

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Appeal no:15/01
3 May 2001

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,946,689
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO SUPPORT THE PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
HEALTH PROGRAMME FOR 6 MONTHS***

The Situation

In late September 2000, an outbreak of violence, which has been named the “Al-Aqsa Intifada” took place between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous and occupied territories (A/OT). This is on going and more than 500 people have been killed and some twelve thousand wounded, of whom the majority are Palestinians. The Intifada, involving people from all areas of the Palestinian territories, has been met by the frequent closure of roads by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the sealing off of Palestinian villages and towns. In the Palestinian A/OT a curfew has been enforced in several places.

In recent months, between 150,000 and 200,000 Palestinians have lost their jobs inside Israel. Since cities and large villages are difficult to access because of tight security controls in Palestine A/OT, the rate of unemployment has risen, and most activities have come to a halt. Farmers are unable to work their fields since land has been destroyed, or to market their products through lack of access to towns. The education system in Palestine has also been affected with the closure of schools since teachers and pupils are not able to reach them. Many families are no longer able to afford the most essential health services, electricity or water facilities. The deteriorating trend in terms of poverty is now affecting larger numbers of the population. According to recent reports issued by UNRWA, the Palestinian economy has sustained losses of USD 1.15 billion, unemployment has soared to 38% and approximately one million inhabitants now live below the poverty line. There is growing concern, given the rapid growth of poverty and the lack of reliable income, for large groups of Palestinians.

Palestine Red Crescent Society w

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is facing serious economic constraints. Over recent years, the National Society has been able to finance an increasing part of its running costs from fees, income generating programmes and cost recovery initiatives. However, given the general worsening of the economic situation in Palestine, the PRCS is now facing a financial crisis. The Palestinian Authority, even though gradually reducing support to the National Society over recent years, has been the major donor, providing support of USD 600,000 per month. However, given the heavy financial burden on the

economy, the PA has been obliged to reduce allocations to the PRCS. Consequently, traditional means of revenue for the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) are no longer available, threatening many PRCS programmes with closure. The Federation seeks to provide additional support for vital PRCS programmes in primary health care services, community based home care nursing and rehabilitation for the disabled and to provide PRCS running costs for headquarters and branches including those in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

The Needs

Given outstanding needs as a result of the current emergency situation, the Palestine Red Crescent Society requires further funding for health services delivered by PRCS in addition to that sought through this year's annual appeal (01.68/2001). This emergency appeal focuses on new needs due to the current emergency situation in the Palestinian A/OT (the health and care programme in this year's annual appeal is partially covered by the Australian Red Cross and German Red Cross bilateral assistance). Disaster Relief Emergency (DREF) funds in the amount of USD 100,000 were released to enable PRCS to continue health services during the current crisis. Federation/PRCS activities fully complement the work of the ICRC which, as lead agency in Palestine, launched a revised appeal for CHF 25 million on 23 April 2001. This emergency appeal is for 6 months and a review will be carried out, if needed, in July 2001.

The Proposed Operation

The PRCS is one of the main providers of humanitarian services and, with the support of the Federation, has been providing medical relief assistance as well as general health services through its primary health care programme (PHC), including out patient department services and women and children's health care. In all, some 160 medical personnel are working under the PHC programme through 21 health centres in Palestine A/OT.

The PRCS is providing secondary health care services to Palestinians in areas where other organisations are not able to offer such facilities. These are primarily carried out through five PRCS hospitals which offer medical facilities to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, three hospitals which treat refugees in Syria and six hospitals in Palestine A/OT, of which two are in Gaza and four are in the West Bank providing essential health care. The PRCS primary health care department has also been running a home care nursing programme in the A/OT for some time. This has proved to be more important during the current crisis since the general population, as well as those wounded by the fighting, have no access to health facilities which are closed since health staff are unable to reach their place of work. Through its primary and secondary health care facilities and dedicated staff and volunteers, the PRCS continues to deliver vital, lifesaving services to all groups of people, mainly Palestinians, but also in many cases to sick people in Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

Objectives and Activities planned w

PRCS Primary Health Care Services •

The catchment areas of the primary health care clinics cover approximately 450,000 beneficiaries in times of peace. As the crisis escalates and closures prevent people from moving outside their small villages, the PRCS health care centres have become the only available medical services for many people.

