

## ***TAJIKISTAN: DROUGHT***

21 December,  
2000

*appeal no. 26/00*

*situation report no. 03*

*period covered: 18 November - 20 December 2000*

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*In spite of an initial delay in the donor-response and the start of winter which is further increasing people's vulnerability, considerable progress in the implementation of the operation has been made. Preparatory work has been finalized, and the first food supplies are expected to arrive to Tajikistan in the coming month. However, the delays encountered, together with a still existing significant funding gap, are forcing the Federation and RCST to review original plans and make the necessary adjustments in both the scope and modalities of this operation. The revised plans will be communicated in the coming month, but any downsizing will result in increased hunger of an already vulnerable population group and further support is urgently required .*

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### ***The context***

On 19 September, the International Federation launched an emergency appeal seeking 22.6 million CHF to assist 250,000 people with food and seeds, water and sanitation services and a community-based health programme. In the first three months of the operation, intense fund-raising efforts have been made by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and the Federation, in co-operation with World Food Programme (WFP) and other organizations and partners. Limited funds secured to this date have already been committed, and the first consignments of food are expected to arrive in the country in the coming month.

### ***Latest events***

Following the recent visit of its representative to Tajikistan, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has allocated an amount of SEK 10,000,000 (approximately CHF 1,760,000) through the Swedish Red Cross in response to the Federation's and the RCST's drought emergency appeal.

This significant donation represents a major boost to the fund-raising efforts that have been ongoing since the appeal launch.

WFP and the Federation have agreed in principle on a partnership in food distribution as part of the drought operation, both in the north and in the south of the country. The agreement is expected to be formalized in the coming days.

The ongoing public canteens programme, comprising 15 canteens managed by the RCST, has been included in the overall drought response operation for a transitional period of four months, as it is a project of major importance, also treating the increased level of vulnerability caused by the food shortages.

Long-lasting inter-agency negotiations with the World Bank on a possible co-operation in distributing part of the 10,000 mts of wheat seeds donated to the Government of Tajikistan have not born fruit to this date. Tight distribution deadlines set by the World Bank and the Tajik government represent the main subject of negotiations, as they require immediate distribution of seeds in spite of the fact that the planting season is over and temperatures are too low. An immediate distribution would therefore bring the risk of the seeds being either consumed or sold rather than stored until the next planting season in early spring. The Federation has submitted an alternative proposal to the World Bank to distribute part of the seeds in the Sugdi (formerly Leninabad) region in February next year, however no official response has been received as yet. A number of humanitarian organizations initially involved in these negotiations have withdrawn from further discussions due to the aforementioned reasons.

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

In spite of all endeavours, there still remains a considerable funding shortfall preventing the RCST and Federation to fulfill their original objectives. For that reason, a revision of operational plans to match the present and anticipated availability of funds is currently in process.

### **Provision of food (objective 1) •**

According to the draft agreement with WFP, the Federation and RCST will be distributing food to a total of 68,000 people in four rayons of the Sugdi (former Leninabad) region in the north. Initial assessment has been carried out, through random visits to some 150 families living in remote areas. Generally, people live on minimal food supplies (one loaf of bread and tea as regular daily rations), and will be faced with a total lack of food in the coming weeks.

In order to ensure good co-operation with local authorities in the beneficiary selection process, RCST relief department carried out a workshop for local representatives (hukumats, jamoats and makhallas) on the criteria and procedures of beneficiary selection. Following the training seminar, proposed lists were submitted to RCST and the Federation. Preliminary monitoring has started immediately after the completion of the training for field officers and monitors, held on 18 December. It is planned to verify approximately 10-15 per cent of the proposed beneficiaries.

Food items for the first distribution round are under procurement and are expected to arrive in the country in the course of January 2001.

The Federation is currently in the process of finalizing an agreement with WFP on a joint programme implementation in the south and north of the country. According to the plan, which is expected to be approved shortly, WFP will provide the Federation and the RCST with wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt to assist 68,000 people in the northern, Sugdi oblast, and around 60,000 people in Khatlon in the south of the country.

