

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

11 February 2002

Appeal No. 27/01

Launched on 21 August 2001 for CHF 1,006,653 (USD 631,000/ EUR 723,000) for 4 months

(Note: the original appeal erroneously indicated an operational length of four months, but the actual appeal plan envisaged a nine-month operation, with food distributions scheduled for January and March. The final report will therefore be issued by August 2002.

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

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 7 October 2001 - 25 January 2002

Operations Update No. 1 issued: 22 October 2001

Operations Update No. 3 expected March 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 65.4%

Related Appeals: Central Asia Regional Programme - 2002 Annual Appeal (No. 01.52/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 348,285 (USD 206,000/ EUR 236,000)

In summary: A positive donor response has enabled the National Society to implement the project as planned. However, according to government officials, the situation may deteriorate. The impact of the humanitarian assistance will be assessed through post-distribution evaluation, but already there is a tendency for growing needs among the affected population

Operational Developments

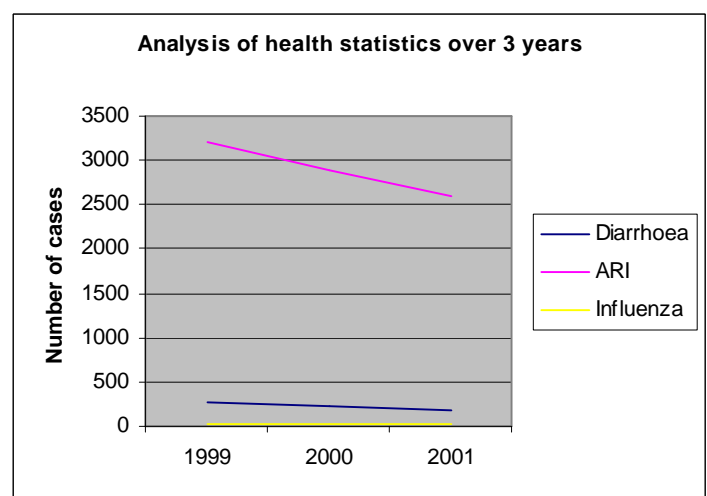
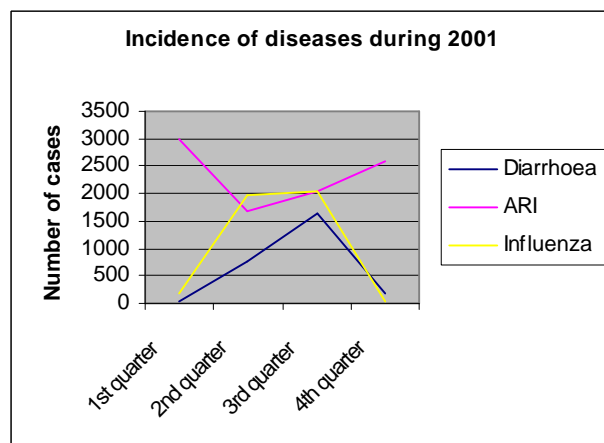
The impact of the drought became more apparent as the Republic of Karakalpakstan assessed the overall scarce harvest. However, due to a comparatively high harvest in the southern areas, the Republic of Karakalpakstan managed to produce 113% of the annual plan in 2001. Grain crops comprised only 44.5% against planned volumes and cotton dropped as low as 60.1% of the plan. However, northern and central districts, namely Muinak, Kungrad, Shumanai, Kanlykul, Karauzyak, Takhtakupyr, Chimbai, Kegeili and Bozatau, experienced severe crops shortages and have had a hard time coping with the consequences of the disaster. They have collected only 0.72 metric tonnes (MT) of cotton and 0.42 MT of grain per hectare. The average is 1.5-2 MT per ha. Those nine districts occupy more than 60% of the territory of Karakalpakstan. A total of 11,654 ha was planted with winter wheat, with an annual norm of 34,000 ha. Considering that this land was not desalinated and will receive little irrigation, there is not much hope for next year's harvest.

The health situation is generally declining with an increasing number of acute respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases. Health authorities report growing TB, psychological problems, heart diseases and serious malnutrition among children under 16 years old. Analysis of health statistics shows an alarming situation with an increasing number of acute respiratory diseases (ARI) among the population. The tables below reflect statistics on

incidence of diarrhoea, ARI and influenza during 2001 and in a 3-year perspective of statistics for the same period (4th quarter) of 1999-2001:

The water supply is in a critical condition in the Republic of Karakalakhstan. Only 46% of the population has piped water. People in rural areas obtain drinking water from hand-pumps and artesian wells. Tanked water is brought to the most remote areas of six rayons: Turtkul, Ellik-ala, Shumanai, Kanlykol, Kungrad and Muinak. At present, water levels in Tuyamuyun, one of the main water reservoirs along the basin of Amydarya river, are low.

