

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

INDIA: DROUGHT

Date 29 July 2003

Appeal No. 16/2003; Operations Update no. 01

Appeal launched on 20 June 2003 for CHF 1,292,000 (USD 972,835 or EUR 833,259) for 6 months for 75,000 beneficiaries (15,000 families).

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000

Period covered: 20 June – 18 July 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 2.0 %

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,265,917

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: India (Annual Appeal 01.54/2003)

Operational Summary: Due to the current lack of funding for this slow onset disaster, the operation has been halved to a three-month timeframe with the number of targeted beneficiaries cut from 75,000 to 49,800 with a scaled down range of activities. There will now only be one food distribution, as opposed to three, for one month. The operational budget has been revised down to CHF 174,000 until such time when more funds come in, and resource mobilization and procurement has commenced. The currently planned food distribution is expected to be finished in September.

If additional funding is received within the next few weeks the number of beneficiaries can be increased. Donors, therefore, are requested to please respond to the appeal to provide urgently needed food assistance to the estimated 75,000 people affected by the drought in Rajasthan.

Operational developments

The appeal was issued on a preliminary basis to cover the immediate needs of 75,000 of the most vulnerable population in Rajasthan addressing the priority need of food. Due to insufficient coverage of the appeal the original plan of providing relief assistance to the most vulnerable segments of the drought affected population in five Rajasthan districts, through provision of supplementary food to 15,000 families over a period of six months, has been drastically scaled down.

With only 6% appeal coverage, the original program has been reduced from three food distributions to one, while the number of targeted beneficiaries has been cut from 75,000 to 49,800. The food baskets consist of 20 kg millet, 5 kg pulses and 2 litres of Mustard oil. Mobilization of resources and procurement has commenced and distribution will be completed by September.

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The Assistant Director-Relief from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) along with the Federation's Relief Delegate and Information and Reporting Officer conducted a pre-operational assessment. The team visited Pali, Nagaur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer's urban and rural areas from 3-6 July. The visit included meeting with the six ECHO-funded NGOs working in the region.

The assessment revealed that the government food/cash-for-work relief assistance would end on 15 July and all the major ECHO-funded agencies working in Rajasthan in different blocks are closing their operations by end of July.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Operational Goal: to improve the food security of 15,000 households through the provision of food as an economic transfer thereby preventing the sale of assets and distress migration of the population.

Objective: 15,000 drought affected households have received a food ration for four and a half months.

Progress/Achievements

The IRCS originally intended to make three food ration distributions to 15,000 families (approximately 75,000 people) in the five most drought-affected districts over a period of six months. The extremely low response to the appeal has forced the relief operation to be scaled down to a period of three months with a one time ration distribution for 30 days for 8,300 families. The original initial food ration was to provide sustenance for 45 days. The other two planned food ration distributions could occur upon receipt of more funds.

The contents of the food basket were determined after detailed discussions with the district branches prior to the launch of the Appeal and findings from the assessment visit. This process established food baskets for beneficiaries in the Pali district should include wheat rather than millet due to local dietary habits.

The IRCS has sensitized all the district branches to ensure maximum community participation during the selection of beneficiaries. The methodology adopted involves village heads, elderly respected and non-elected people, and the local administration. A survey of the destitute conducted by the government of Rajasthan earlier this year will also be a useful resource in selecting the most vulnerable.

The process of procurement of food items has commenced in agreement with state and districts branches on the methodology of distribution. The tendering will take approximately two weeks and the order may be able to be placed by the first week of August.

Advocacy and Humanitarian Values

Objective: Increased awareness and understanding of the impact of long-term drought leading to sufficient and adequate resources to help affected communities.

Progress/ achievements

A media plan has been created to highlight the drought issue and the operation during the next three months. Two stories have been submitted for the Federation's website to update international organizations on the current situation.

The "Forgotten Disasters" documentary is still only at a planning stage due to lack of funds. Similarly, the other initiatives such as organizing forums on information sharing have also been put on hold.

Objective: Raised awareness of the Indian Red Cross's role in addressing slow-onset disasters and in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Progress /Achievements

The IRCS has been evolving as a leading Disaster Management Agency in India. Being an auxiliary to the government and having a grass-root level knowledge and voluntary network puts the ICRC at the forefront of organizations in India dealing with disaster management.

All international agencies in Rajasthan, who are primarily donor agencies, execute their projects with the help of local Red Cross branches. One recent example is a Taiwan-based international NGO, which distributed quality food packets in Jaisalmer district, with the help of IRCS volunteers. The army camps in Rajasthan also contacted Indian Red Cross branches to help them distribute water in different villages of Rajasthan.

The IRCS has been trying to bridge the gap between donor agencies and beneficiaries, by helping the administration and the locally based NGOs (national or international). Indian Red Cross has been sharing their knowledge with international bodies at the national headquarters level.

Capacity Building

Objective: The disaster response capacity of the Rajasthan state IRCS branches in five drought-affected districts is improved over a period of six months.

Progress/Achievements: Indian Red Cross is conducting an orientation of IRCS field workers on relief distribution and management.

Impact: Once completed, the training will enhance the skills of IRCS field workers in relief distribution and camp management.

Constraints: Lack of funds means an inability to carry out other listed activities.

Federation Coordination: the Federation's Relief Delegate along with the IRCS counterpart will coordinate the orientation of IRCS field workers in Rajasthan.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

India - drought

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 16/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	1'292'000	TOTAL COVERAGE 2.0%			
AUSTRALIAN - RC	12'600	AUD	10'653	30.06.03	
MONACO - RC	10'000	EUR	15'430	28.07.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	26'083	CHF			2.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	