

# 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

## UZBEKISTAN: DROUGHT

25 October, 2001

*This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.*

*Appeal No. 27/01*

*Launched on 21 August 2001 for CHF 1,006,653 for 4 months.*

*DREF Allocated: N/A*

*Beneficiaries: 20,000 beneficiaries with food assistance and over 150,000 with essential drugs and preventive health care*

*Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 21 August - 7 October 2001*

### “At a Glance”

*Appeal coverage: 18.4%*

*Related Appeals: 26/01 (Tajikistan: Food Deficit)*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 822,208*

*Update/Summary: With more recent and accurate information now available from the Government's latest crop assessment, it is clear that the drought situation is worse than originally thought, with a more significant impact on more than 350,000 people. Conditions have been aggravated by the poor quality of potable water, and community health workers predict an outbreak of diarrhea and other infectious diseases during the winter and spring period.*

*In response to the needs of the affected population, The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan (RCSU) with support provided from the International Federation, undertaking an emergency relief operation in two provinces of Karakalpakstan. Based on initial appeal inputs, the National Society commenced the preparatory process by hiring national and field co-ordinators, collecting primary data for selection of beneficiaries, and negotiating possible co-operation points with local authorities and NGOs. Donor support to date has been limited, and further funding is essential in order to carry out the planned relief activities in a timely and efficient manner.*

### **Operational Developments:**

The government of Uzbekistan made a formal request to the international community to provide assistance during a second year of drought and severe water shortages. The OCHA/UNDP final report concludes that the humanitarian situation is likely to deteriorate in the short and medium term. Specifically, there is a sharply reduced access to drinking water and other supplies; reduced access to food; deteriorating health and sanitary conditions; and massive unemployment causing migration to Kazakhstan and Russia.

The Federation's programme co-ordinator and representatives of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan (RCSU) recently visited Nukus, the capital of Karakalpakstan, to participate in an inter-agency co-ordination

meeting, attended by a cross section of Uzbekistan government, Republic of Karakalpakstan Council of Ministers, embassy representatives of the US, Italy and Switzerland as well as international organizations (USAID, UNDP, WHO, World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and MSF) accredited to Uzbekistan. The following topics were raised during the meeting:

- The government and international organizations continue to explore medium and long-term alternatives; a national strategy on drought mitigation was mentioned among possible solutions;
- The representatives of the UNDP, World Bank and Asian Development Bank are providing material and technical support to Karakalpakstan in the form of credits for technical projects on water supply, installing hand water pumps, and other activities;
- the Italian Embassy committed to providing humanitarian relief and food products (oil, sugar, rice and grain) to be distributed by local community groups (mahallya) on a monthly basis until the next harvest. The RCSU has been requested and agreed to share expertise and support mahallya in monitoring and other aspects of the relief operation;
- The International Federation reiterated its commitment to assist 20,000 most vulnerable in two areas selected and targeted for food distribution, and providing 150,000 people with essential medicines and basic health care.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent action w**

This Emergency Appeal no. 27 has received support from a number of donor National Societies and international entities accredited in Uzbekistan. The main food and medicines requirements have been covered through a number of in-kind donations. The National Society is however still lacking sufficient financial resources to cover the administrative component of the operation. The National Society and the Federation continue their joint fund-raising efforts at all levels.

The National Society has completed the preparatory phase of the operation by hiring project co-ordinators at all levels according to the field structure described in the Red Crescent Society section below. A project support team at the national level prepares practical training on relief distribution, logistics, monitoring and other aspects of the operation.

Apart from administrative arrangements linked to this operation, the National Society has established links with local authorities and mahallya (local community leaders) in order to commence compilation of the beneficiary lists based on a preliminary number of households matching the selection criteria.

