

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

TAJIKISTAN: FOOD DEFICIT

24 October, 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 26/01

Launched on 21 August 2001 for CHF 6,795,218 for 9 months.

DREF Allocated: CHF 150,000

Beneficiaries: 130,000

Operations Update No. 01; Period covered: 21 August - 10 October 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 7.5%

Related Appeals: 01.63/2001; Tajikistan Annual Appeal

Outstanding needs: CHF 6,284,020

Update/Summary: The implementation of most planned activities has not started due to an insignificant donor response to this appeal. Food and shoes for schoolchildren need to be provided before the winter period, and an urgent donor response for other operational components is sought. Despite the funding constraints, the successful co-ordination of activities among the international organizations continues, with regular inter-agency meetings and partnerships being further forged, including ECHO and WFP. At the same time, agreements with the local authorities will be reached to involve them in the operation and sensitize them to the importance of the RCST role in assisting the vulnerable population.

Operational Developments:

A disastrous wheat harvest in the summer of 2001 in Tajikistan gave a yield 60 percent lower than the overall national needs for this staple food, thus creating a gap of 341,000 tonnes of wheat. Crop failure has been caused by a combination of structural problems and two consecutive years of drastically reduced rainfall and snowfall in the country. Today, approximately one million people in Tajikistan are faced with severe food shortages and a possible starvation, if they are not assisted with basic food items by the beginning of winter. Two assessments, carried out last summer by WFP/FAO and the International Federation, respectively, recommend a continuation of direct food assistance to approximately one million most affected people, initiated in response to the drought in 2000.

Since the 11 September tragedy in the United States, and a subsequent shift in focus of both the political and humanitarian attention to Afghanistan, there are justified fears among the relief agencies that aid to Tajikistan's

vulnerable will cease to be a priority for many donors. This fear is partly confirmed through a modest donor response to the overall needs articulated in the International Federation's emergency appeal, to this date.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

While focusing on the fund-raising, the International Federation has established the necessary structure in the field as a preparation for the operational start-up. This included recruitment and positioning of key expatriate staff, as well as consolidation of existing administrative and logistical facilities in the field, used for the 2000 drought emergency operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

Similarly, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) has reinforced its own structure, both at branch and headquarters level, and established the necessary contacts with local authorities to ensure a smooth initiation of the operation, as soon as the food and other items are pledged. The staff and volunteers who were trained and active in the implementation of the last year's operation will continue to carry out the activities, using the knowledge and experiences gained, under the guidance of RCST and Federation's programme co-ordinators.

Relief distributions w

Objective 1: To provide 130,000 people (approximately 22,000 households) with essential food items for six months.

The International Federation is currently finalizing an agreement with WFP on the partnership in implementation of this operational component. The first agreement will cover the food needs of some 60,000 beneficiaries in the southern region of Khatlon for the October - December 2001 period. A similar arrangement will be negotiated with WFP for the northern region of Sughd in due course. The food items, including wheat flour, vegetable oil and iodized salt will be provided and pre-positioned by WFP, while the distribution will be carried out by the Federation and RCST. Co-operation in 2002 will depend on the overall donor response to both WFP and the International Federation appeals and a consequent availability of food. The necessary structures, as well as staff and volunteers in the branches, are in place and fully operational.

Objective 2: To assist 65,000 schoolchildren between 7 and 15 years of age with winter clothes and shoes, to protect their health and enable them to continue their education.

The implementation of this operational component is pending funding confirmations, and it is hoped that the commodities will be available for distribution prior to the beginning of cold winter months.

Health w

Objective: To improve community health through education, better hygiene and safe drinking water in health facilities.

In the 2000 drought emergency operation, some 260 Red Crescent volunteers were mobilized and trained to carry out public health campaigns in their communities, addressing the prevention of water-borne diseases, hygiene and safe utilization of drinking water. The same volunteers will be gathered for a continuation of this programme within the framework of the new emergency response. In September, the RCST public health team started a follow-up training on the prevention of diarrheal diseases, with 30 workshops which are part of the RCST and Federation annual health programme. Out of the total of 300 participants, 74 were part of the last year's drought operation. They already started implementing campaigns within their communities, reaching some 500 people with preventive health messages. The distribution of water-filters and hygiene items to health facilities is pending funding confirmations.

