

# 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

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

27 September, 2001

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

*Appeal No. 32/01 (Preliminary)*

*Launched on 21 September, 2001 for CHF 8,765,000 for 2 months.*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 600,000*

*Beneficiaries: 500,000 (revised from the preliminary appeal figure of 300,000); 250,000 in Pakistan, 150,000 in Iran, and 100,000 in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.*

*Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 21 - 26 September, 2001*

### “At a Glance”

*Appeal coverage: 0% (The attached List of Contributions will be updated for the next Operations Update no. 2 to reflect all contributions received).*

*Related Appeals: 01.62/2001 (Central Asia Region Annual Appeal); 01.34/2001 (Afghanistan Annual Appeal); 01.38/2001 (Pakistan Annual Appeal); 01.36/2001 (India Annual Appeal).*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 8,765,000*

*Update/Summary: The situation continues to evolve, and the Federation believes that a strong readiness capacity is the best way to respond to any emerging needs, not only to assist those who are moving to safer areas by supporting current National Society relief operations, but also other Red Crescent Societies whose countries border Afghanistan, and other areas at risk. More specifically, the following three operational objectives form the basis of the Federation's approach:*

- readiness and preparedness (focusing on shelter, water and sanitation, and health);*
- coordination (establishing a Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement-wide consultation, strengthening the liaison function between the Government authorities, national societies, and the Federation, and concluding concrete plans with the UN operational partners); and*
- advocacy (promoting the Fundamental Principles for Humanitarian Action and the Humanitarian Code of Conduct).*

*This report focuses primarily on the Federation's preparedness actions in Pakistan and Iran. A revised appeal is in preparation (projected to cover a period of six to eight months) and will be issued shortly. Meanwhile, the Federation expresses its appreciation for the donor support provided to date, including valuable in-kind assistance from the American Red Cross.*

### **Operational Developments:**

While a lack of access and security concerns continue to limit information gathering and assessment activities, various reports indicate that up to 20,000 refugees are massed on the Afghan-Pakistan border. The United Nations has drawn up emergency or contingency plans to cope with up to one million Afghan refugees crossing

into Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan (based on a worst case scenario). The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government in Pakistan is reportedly in the process of surveying 75 possible sites near the Afghan border for new refugee camps. The UN World Food Programme (WFP), fearing that an estimated 1.6 million Afghans will run out of food if they do not receive additional supplies, has announced plans to resume deliveries of food aid into Afghanistan from Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, at least to areas where security is relatively stable, local transport is available and aid workers are present on the ground to oversee distribution.

The Federation, continuing with a flexible approach to prepare to assist 500,000 beneficiaries (increased from the preliminary appeal figure of 300,000) for an initial 2 months, is focusing on reinforcing and positioning stocks of non-food items (blankets; tents; tarpaulins/plastic sheets; kitchen sets); water and sanitation equipment (including jerrycans, water tanks, water tap stands); health equipment (New Emergency Health Kits or NEHK and Health ERU's); logistics equipment (logistics Emergency Response Units or ERUs and 1 telecoms ERU); food (high protein biscuits and food packs); and human resources recruitment, including:

- Islamabad: one liaison delegate, one relief co-ordinator, one logistics delegate, one administrative delegate, one finance delegate, one information delegate, one wat/san delegate, and one telecoms delegate.
- Quetta: one relief and one logistics delegate.
- Peshawar: one relief and one logistics delegate.

These numbers are provisional and may rapidly change due to operational needs. The delegates currently confirmed or in the process of recruitment are from Bangladesh, Jordan, Japan, Nepal, Sudan, Switzerland and Iceland.

In **Iran**, the Government announced that the Iranian borders will remain closed but that assistance will be provided to Afghan IDP's inside Afghanistan close to Iranian borders. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has been requested to lead the assistance programme through setting up of potentially 8 camps: six near the borders of Khorasan, and 2 near the borders with Sistan. Discussions with Afghan authorities continue. The Government of Iran has announced that international assistance for this operation will be critical.

The CHF 600,000 released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has effectively allowed the planned assessments, initial relief activities, and pre-positioning of stocks to begin.