Many clinics and health centres have been forced to reduce their health services or to close down completely. In several areas, this has left the PRCS as the only provider of health services to people in need. Both the ICRC and the Federation are assisting the PRCS in the implementation of the primary health care programme, bringing medical equipment and supplies to those areas which the PRCS cannot reach as a result of restrictions from the IDF. Further details as to the need for additional financial support are as follows:

- Payment of a fee for health services is increasingly difficult. The PRCS needs to deliver these services free of charge for most beneficiaries and also to provide free medicine.
- The financial support received by PRCS over the past years from the PA has been reduced by 10% and is soon to be reduced further.
- Reimbursement by insurance companies of costs related to health services provided by PRCS has dropped as people are not able to pay their insurance policies.
- The current situation in Palestine necessitates increased emphasis on curative medical care in primary health care centres.
- Given the lack of laboratory equipment, there is a need to promote the quality of diagnostic practice at Jabalia PHC centre in Gaza, serving an estimated 30,000 inhabitants, mainly women and children. The Setting up of a basic laboratory will promote monitoring and control of epidemics and infectious diseases.

Community Based Home Care Nursing (CBHCN) •

With the increasing needs for health services due to the clashes as well as restrictions of movement for the Palestinian people inside the Palestinian A/OT, there is pressure on the PRCS to provide health care services at community level. To achieve this in the current situation, with closure of villages and travel constraints, it is necessary to guarantee the continuation and expansion of the PRCS home based nursing programme, which has been supported by NOMSME (a Norwegian NGO) for the last year.

Through the CBHCN programme, the PRCS is strengthening the coping mechanisms in Palestinian society. Health education, including dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases is part of the focus of this programme. There is increasing emphasis on prevention of disease as well as on monitoring of chronic cases and changes in morbidity and mortality rates. Increasing poverty rates are reinforcing the need for free home based care, during which community health teams teach self-care, provide health instructions, monitor and document changes in the health status of family members.

It is necessary to retain and expand the programme for the following reasons:

- The number of patients injured under the Intifada and who are discharged from hospitals, but still in need of medical care, has increased and there is limited access for patients to secondary health care.
- There is a need to expand service provision to other areas in Palestine, necessitating increased financial commitment.
- More medicines and medical supplies are needed due to the crisis.

Rehabilitation programme for Disabled •

There are large numbers of seriously injured patients from the Intifada and a need for long term rehabilitation. Depending on sufficient funding, many of these patients will be taken care of by the PRCS CBHCN programme for the first phase of their treatment.

Physiotherapy: For longer-term rehabilitation of many patients who developed physical disability because of injuries from the Intifada, the PRCS has the intention to include a component under the existing PRCS primary health care programme for physiotherapy treatment. This will be offered from the five PRCS rehabilitation centres and new staff will be employed in line with available funds and availability of professional staff.

Speech Therapy: Over recent years, the Society has been running a speech therapy school, called “Total Communication Centre” for the large number of children with hearing difficulties. Due to the tight closures and general financial difficulties in the territories, many children are no longer able to attend classes. Therefore the intention of the National Society is to expand this programme to other parts of Palestine A/OT.

PRCS in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt •

For the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, the PRCS is mandated by the PA to provide secondary health care services. Given the economic situation in Palestine, the monthly transfer of funds

from the PA has been reduced and further reductions are expected. Without the additional funding sought through this appeal, the PRCS in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt will not be in a position to fulfil its essential mandate.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Dimitri Papathanassiou, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 42 69; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email:papathan@ifrc.org..

All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation. 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 website.

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

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination Division

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 15/2001
Palestine RCS		
TYPE		VALUE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		IN CHF
Shelter & constructions		61'248
Medical & first aid		81'903
Teaching materials		91'292
Utensils & tools		131'913
Other relief supplies		78'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		444'356
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles		212'250
Computers & telecom.		99'763
Medical equipment		208'387
Other equipment		54'042
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		198'695
Technical support		59'479
Professional services		65'962
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		274'193
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff (1 delegate / 6 months)		60'000
National staff		1'056'712
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		19'200
Information expenses		43'500
Administrative & general expenses		111'000
External workshops & seminars		39'150
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		2'502'333
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		2'946'689
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		0
NET REQUEST		2'946'689