Water-sanitation w

Objective: To improve people's access to safe drinking water and small-scale irrigation through food-for-work activities.

ECHO has approved an emergency allocation of Euro 200,000 for the Federation's programme aimed at rehabilitating small-scale irrigation systems for a selected number of villages in the north of the country. The programme will be implemented within a 6-month period, as part of the food-for-work arrangement, whereby WFP will provide food items for the community members involved in the construction work. A separate agreement will be negotiated with WFP on the food-for-work project component. The implementation of the rehabilitation work will start following a detailed technical assessment and selection of operational areas, to be carried out by the newly recruited water and sanitation delegate. The programme aims at enabling the targeted population to have a successful yield in their kitchen gardens on a continuous basis. In addition, it is expected that the general awareness of, and practice in, the safe use and management of water will improve through continuous guidance and dissemination activities within the communities, to be carried out by the RCST and Federation field monitors. Further funding is sought for the expansion of the programme to other operational areas, as well as implementation of the drinking-water projects.

National Society Capacity Building w

The existing capacity of RCST operational branches in the north and south of the country, built through last year's drought response operation, is being maintained and further developed. The regional national society programme co-ordinators will retain their role in the new programme, as well as over 250 trained health volunteers. Further refresher-courses and follow-up training will be provided by the Federation and RCST co-ordinators. This process has already started within the health programme component, as elaborated above.

Federation Delegation w

Similarly, the Federation's field structure for the 2000 emergency has been maintained, as the operational set up and geographical areas are the same. Two field offices in the north and south of the country are managed by one relief delegate each. The relief co-ordinator, as well as health, information and water and sanitation delegate will be based in Dushanbe. Warehouses and other logistical facilities are available in both operational regions, as well as in the capital.

Coordination

The successful co-ordination of activities among the international organizations continues, with regular inter-agency meetings and relationships being further forged with the main partners, including ECHO and WFP. At the same time, agreements with the local authorities will be reached to involve them in the operation and sensitize them to the importance of the RCST role in assisting the vulnerable population.

As part of preparations for the emergency response, the National Society has been active on the regional level, as well. Between 28 and 30 August, the President of the RCST attended a drought workshop in Teheran, Iran, organized by UNDP and the Government of Iran. The National Society was invited to represent all non-UN agencies working in the country. They were accompanied by country representatives of UNDP, UNOCHA and two members of the Tajik Government. Representatives of Iran, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan also attended the workshop.

Media mobilization has been given particular importance, in order to communicate to the general public the urgent need for response to the unfolding disaster in the country. These efforts resulted in a number of major news agencies visiting the RCST and Federation operational sites and giving the deserved attention to Tajikistan's problems and needs. They included BBC, CNN, Associated Press Television Network and many others.

Outstanding needs

At this stage, the recruitment of delegates and the remaining preparatory work for the operation have been completed. However, the implementation of most activities has not started due to an insignificant donor response to this appeal. Food and shoes for schoolchildren need to be provided before the winter period, and an urgent donor response for other operational components is sought.

For further details please contact: Susanna Soderstrom, Phone: 41 22 730 4424; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: soderstr@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact in the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

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 website.

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

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Tajikistan Food Deficit						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 26/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			24.10.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6'795'218		TOTAL COVERAGE 7.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
CHINA, HONG KONG - RC				7'496	10.09.2001	
FINNISH - RC		50'456	EUR	76'643	01.10.2001	
HELLENIC - RC		5'000'000	GRD	22'290	07.09.2001	
IRANIAN - RC		962	USD	1'610	04.09.2001	PSB FOR IN-KIND
JAPANESE - RC		10'000'000	JPY	139'010	05.10.2001	FOOD DEFICIT
MONACO - RC		80'000	FRF	18'344	21.08.2001	FOOD DEFICIT
PRIVATE DONORS				449	19.10.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'300'000	SEK	213'590	30.08.2001	SEK 300'000 REGIONAL WATSAN
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				479'432	CHF	7.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRANIAN - RC		19'250	USD	32'215	04.09.2001	10'000 KGS RICE, 3'000 KGS EDIBLE OIL 3'000 KGS DATES, 5'000 KGS SUGAR, 4'000 KGS CANNED FOOD, 5'000 KGS PULSES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				32'215	CHF	0.5%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	