As a result of decreased production, more food has been imported from other regions of Uzbekistan. Market prices have increased. Limited amounts of wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil and sugar are redistributed from other regions by the government. However, excess needs have to be covered from private sources at a higher price. The Government of Uzbekistan's drought mitigation policies and activities, including construction of water pipes and installation of hand pumps, have created job opportunities. The drought mitigation strategy also includes loans and credits and increased access to health services to the families affected by disasters. A taskforce has been appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a long term drought mitigation strategy on social and economic development.



In response to the government's appeal of 26 May 2001, a number of NGOs are carrying out several activities to assist the most vulnerable. The operations fall under the following areas of intervention:

- Technical assistance (development of water supply infrastructure: drilling of wells, hand-pumps installation, provision of water carriers and containers, water pipes, etc.): World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UN OCHA, Korean Government, Japanese Government, German Government, USAID, JDA, GAA, Flygt International.
- Development projects (support to the government on drought prevention and mitigation strategy, community-based agricultural projects, micro-credits, poverty reduction, etc.): World Bank, ADB, UNDP, German Government, GAA.
- Medical aid and health education (provision of medicines and medical supplies, vaccination, preventive and educational activities, etc.): World Bank, UNICEF, Korean Government, Japanese Government, World Concern, Indian Government, MSF.
- Food aid: UN OCHA, Italian Government.
- Provision of non-food assistance (hygienic supplies, used clothing, etc.): UN OCHA, World Concern.

Investments made and planned is estimated at 52,430,000 USD in loans and 6,662,900 USD in free-standing humanitarian assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The overall objective of the project is to assist the most vulnerable groups the Chimbay and Kegheile rayons to meet their nutritional needs until next harvest season, and to reduce the effects of waterborne and infections diseases and prevent further increase in vulnerability.

The Emergency Appeal received a positive response from donors, allowing the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan to start the planned emergency response. The preparatory phase of the operation is at the final stage, and planned distribution will commence this month.

A Memorandum of Understanding, stating the key roles and responsibilities of the partners has been signed between the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan and the International Federation. The document reflects all requirements, assigned to specific donations.

Following donor requirements and ensuring the transparency of the operation implementation, the Federation established independent monitoring for food distribution and the medical component of the programme (i.e. allocation and disbursement of medicines, installation and utilisation of filters, health education campaign). The monitoring is conducted at different stages of programme implementation: pre-distribution verification of the initial beneficiary lists, monitoring at the distribution sites and beneficiary institutions and post-distribution monitoring, aiming to assess the impact of delivered assistance and development of the situation along with existing and emerging needs. Two Federation monitoring teams are supported by and work in close cooperation with the representatives of the National Society and local administration.

Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistanw

Field coordinators received initial introduction to the programme activities. A total of 19 full-time employees have been hired for programme implementation. The National Society developed and distributed specific job descriptions for programme coordinators, leaders and members of the working groups for food and health components, drivers and the warehouse managers. Furthermore, the NS leadership and technical departments, at HQ, provide moral and technical support to the operation with the branch in Karakalpakstan, through field visits and continuous supervision and communications with the field teams.

Health w

Objective 1 To reduce the effect of the waterborne diseases, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and anemia in the selected rayons to prevent increases in vulnerability.

Thirty medical kits, donated by the Danish Red Cross, containing basic anti-diarrhoea medicines have been delivered to the National Society's warehouse in Nukus. Each kit contains the following items: infusion liquid (dextrose 5% in water), doxycycline hyclate, oral rehydration salts (ORS), co-trimaxazole, ferrous sulphate, disinfecting soap. Every health institution will receive one kit and disburse the medicines to patients currently undertaking treatment. Pre-distribution monitoring, conducted jointly by the Federation and the National Society, verified suitability of every individual institution to accept and deliver medicines to the patients. At present, the National Society is working on reporting formats, which should reflect the disbursement of medicines. When this is finalised, the National Society will sign individual agreements with each of the hospitals and conduct training on application of developed ledgers. Medical institutions will be visited by the National Society representatives and Federation monitors on regular basis.

Objective 2 To launch a health promotion campaign and public awareness programme on waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases to decrease the suffering from these diseases.

The National Society has elaborated initial materials for health education training, which will be delivered to the representatives of the National Society and 100 volunteers on the spot. Based on obtained knowledge, trained staff and volunteers will launch health education campaign among the communities. The campaign will cover the following topics:

- ARI and infectious diseases prophylactics;
- Promotion of basic hygienic procedures;
- Promotion of safe motherhood.