## ***Red Cross and Red Crescent action***

### **Shelter; Logistics; Relief Distributions, Health, and Water/Sanitation w**

#### ***Objectives:***

- *Effectively and accurately assess the logistics pipeline and supply chain, resulting in re-enforced logistics systems and elements where needed, including at airports, ports, main roads, customs clearance, and warehousing.*
- *Prepare to provide basic shelter and non-food relief items to an estimated beneficiary population of up to 500,000 beneficiaries.*
- *Ensure systems are in place to deliver basic health assistance to some 500,000 beneficiaries for a two month period.*
- *Begin the movement of relief goods and supplies to strategic locations in Pakistan.*
- *Ensure systems are in place to deliver basic water and sanitation assistance to some 500,000 beneficiaries for a two month period.*

#### **Pakistan**

The Federation's current relief preparedness activities are summarized in the attached table (*Mobilization for Humanitarian Crisis - September 2001*). In addition to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) dispatching 17 trucks last Thursday (20 September) with relief supplies to its Quetta branch (including 1,000 tents, 10,000 blankets, 4,000 jerry cans, and other materials from the PRCS Islamabad warehouse), the PRCS North West Frontier Province (NWFP) branch has established an action plan which includes the opening of

casualty evacuation and blood collection points, arrangements for the provision of mobile medical cover, provision of shelter, assistance to refugees and displaced persons, tracing, and maintenance of liaison contacts with government and non-government agencies. The branch has requested an initial stock of 500 tents and 5,000 blankets, is preparing to mobilize volunteers, and has the following activities underway:

- procurement and distribution of 20,000 family tents for 20,000 families, each for possible deployment in Quetta and Peshawar.
- procurement and distribution of 40,000 blankets; 20,000 each to be dispatched respectively in the Balochistan and NWFP Provinces (2 blankets per family).
- procurement and distribution of 60,000 food parcels in refugee camps in the NWFP and Balochistan Provinces (3 food packs per family).
- Procurement and distribution of 20,000-cooking/kitchen utensil sets to refugees.
- Procurement and distribution of 40,000 ten litre water jerry cans (2 per family).
- Procurement and storage of fuel wood, approximately 45 mt per camp (for distribution during the winter season).

Preliminary agreements have been established with authorities in Peshawar and Quetta affording the PRCS priority to open refugee camps if needed. The status readiness of water and sanitation ERU's is confirmed, and a detailed list of water and sanitation equipment is available upon request from the Federation's water and sanitation technical unit in Geneva.

Related to health activities, the PRCS intends to establish 10 fully staffed tented basic health centres (BHC's) located in refugee camps in the NWFP and Balochistan Provinces within 3 months. To carry this out the following activities are either underway or planned:

- demarcate BHC locations within refugee camp sites.
- procurement of 70 medium-size tents for establishment of 10 BHC's.
- purchase of standard furniture and medical equipment for each BHC
- appointment of two doctors for each BHC.
- appointment of support staff at each BHC, composed of 2 traditional birthing attendants (TBA's), 2 clinical nurses/midwives, 2 medical attendants, 2 sanitary staff, and 2 chowkidars (security personnel) per camp.
- all BHC's in each province to be supplied with vaccines and drugs sufficient for treating 10,000 people and will have appropriate storage facilities to house drugs and medicines.
- operational proposals have been drafted in the field for health interventions in the Quetta area.

The Federation has set a high priority on logistics and reports an excellent start to filling the supply pipeline through international and local procurement and international contributions. An area of particular concern is air operations. It is anticipated that the airport in Quetta, Pakistan, will play a key role in both relief and potential military operations, and may become overburdened. However, the PRCS's very active Karachi branch can be used as base to receive goods arriving by air (Karachi is the nearest major airport to Quetta) to be on-forwarded by road (truck). If for any reason the Peshawar airport is closed, the plan calls for goods to be directed to Islamabad which is a 4 to 5 hour drive by truck to Peshawar.

### **Iran**

The IRCS has allocated contingency stocks to the provincial branches of Khorasan, Sistan, and Baluchistan. Other IRCS branches as well as the central office in Tehran are prepared to support the operation as required. The IRCS currently has the capacity to cover 50,000 IDP's for 2 months with shelter, food, water, and emergency services. Further resources available in country could be mobilized to cover a beneficiary caseload of 200,000 (for a short period of time before replenishment supplies arrive). An updated IRCS plan of action will be available shortly.

### **Information/Media w**

#### ***Objectives:***

- ***To coordinate with other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement in drawing the attention of the media and a global audience to the plight of the refugees and how the Federation and National Societies are addressing their needs.***

- ***To advocate for the fundamental principles and mandate of the International Red Cross Red Crescent through documentation in the form of written and visual materials. These will be used for ongoing and new advocacy initiatives.***

In Pakistan, a visibility and information plan is being finalized. The PRCS is buying more Red Crescent bibs, jackets, T-shirts, and suitable standard signs to erect at the gate of each refugee camp. Contacts have been established with Government authorities at the central and province levels .

### ***Coordination w***

In **Pakistan**, the Federation is fortunate to have a well functioning office (rented from the PRCS) in Islamabad which is being reinforced by delegates. There is extra office space available for expansion of the operations. The Federation is also reinforcing both provincial branches in Balochistan with approximately 12 staff (each will set up district branches). The PRCS has emphasized that all international assistance from member societies should be channeled through the International Federation with the PRCS as implementing partner. On a central level, the delegation in Islamabad has maintained close consultations on a daily basis with the PRCS, the ICRC, and the UN (UNHCR, WHO, WFP, and UNICEF), with similar contacts and coordination mechanisms formed on a local level with UN agencies, particularly UNHCR.