### **Provision of seeds (objective 2) •**

In order to have the seeds at hand before the start of the February planting season, no further delays in the procurement of seeds can be allowed. A current lack of commitment from donors in assisting this component of the appeal leaves the Federation and the RCST with no other options than to put this component of the overall action-plan on hold unless immediate funding for this activity is released. A final decision will be communicated in the revised plan of action early in the New Year.

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

Implementation arrangements with WFP are based on food-for-work activities of approximately 20 per cent of the selected beneficiaries. Between 20,000 and 30,000 people will therefore be engaged in various types of community work, such as canal cleaning, repair of water-supply systems, and agricultural roads. Detailed plans are being prepared. Further possibilities for the involvement of beneficiaries in the implementation of activities will be explored, on the basis of the final report submitted recently by the Federation's Better Programming Initiatives (BPI) team, following their recent visit to Tajikistan.

**Public health (objective 4) •**

Activities within this objective have not yet started, as they will be implemented alongside the food distribution cycles. The recently deployed health delegate is currently preparing plans for the training of volunteers and public health campaigns, in co-operation with RCST counterparts at the headquarters in Dushanbe and in the rayons included in the food distribution, both in the north and the south of the country.

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

The emergency replacement of water pumps in the Khatlon oblast is in its final stages. Most of the construction work has been finalized, and final repairs of the water pipeline and testing are underway. Minor difficulties are being encountered with the lack of electrical power for a smooth function of water pumps. However, it is expected that this obstacle will be overcome in co-operation with the local authorities in charge of the management of available energy resources.

Following the changes in original plans for the North, announced in earlier reports, the Federation and RCST carried out preliminary assessments, and the final action-plan will be communicated in the coming month, in the revised plan of action.

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

RCST capacity is being constantly enhanced, as the National Society is encouraged to take a leading role in the planning and implementation of all programme components, both at the headquarters and regional level. These efforts will continue, through exchange of experiences between regions, training and inclusion of RCST-run programmes, such as the public canteens and disaster preparedness.

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

RCST continues to be in the forefront of all the Federation's co-ordination activities with partner organizations, government and the media. It is seen as an equal partner, and its structural strengths and expertise necessary for reaching the vulnerable are highly visible.

## ***Outstanding needs***

With the current level of support, and pending the final co-operation agreement with WFP, the Federation and RCST will fulfill its initial target in the north of the country. In the south, under the same conditions, only 60,000 out of a total 200,000 beneficiaries will be served.

The announced operational revisions will reflect the current and anticipated funding level of this operation and will be updated continuously.

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

Co-ordination with WFP, German Agro Action, Action Against Hunger, as well as other partners in this operation, is constant, and is resulting in joint implementation plans and the matching of resources to respond to the emergency in the most appropriate way.

As mentioned above, discussions with the World Bank continue related to a possible co-operation in the distribution of wheat seeds donated to the Government of Tajikistan in response to the drought.

Media mobilization has continued, with help of the information delegate from the Federation's delegation in Moscow, who was seconded to Tajikistan in December, in order to draw donor and public attention to the efforts, achievements, and constraints encountered by the RCST and the Federation. Regular information updates are being provided through interviews and articles posted on the Federation's website.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head ai  
Relationship Management Department

Martin Faller  
Head, a.i.  
Europe Department

**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				12/21/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>22,557,278</b>		<b>13.7%</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	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				50,000	05.12.00	
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
SWEDISH - GOVT		10,000,000	SEK	1,761,000	18.12.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT		100,000	SEK	17,610	20.12.00	REGIONAL LOGISTIC WORKSHOP
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	8,868	05.10.00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>3,000,993</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - RC		1,000,000	BEF	37,734	15.12.00	20 MT VEGETABLE OIL, 20 MT WHEAT FLOUR, TRANSPORTATION AND INSURANCE
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>89,459</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.4%</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						