

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

20 June, 2002

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. Programme has been extended for 4 months, and will now end on 30 September, 2002.

Disaster relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000

Beneficiaries: 130,000

Operations Update No. 3; Period covered: 21 December 2001 to 25 February, 2002; last Ops Update (no. 02) issued 20 December, 2001; Next Ops Update (no. 4) expected April 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 130.3%

Related Appeals: 01.63/2001 - Tajikistan 2001 Annual Appeal; and 01.53/2002 - Tajikistan 2002 Annual Appeal

Outstanding needs: None

Summary/Update: Limited donor support constrained programme implementation early in this appeal, but the Federation continued to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) in implementing the full range of activities envisioned in the plan of action, and recent funding from the British Governments' Department for International Development (DfID) has provided full funding of the appeal.

Operational Developments

In its second successive emergency operation, the International Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) are assisting 130,000 people affected by the recurring drought and lasting structural problems. The magnitude of food shortages have, however, bypassed this number by large. Today, it is estimated that approximately one million people in the country have been facing severe food shortages, many of whom are at risk of starvation. Four consecutive years of low rainfall and snowfall, combined with weak agricultural infrastructure lead to dramatic crop failures. In addition, a reduced level of water in the main rivers resulted in low production of electrical energy locally. The winter 2001-2002 has seen increased rainfall and snowfall; however, the crucial month for wheat crops will be March. By April the outlook of the 2003 spring harvest will be known.

The final results of the National Nutritional Survey, carried out in late autumn 2001 by a number of humanitarian agencies, under the leadership of CARE International and Action Against Hunger, confirmed a serious deterioration of the acute nutritional status of children under 5 and their care-givers, with no improvement since the surveys conducted in 1999 and 2000. The survey was conducted in rural and peri-urban areas of the four most populated regions of Tajikistan, where more than 80% of the population live. The rates of malnutrition in all regions, amongst both children under 5 and their care-givers (particularly pregnant and lactating women), show a worrying nutritional situation. In some areas, more than 43% of children are

suffering from global chronic malnutrition, up to 20% from moderate acute malnutrition and up to 5.6 % from severe acute malnutrition. On average, 10% of care-givers are suffering from acute malnutrition. [source: AAH on ReliefWeb]

The survey observation also evidenced that the leading components affecting household food security includes diminishing agricultural yields as a result of periodic drought, further breakdown of irrigation structures or lack of repair to irrigation systems, deterioration in seed quality, increased unemployment etc. Poor households are finding it increasingly difficult to bridge the gaps when harvests are poor and sources of alternative cash income are not available.

Agencies estimated that, no matter the results of this year's harvest, food aid will be needed for at least one more year. If the coming harvest is successful and food aid stops, the most vulnerable will consume the harvested seeds themselves, and there will be no or small possibilities to monetise or stock them for the coming autumn planting season and winter food. This scenario will seriously undermine humanitarian efforts made in the last two years.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action. w

Relief distributions w

Objective 1: To provide 130,000 vulnerable people with essential food items for six months.

A total of 1,850 tonnes of food was distributed during the first cycle in Khatlon, in the south, and 52,758 beneficiaries received their first rations by mid-January. The initial targeted population was 56,000 as per the agreement with WFP, however, pre-monitoring as well as monitoring during the distribution forced the Federation and the RCST to reduce the number of beneficiaries, in order to match strictly vulnerability and selection criteria as outlined to the authorities in the beginning of the operation. The distribution went smoothly due to the fact that both local authorities as well as beneficiaries and RCST staff have gained experience from previous drought operations.

A second agreement, covering the same beneficiaries for the second distribution cycle, was signed with WFP in January. The agreement is valid from February through June, and stipulates that each beneficiary will receive 50 kg of wheat flour, 1 litre of vegetable oil, 0.5 kg of iodized salt and 1 kg of sugar. Distribution will commence in the middle of March and should end by the end of April. Also, approximately 3,600 beneficiaries will be targeted in food-for-work projects, mainly related to rehabilitation of irrigation systems. Currently, the Federation's field office in Kulyab is preparing a proposal for the local authorities, to restore approximately 100 km of irrigation canals and thereby rehabilitate about 900 hectares of land in time for the spring planting season. The project will involve about 1,000 people for one month.

In the northern region of Sughd, the first round of food distribution started in the beginning of January and is still ongoing. Two operational districts have been completed - Matcho Kuhi (Old Matcho) and Zafarabad - targeting a total of 15,600 people. Distribution is now ongoing in Ghonchi and approximately 22,000 out of 28,000 have already received their rations. Shakristan and New Matcho will follow, with approximately 30,000 beneficiaries due to receive their rations.