In **Iran**, the IRCS is coordinating activities closely with Government authorities, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, and WFP) and NGO operational partners. A coordination meeting is planned for next Saturday, 29 September, to discuss detailed preparedness plans and respective roles.

In **Tajikistan**, UN OCHA office has coordinated an updating of the existing contingency plan, drafted last year when we thought we should be expecting an influx of refugees from the south. All major agencies here seem to agree that the most likely scenario for Tajikistan is NOT an influx of refugees at this stage. We should rather expect possible gathering of IDP's along the Afghan-Tajik border as a consequence of the developments in Afghanistan, but not in any large numbers. What we should consider in our contingency plans is therefore cross-border humanitarian assistance, not the setting up of camps on Tajik territory.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The response to this appeal to date has been impressive, with pledges received or indications of support amounting to over six million Swiss francs from the Red Cross and Red Crescent in America, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan. Further support is needed to complete the planned preparedness activities.

Pledges will be recorded as Pledge Management Notes (PMN's) are signed and received. The next Operations Update (no. 2) to be issued shortly will reflect an updated List of Contributions, including all hard pledges received to date.

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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>LOGISTICS AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION DEPARTMENT</b>                              |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
|--|-----------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>MOBILIZATION TABLE FOR HUMANITARIAN CRISIS - September 2001, appeal 32/2001</b> |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
|  |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            | <b>PAGE 1 OF 2</b>         |            |
| Commodity  | Total Quantity needed | Unit | Quantity needed per each destination |        |                   |                 |                | Donors       | Estimated unit price (CHF) | Estimated total cost (CHF) |            |
|  |                       |      | Pakistan (PK)                        |        | Turkmenistan (TK) | Tajikistan (TJ) | Abu Dhabi (HC) |              |                            |                            | IRAN       |
|  |                       |      | Peshawar                             | Quetta |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| <b>SHELTER/RELIEF</b>  |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| Plastic sheeting   | 53'000                | pce  | 25000                                |        | 4500              | 2300            | 4500           | 16700        |                            | 18.00                      | 954'000    |
|  |                       |      | 10000                                |        |                   |                 |                |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  |                       |      |                                      | 9000   | 4500              |                 | 4500           |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      | <b>6000</b>                          |        | <b>0</b>          | <b>2300</b>     | <b>0</b>       | <b>16700</b> |                            |                            |            |
| Blankets   | 150'000               | pce  | 75000                                |        | 10000             | 5000            | 10000          | 50000        |                            | 5.00                       | 750'000    |
|  |                       |      | 10000                                |        |                   |                 |                |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      | <b>65000</b>                         |        | <b>10000</b>      | <b>5000</b>     | <b>10000</b>   | <b>50000</b> |                            |                            |            |
| Tents  | 50'200                | pce  | 25000                                |        | 3400              | 1700            | 3400           | 16700        |                            | 200.00                     | 10'040'000 |
|  |                       |      | 500                                  |        |                   |                 |                |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      | <b>24500</b>                         |        | <b>3400</b>       | <b>1700</b>     | <b>3400</b>    | <b>16700</b> |                            |                            |            |
| Kitchen sets   | 50'200                | pce  | 25000                                |        | 3400              | 1700            | 3400           | 16700        |                            | 35.00                      | 1'757'000  |
|  |                       |      | 5000                                 |        |                   |                 |                |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  |                       |      |                                      | 10000  |                   |                 |                |              | Austrian RC                |                            |            |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      | <b>10000</b>                         |        | <b>3400</b>       | <b>1700</b>     | <b>3400</b>    | <b>16700</b> |                            |                            |            |
| <b>MEDICAL</b>   |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| New Emergency Health Kits  | 20                    | kit  |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            | 9'000.00                   | 180'000    |
|  | 5                     |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              | American RC                |                            |            |
|  |                       |      | 1                                    | 1      |                   |                 |                |              | Norwegian RC               |                            |            |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| Cholera kit  | 11                    | kit  |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            | 11'000.00                  | 121'000    |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      | <b>11</b>                            |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| General medical equipment  |                       | TBC  |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            | 150'000    |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| <b>WATSAN</b>  |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| Various w at-san equipmer  | 1                     |      |                                      | 1      |                   |                 |                |              | Austrian RC                |                            | 680'000    |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| <b>FOOD</b>  |                       |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |
| High Protein biscuit   | 40                    | ton  |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            | 3'000.00                   | 120'000    |
|  | <b>Outstanding</b>    |      |                                      |        |                   |                 |                |              |                            |                            |            |