### **Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistanw**

The Karakalpakstan Republican Council's experience in food distribution is obtained through implementation of the Aral Sea supplementary food assistance to some 17,000 multi-children families, elderly, disabled and TB patients in 1999-2000 and 11,730 TB patients in 2001. The Karakalpakstan Republican Council consists of 67 staff members at the headquarters in Nukus and throughout 17 provinces (including four staff members in Chimbai and Kegeili), visiting nurses and 400 volunteers, involved in disaster preparedness, youth, health and care activities. Although the Republic Council is ready to provide any required additional human resources in support to the operation implementation, the main responsibility lies upon the following national Society co-ordinators and officers:

- The National Society supervision team, responsible for the overall direction and support of the operation at the national level. The team will be composed of the project co-ordinator at the national level, backed-up by representatives of the technical departments (health, administration, finance and information). The team is based in Tashkent (1,000 km from Nukus), and may visit the operation sites when need arise;
- The National Society operation co-ordinator on the field who will take the overall responsibility for the programme implementation. However, all health-related activities fall under the supervision of the National Society health officer on the field. Field co-ordinators will be based in Nukus, with frequent travelling to Chimbai (70 km from Nukus) and Kegeili (50 km) rayons;

- Two monitoring teams carrying responsibility for health activities and food distribution at the grass roots are being recruited;

The National Society has already identified project co-ordinators at the national and field level. The latter are now reviewing the candidates for two monitoring groups (representatives of the local authorities for food distributions groups and local Red Cross branches (visiting nurses, medical workers, pharmacists, teachers, economists, etc.) for health care activities.

### **Health w**

An in-kind donation of medicines has been provided by the Danish Red Cross in response to the emergency appeal. The set of medicines has been identified in accordance with the list of required health care supplies, presented by the RCSU. A project co-ordinator and supporting health officer at the National Society's headquarters commenced planning for further health related activities.

### **Relief distributions w**

The food distribution component is under way. The American Red Cross has pledged to provide the entire amount of the requested food support, excluding pulses and iodized salt (procured locally). Terms of agreement are being discussed by the parties (the RCSU, the Federation, and the American Red Cross).

According to the working time-frames, the National Society plans to finalize the beneficiary lists and present them for pre-distribution monitoring by the middle of November. The National Society identified preliminary numbers of beneficiaries as 3,140 households for Chimbai and 2,060 households for Kegeili rayons. However, this data is subject to further verification. The first distribution is planned for beginning of December; it will target households matching the following minimum criteria:

- low cash disposal;
- no livestock;
- no harvest on family plots;
- four or more children under 16;
- lack of support from other organizations or the RCSU's existing Aral Sea programme.

Having investigated stock facilities available on-the-spot, the National Society identified a 1,000 sq.m. warehouse suitable for storage of the food commodities. Separate warehouse facilities for medicines will also be identified in accordance with specific storage requirements for drugs.

### **National Society Capacity Building w**

The National Society together with the Federation representatives have planned practical training for operational staff. The training will cover issues such as work with the beneficiaries (selection, notification, appeal process), pre- and post-distribution monitoring, administration of the distribution site (registration, crowd control), warehousing, and reporting requirements. In order to increase the skills and the knowledge of the National Society's field personnel, representatives of the relevant departments will join the training.

### **Federation Delegation w**

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Almaty provides day-to-day technical, advisory and communication support to the operation's implementation. The members of the Federation support team will be deployed on the field when the operation requires. The team is composed of a health delegate, disaster preparedness delegate, regional programme co-ordinator, finance/administrative delegate, relief assistant and the head of regional delegation; as well as the Federation's programme co-ordinator in Tashkent. The Federation regional disaster preparedness, relief and health departments are among the most directly involved in the operation process, jointly with the counterparts from the National Society. The programme co-ordinator recently provided support to the National Society during the trip to Nukus to participate in the inter-agency meeting.

## **Coordination**

The food intervention in Karakalpakstan will be coordinated with the existing Aral Sea programme to avoid duplication. The national society and the Federation representatives will also formalize co-operation with UNDP and other operational NGOs. Health activities will be undertaken in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and relevant NGOs in the area.

## **Outstanding needs**

The deteriorating situation in Karakalpakstan is a matter of concern for the government and many NGOs in the country. Though the provision of food and medical supplies has been secured, it is not less important to deliver our services efficiently. Therefore, further funding to cover operation-related administrative costs has to be sought.

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*Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact 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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<b>Uzbekistan</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 27/2001</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				22.10.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'006'653</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 18.4%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRIAN - RC		72700	EUR	110'431	31.08.2001	
DANISH - RC		5960	DKK	1'204	01.10.2001	
JAPANESE - RC				33'000	05.10.2001	
MONACO - RC		50'000	FRF	11'465	21.08.2001	FOOD RELEIF
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				156'100	CHF	15.5%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANSIH - RC		145275	DKK	29'345	01.10.2001	DRUGS, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				29'345	CHF	2.9%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	