In Sughd, the distribution has been slower than in Khatlon. This is partly due to poor weather conditions, especially in Old Matcho. This district was initially not included in the emergency appeal, however, it was decided to include it because it was not targeted by any other agency and observation from distribution of second hand clothes showed that needs were immense, although the number of beneficiaries was limited. The beneficiaries in Old Matcho got an increased ration compared to the other districts (for details refer to the previous operations update), since it will be difficult to reach it until May as snow will be blocking the mountain passes. The distribution team was blocked in the district for four days due to blizzards.

Apart from the weather conditions, difficulties were encountered with the delivery of 120 tonnes of vegetable oil, funded by the German government through German Red Cross. This oil constitutes 60% of the needs for Sughd, and was scheduled to arrive to Tajikistan by the fourth week of January. To this date, the oil is still not delivered, while the remaining 80 tonnes, provided by WFP, are almost entirely distributed. If the delay is further extended, a decision will be made to distribute other items according to the original plan, and include double ration of oil in the second distribution cycle.

In addition, local authorities of Shakristan and some parts of New Matchoh presented beneficiary lists that were not in line with the RCST and the Federation beneficiary selection criteria. In the proposed beneficiary

lists, rations were allocated to “everyone”, meaning that the average number of rations per household was 1.5, independent of number of people in the family. Lists were returned to the relevant authorities with requests for corrections, whereby only the most vulnerable should be included in the list and that up to nine rations could be allocated per family, depending on its size. After some discussions, this has been accepted and new lists are being prepared. The estimated delay related to this is two weeks.

Objective 2: To assist 65,000 schoolchildren between seven and fifteen years of age with winter clothes and shoes.

About 72 tonnes of clothes have been distributed to institutions and individuals. Schoolchildren are not specifically targeted as the received clothes are both for adults and for children. In view of the slow preparation of beneficiary lists, and in order to accelerate the distribution process, the Federation and RCST have agreed with Mission East and Caritas to distribute part of the clothes to beneficiaries targeted by their programmes, however according to criteria approved by the Federation. RCST branches are carrying out the actual distribution for these agencies, and the donors are being highlighted. Additional 300 tonnes of clothes are expected from the Swedish, Hellenic and Korean Red Cross Societies.

Approximately 1,600 pairs of shoes are being procured from the Norwegian Red Cross donation, and will be distributed in the Sughd region. The major part of this programme component is, however, still uncovered.

Health w

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

The Federation and RCST have completed a series of health education workshops for community health workers and Red Crescent volunteers on prevention and management of diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections at community level. RCST volunteers active in this emergency operation have been included in the ongoing health programme, supported by ECHO and implemented throughout the whole country. A total of 162 emergency operation volunteers, of which 44 from Kulyab, 28 from Kurgan-Tube and 90 from Sughd, have been trained and received teaching materials and information leaflets. Each trained volunteer trains other volunteers and community members in their respective communities and disseminates information amongst the population on disease prevention and management at family level. In February, part of volunteers will be trained in topics of breast-feeding and weaning.

A total of 496 kits, containing basic medicines and medical supplies for primary health care units (FAPs), procured from part of the donation of the German Government through the German Red Cross, will be delivered in early March and distributed to FAPs in Khatlon and Regions of Republican Subordination by the end of April 2002. This will be an additional distribution to the one conducted as part of the ECHO-funded health programme, and it is targeting the same institutions. Complementarity in assistance is ensured, since the medical kits are covering an estimated 6-month period, and successive distributions will be carried out so as to avoid overlapping.

Water-sanitation w

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

To this date, the Federation and the RCST have initiated projects in four selected areas, within the framework of the ECHO-funded project to rehabilitate small-scale irrigation systems so as to help increase people’s sustainability in food production. The projects are relying on the involvement of community members and their ownership of the programme, which has been very much the case since the beginning of the implementation. In all four locations - Karabuin, Fotehobod, Novebod and Yangikurgan villages - construction material has been delivered and the work is underway. The community members engaged in the work are receiving complementary food parcels donated by WFP. The fifth originally selected location was left out due to expressed interest by the World Bank to rehabilitate the site, which would cause duplication of efforts and resources.

A joint monitoring visit was conducted with WFP and ECHO during the last week of December 2001. WFP has since distributed the food to the projects involved in food for asset rehabilitation.

The following table displays a work advancement in each location for this reporting period.