All three topics include the nutritional component, which will be put into the spotlight during all planned workshops. Awareness leaflets, brochures and posters are being developed for distribution to individual beneficiaries during the health education sessions, at the distribution sites and public places.

Objective 3 : To provide 30 filters to selected health posts and institutions.

This equipment will be bought, transported and distributed to the selected sites. The use of water filters will be monitored during regular visits to health care facilities. Thirty water filters were donated by Danish Red Cross and are part of medical kits that are available at the warehouse waiting for the finalization of beneficiary and distribution lists.

Relief distributions w

Objective: To support the nutritional status of the most vulnerable people in the selected rayons through distribution of supplementary family rations to 20.000 selected beneficiaries in the Chimbay and Kegheile rayons, within four months. This is intended to cover the gap between income and funds needed until the next harvest.

The National Society conducted a comparative bid analysis for procurement of 21 MT of iodized salt and 42 MT of pulses. At present, the commodities are being packed and delivered to Nukus, except the pulses that will be provided in the second distribution as a full ration to cover two cycles of distribution. The first part of American Red Cross in-kind donation, consisting of 70 MT of wheat flour, 42 MT rice and 15,000 litres of vegetable oil (a total of 127 MT of food commodities), have been transferred to the warehouse. They are ready for distribution as soon as all final arrangements (final beneficiary lists, distribution sites and schedule) are made. The remaining 253 MT of the food commodities will be delivered by the middle of February. They will be included in the second distribution, planned for March-April 2002. Therefore, every selected family will receive two months of food rations, consisting of 18 kg of wheat flour, 10 kg of rice, 4 litres of vegetable oil, 4 kg of pulses and 2 kg of salt.

At present, detailed information (name, passport number, full address, average income, number of family members) of the selected beneficiaries is being incorporated into an electronically generated database, enabling the entry of corrections according to the results of pre-distribution monitoring (2% of total number of beneficiaries). The number of targeted families with children is 3,800 (2,400 families in Chimbai and 1,400 families in Kegeili rayons of Karakalpakstan). However, this number may be adjusted subject to the results of the family appeal procedure and post-distribution evaluation. Every family, matching the selection criteria, but not included on the distribution lists, is eligible to: appeal for revision of his/her status; receive the nutritional rations; and/or be included into the distribution lists.

National Society Capacity Building w

National Society staff employed in terms of the project implementation and the Federation staff involved in monitoring received induction training with deeper insight into different aspects of the operation (monitoring techniques, pre-distribution arrangements, reporting formats) and activities of the Red Crescent Society and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole. It is also planned to deliver further practical training prior to distribution. The National Society staff and volunteers involved in the distribution will include training on registering of the beneficiaries, crowd control techniques, monitoring arrangements, appeal procedure, and other practicalities. The Federation monitors work in close day-to-day cooperation with the National Society's staff and volunteers, ensuring joint resolution of technical issues and allowing to put obtained knowledge into practice.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation has: deployed its regional field officer to Nukus to support the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan and the Country Federation Representative Office in the implementation of the operation; made sure that relevant reporting timeframes and requirements are met; maintained close relationships with other NGOs active in the region; and contributed to the National Society's organisational development, taking into account branches capacity, priorities and areas of expertise. The work of the regional field officer is supported by the team of experts (DP, health, information, logistics) from the Federation Regional Delegation in Almaty. The regional DP delegate visited the operation to discuss issues related to the drought operation and agreed on the operation procedures and the implementation practicalities with the National Society leadership and the Federation Field Officer.

Coordination

Project activities are closely coordinated with the Aral Sea programme, operating in the same areas. Electronic processing of the beneficiary lists avoids duplication of efforts. Federation and the National Society maintain close contacts with local authorities, other international and local NGOs, operating in Republic of Karakalpakstan. The health component of the project is being coordinated with MSF.

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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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Lynette Lowndes
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Uzbekistan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 27/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			07.02.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'006'653		TOTAL COVERAGE 65.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRIAN - RC		72'700	EUR	110'431	31.08.2001	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		99'000	CAD	103'901	10.12.2001	
DANISH - RC		5'960	DKK	1'204	01.10.2001	
JAPANESE - RC				33'000	05.10.2001	
MONACO - RC		50'000	FRF	11'465	21.08.2001	FOOD RELIEF
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		539'374	NOK	100'748	15.11.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT		250'000	SEK	38'750	13.12.2001	
PRIVATES				37	19.11.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				399'536	CHF	39.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - GOVT/RC		136'681	USD	229'487	27.10.2001	180 MT FLOUR, 110 MT RICE, 83.25 MT EDIBLE OIL
DANISH - RC		145'275	DKK	29'345	01.10.2001	DRUGS, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				258'832	CHF	25.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	