donors are urged to consider the needs of the intended beneficiaries in Tajikistan, support which will prevent starvation and ensure a minimum of human dignity.*

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### ***The context***

Following three consecutive years of drastically reduced snowfall and rainfall, Tajikistan has this summer been struck by a drought causing severe food shortages, and seriously affecting almost 2,000,000 people. On the basis of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) crop and food supply assessment, carried out between 3 and 26 July, the International Federation Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT) made a detailed vulnerability and capacity assessment and prepared a plan of action for the Red Cross/Red Crescent operation. The International Federation emergency appeal was launched on 19 September, seeking CHF 22.6 million to assist 250,000 people with food and seeds, water and sanitation services and a community-based health programme.

In this initial phase of the operation, major efforts have been made by all agencies to try and secure the necessary funding for a successful start-up of the operation before the winter. Through a close inter-agency co-operation, all partners have been aiming at consolidating the available resources and ensuring a well co-ordinated operation.

### ***Latest events***

WFP, acting as a co-ordinating agency for this operation, has requested all partners to submit proposals on a possible co-operation in distributing food and seeds in the South of the country, within the framework of food-for-work activities. Final arrangements will be made in the coming weeks.

The World Bank has provided the Government of Tajikistan with a grant of USD 3.4 million to procure 10,000 MT of seeds, in response to the drought crisis. A number of humanitarian agencies have been requested to carry out the distribution according to the plan prepared by the Government. Negotiations on the modalities of this co-operation are being finalized. The International Federation is looking into distributing the allocated seeds in the Leninabad region.

The team leader of the recent Federation's FACT assessment mission will arrive to Tajikistan in the coming week to follow-up on the original plan of action, and assist the National Society and the delegation in adjusting the operational plan and starting up the actual food-assistance programme component, in accordance with existing operational realities.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The following achievements have been made in reference to the initially set objectives:

### **Provision of Food and Seeds (objectives 1 and 2) •**

The preparatory work for the operation in Leninabad is in its final stages. Following the logistical assessment of the region, carried out by the Federation delegation logistics co-ordinator, warehousing and transport facilities have been identified. The Federation's newly appointed logistics delegate has been based in Khojend (capital of the region). Co-ordination with the main partners in the region, WFP and German Agro-Action is ongoing, in order to divide operational areas, establish balanced quantities of food-rations, and agree on the exact beneficiary selection criteria.

The Federation Secretariat has started the procurement process of food for the first round of distribution in Leninabad. In addition to that, as soon as the formal approval of the application for funding submitted to ECHO through the German Red Cross is received, the procurement of this food component will commence immediately. The ECHO-funded programme will service some 12,500 people out of the total 50,000 planned for Leninabad. The pledges currently in the pipeline will be directed towards fully realizing the set plans for the region.

Discussions on a possible partnership with WFP in the implementation of the food assistance programme in the Khatlon region, southern Tajikistan, are ongoing. Immediately upon the arrival of the new Federation relief co-ordinator, a detailed proposal will be prepared and discussed with the partners.

### **Repair of water-supply systems as part of food-for-work activities (objective 3) •**

Between 27 October and 5 November, the Federation's Better Programming Initiatives (BPI) team visited Tajikistan, in order to follow up on certain aspects of the drought operation, as part of the local capacities for peace initiative. Special emphasis has been put on the food-for-work component, which is seen as an opportunity to link emergency relief and long-term community development. A number of ideas have been presented, taking into consideration the necessity to design micro-projects, adjusted to specific, and varying, needs of the selected locations. Through an establishment of so-called 'mobile red crescent teams', which would be responsible for identifying the beneficiary-communities. Thus the National Society would take direct responsibility for the programme, and through community mobilisation undertake targeted rehabilitation of water distribution infrastructures to ensure a more sustainable response. In addition to addressing the vulnerability of the beneficiaries, it would also contribute to the development of the institutional capacity and public image of the National Society. The expected final report of the BPI mission will develop a set of recommendations, based on which a decision on a possible implementation of this approach will be made.

**Public health (objective 4) •**

The planning of the training schedule and public health campaign will be finalized by the newly appointed health delegate, who will be joining the delegation in the coming weeks. The implementation of this programme component will follow the food and seeds distribution, and its scope will be adjusted accordingly.