Locations	Work done
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Karabuin -Ghanchi district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A total of 3000 meters of pipeline was layed out. 2. Submersible pump to boast the pressure in the mainline where the pipeline is connected were installed. 3. A boaster pump has been installed upstream, which pumps from an underground sump to the 25 cubic meter water tank 1000 meters away.
Fotekhobod -Mastcho district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of a 25 cubic meter tank. 2. Installation of a submersible pump. 3. Installation of a 63-KVA transformer 4. Laying of 1000 meters electric cable to the borehole site.
Movebod-Mastcho district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of a 25 cubic meters tank. 2. Installation of a submersible pump. 3. Laying a 1000 meters of pipe line.
Yangikurgan-Shakristan district	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of a submersible pump. 2. Laying of 1000 meters of pipeline leading to the irrigation channels of the kitchen gardens.

In spite of initial delays, the work has progressed considerably and is expected to be completed within the time-frame of the ECHO project, by the end of March. Following the completion of the rehabilitation and construction phase of the programme, communities will be trained on the rational use of water resources and appropriate irrigation techniques, and will subsequently take over the project for self-management.

National Society Capacity Building w

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) is implementing the food deficit operation with support of the International Federation. In order to achieve higher effectiveness and efficiency, RCST has reinforced its structure at branch and headquarters level. The newly hired staff and volunteers in Sughd and Kulyab regions attended induction training on the purpose of the operation, Red Cross/Red Crescent overall mandate and humanitarian principles. They were also provided with practical knowledge on specific segments of the operation: relief, logistics, volunteer management, etc. Staff and volunteers who were trained and active in the implementation of the previous drought emergency operation are continuing their activities in the current programme, under the supervision of RCST and Federation programme coordinators.

Coordination

Apart from the traditional cooperation with WFP, a number of initiatives have been taken to jointly implement parts of the operation with other humanitarian organizations. This includes distribution of second hand clothes with Mission East and Caritas, as explained above, but also the initiation of discussions on a possible development and implementation of an early-warning system jointly with Oxfam and other agencies. This inter-agency effort lead by Oxfam, is stemming from the needs identified over the last two years to improve and enhance the level of preparedness regarding disasters and food security. Pending the finalization of the cooperation agreement, the RCST would be active mainly in the data collection, through its network of branches.

Outstanding needs

The water and sanitation component of this emergency appeal will be covered by the British Department for International Development (DFID) through the British Red Cross. The DFID donation will also cover the Federation’s water and sanitation programme for the 2002 annual appeal. Additional funds are being sought for purchasing of shoes for schoolchildren, in order to distribute them before the beginning of the next school-year.

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

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
						20.06.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6'795'218		TOTAL COVERAGE 130.3%
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		27'990	GBP	66'490	04.10.2001	PROGRAMME MGT & CONTROL
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		237'600	GBP	554'606	04.04.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		594'000	CAD	623'403	19.11.2001	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		95'400	CAD	99'340	14.03.2002	
CHINA, HONG KONG - RC				7'496	10.09.2001	
FINNISH - RC		50'456	EUR	76'643	01.10.2001	
FINNISH - RC		62'734	EUR	92'520	27.12.2001	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		301'573	EUR	444'760	29.11.2001	130 MT SUNFLOWER OIL, 496 FAP-KITS TRANSPORT
HELLENIC - RC		5'000'000	GRD	22'290	07.09.2001	
HELLENIC - RC		5'000'000	GRD	21'705	24.10.2001	
ICELANDIC - RC		6'800'000	ISK	112'472	12.11.2001	
IRANIAN - RC		962	USD	1'610	04.09.2001	PSB FOR IN-KIND
JAPANESE - RC		10'000'000	JPY	139'010	05.10.2001	
MONACO - RC		80'000	FRF	18'344	21.08.2001	
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'400	02.11.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'291'263	NOK	241'190	15.11.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS				2'095	29.11.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS				1'206	09.01.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'300'000	SEK	213'590	30.08.2001	SEK 300'000 REGIONAL WATSAN
WFP		90'856	USD	152'502	27.12.2001	
WFP		25'085	USD	42'105	10.10.2001	
WFP		38'728	USD	65'005	30.01.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3'016'782	CHF	44.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - RC	Delegate(s)			36'961	01.10.2001	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
FINNISH - RC		58'950	EUR	86'939	27.12.2001	16'175 KG USED CLOTHES, TRANSPORTATION
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
Norway	Delegate(s)			37'782		
WFP		1'812'383	USD	3'042'085	27.12.2001	5113 MT WHEAT FLOWER, 83 MT VEGETABLE OIL, 41 MT SALT
WFP		532'115	USD	893'155	10.10.2001	1680 MT WHEAT FLOWER, 156.8 MT VEGETABLE OIL, 281 MT SALT, 100.8 MT GREEN PEAS
WFP		1'016'989	USD	1'707'016	30.01.2002	2780 MT WHEAT FLOWER, 51.2 VEGETABLE OIL, 27.9 MT SALT, 52 MT SUGAR
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				5'836'153	CHF	85.9%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						