**Water and Sanitation (objective 5) •**

The emergency replacement of water pumps to provide safe drinking water to 20,000 people in the Khatlon oblast is well underway. The first phase of the project has been completed, with the water well site and reservoirs having been cleaned and prepared for the construction work. All the necessary material and equipment has been delivered and the installation work started. The community is voluntarily participating in the implementation of the project, such as the installation of power lines, security fencing, and provision of cranes and tractors. The project is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

Due to a number of technical reasons, the initial plan to chlorinate the contaminated shallow wells has been modified. Following the assessment which will be carried out in the coming month in the Leninabad oblast, a detailed plan will be developed to repair and improve water and sanitation facilities in schools, kindergartens, psychiatric hospitals, and other social institutions in the region. This is seen as a more appropriate approach, addressing longer-term needs of the community.

**RCST Capacity Building (objective 6) •**

All the activities mentioned above are carried out in close co-operation with the RCST. The planning takes into consideration the National Society's existing capacity and aims at building it further, through on-the-job training, as well as targeted seminars for staff and volunteers, which will be organized as per the need identified in the course of the operation. At the same time, the expertise currently existing in certain branches of the RCST, mainly related to relief distribution and monitoring, will be brought to and used in operational areas which have less experience in the same activities.

Preliminary conclusions of the BPI assessment indicate that the National Society can be directly involved in the planning of any food-for-work activities, through Red Crescent mobile teams, as elaborated above. If accepted, this approach could contribute to the RCST capacity building and image raising in the society. With the Federation's support, the RCST would use this opportunity to take an active role in most aspects of programme management.

**Strengthening of the RCST image and visibility (objective 7) •**

Through its constant presence and active role in the planning and implementation of the operation, through direct co-ordination with all major humanitarian organisations involved, and with the governmental structures, the RCST is building its profile and credibility as a crucial partner for a successful operation. Its assets are highly visible, such as the operational network, capacity to mobilize staff and volunteers, and ability to reach the most remote areas of the country.

The Federation has recruited an information delegate who will focus on building further the National Society's visibility both locally and internationally, while ensuring adequate media coverage of the drought operation.

***Outstanding needs***

With the currently pledged support, the Federation and RCST are trying to consolidate the response to the northern Leninabad oblast and fulfil the initial plans to assist 50,000 people. However, the situation in the south is very uncertain, and depends highly on possible co-operation with WFP.

The current funding of the operation is considerably low, and huge gaps exist in the food and seeds component of the programme. This will cause inevitable delays in providing the food to the intended beneficiaries, who will not receive any assistance before the end of January or beginning of February, at the earliest.

With the expected arrival of the relief co-ordinator, relief administrator and the information delegate, the current personnel needs have been fulfilled.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The large scale of this operation necessitates close co-operation of all humanitarian partners, and the Government of Tajikistan. The planning is being carried out jointly, in order to secure an equal and level criteria of response. Regular inter-agency food-aid co-ordination meetings are being held on a weekly basis.

The involvement of the international media has been intense in the first month of the operation, as described in the first Situation Report. The Federation delegation is currently expecting the arrival of two Danish journalists, accompanied by the Federation regional information officer based in Almaty. The team will visit the operational areas, and look into issues related to the low visibility of Tajikistan on the international political and humanitarian scene, and subsequent traditional difficulties in securing support for humanitarian assistance in this country.

The Federation Secretariat is actively participating in UN media mobilization at the headquarters' level, and making all possible efforts in sensitising the donor-community about the urgent need to respond to the needs.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

Tajikistan drought						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 26/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				11/30/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>22,557,278</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 5.4%</b>
DANISH - RC		231,250	DKK	47,314	16.10.00	
FINNISH - RC		67,275	EUR	102,783	05.10.00	
GERMAN - GOVT		448,000	DEM	349,933	20.10.00	FOOD SUPPLIES
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	25.09.00	
JAPANESE - RC		10,000,000	JPY	156,610	26.09.00	
KUWAIT - RC		10,000	USD	17,735	01.11.00	
MONACO - RC		50,000	FRF	11,645	19.09.00	
SWEDISH - RC		2,600,000	SEK	473,200	03.10.00	HEALTH & WATER/SANITATION
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	8,868	05.10.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>1,172,383</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRANIAN - RC		12,250	USD	21,725	17.10.00	WHEAT FLOUR, EDIBLE OIL
SWEDISH - RC				30,000	03.10.00	HEALTH & WATER/SANITATION
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>51,725</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PTJ527						