

# 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

## AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN: WATER SHORTAGE

31 October 2005

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 181 countries.

### In Brief

**Appeal No.05EA007; Operations Update 2; Period covered: August to October 2005; Appeal coverage: 27.9 %; (Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website).**

#### Appeal history:

- The Appeal (05EA007) was launched on 14 April 2005 for CHF 495,000 (USD 386,390 or EUR 320,305) to assist 43,315 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

**Outstanding needs: CHF 356,746 (USD 278,540 or EUR 230,830)**

#### Operational Summary:

With the funding from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of Iceland, Japan and Sweden, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) resumed the water trucking operation in Zahedan in early September 2005. Almost 19,000 beneficiaries get clean drinking water from 12 fixed tanks and 5 water trucks. Out of the four water distribution stations constructed within the previous appeal, three have become operational and provide water to beneficiaries round the clock.

The United Arab Emirate Red Crescent pledged USD 50,000 to support the construction of one new water distribution station. The Federation is in dialogue with ECHO with regard to the application for EUR 150,000 to build three more water stations. However, the construction has not begun due to the lack of cooperation and guarantee from the Provincial Water and Sewage Company in terms of its taking over and running the water stations after their completion.

The limited funding did not allow the IRCS and the Federation to start other activities planned in the appeal.

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The IRCS maintains a website ([www.rcs.ir](http://www.rcs.ir)) both in English and Farsi which also provides the latest information, operational updates, reports, interviews and news on the Bam operation to the public.

## **Operational Developments**

Owing to the limited funding and the uncertainty of future funding, the IRCS and the Federation could not start the activities planned in the appeal till August 2005. Finally, they decided to use the contributions from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of Iceland, Japan and Sweden in resuming the water trucking operation for three months from September 2005. They also worked with the Provincial Government and the Water and Sewage Company to make the four constructed water stations operational.

Meanwhile, the Federation Delegation and the IRCS branch in Zahedan worked on preparations for building four new water stations in Zahedan, which include drafting an agreement to be signed with the Provincial Government and the Water and Sewage Company, getting necessary permits for construction and land allocation, and arranging for a guarantee paper from the local authorities.

## **Coordination**

The IRCS and the Federation held a series of meetings with the local authorities concerned in Zahedan with regard to the resumption of water trucking and running the water stations. Coordination meetings are being held between the IRCS, the Federation, the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Iranian Government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ACH (Spanish NGO).

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent Society**

The Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial branch of the IRCS has been responsible for implementing the projects with the help of the Federation office in Zahedan. The experience and capacity gained during the previous operation proved useful in resuming the water trucking operation. The branch also plays an important role in maintaining the relationship with the local authorities.

## **Objectives, activities and results**

### **1. Meet the basic water needs of 43,315 beneficiaries by using both the water trucking system and the public water distribution stations.**

Although the construction of the four water distribution stations within the framework of the previous appeal was completed in April 2005, they were officially handed over to the Provincial Water and Sewage Company only in July 2005 due to its internal problem. Then the Water Company tried to look for a private company which would take over and run the stations on its behalf, but no company was willing to do so as it regards the project as unprofitable from a commercial point of view. As a result, the stations were not operational for several months. After months-long discussion with the local authorities, including the Provincial Governor's office, Emergency Centre and the Water Company, the Federation Delegation and the IRCS branch have finally succeeded in persuading them to follow the hand-over agreement signed between the local government, the Water Company, IRCS and the Federation, and to run the stations with a budget allocated by the provincial government. At last, the three water distribution stations began supplying water to beneficiaries in nearby settlement areas from early October 2005. One station is not in operation yet as the city's water network is out of order in the area. About 18,000 beneficiaries have access to the three water stations round the clock.

The water trucking operation started again in Zahedan in early September 2005. As most of Afghan refugees living in Zabul have returned home, there is no water delivery service in the town. Approximately 19,000 beneficiaries living in settlement areas in Zahedan, which are not covered by the public water distribution stations, get 15 litres of clean water per person a day from the water trucking service.

At present, five trucks and twelve fixed tanks are used in Zahedan to ensure the smooth water delivery to the beneficiaries. Water is delivered six days a week, except for Fridays and holidays. The water trucks fill their tanks with sweet clean water at water collection points and go round the target operational areas 4-5 times a day, filling the fixed water tanks there. Then beneficiaries fetch water from there with buckets or jerry cans.

The fixed water tanks are located in the following areas:

Tank No.	Name of the area	Fixed tank capacity (Lt)	Number of beneficiaries
1	Karimabad	12,000	1552
2	Jadedam	12,000	1386
3	Shirabad	12,000	1237
4	Ismaeilabad	12,000	1854
5	Shirabad	12,000	5529
6	Akharejadedam	12,000	1801
7	By airport	5,000	300
8	Ismaeilabad	5,000	653
9	Welders House	5,000	582
10	Welders House	5,000	329
11	Brousan Street	12,000	2798
12	Chahardivari	5,000	235

The following water trucks are used for water delivery:

No	Truck type	Tank capacity (Lt)
1	Heavy truck	12,000
2	Heavy truck	12,000
3	Heavy truck	12,000
4	Heavy truck	12,000
5	Light truck	6,000

The construction of four new water distribution stations in Zahedan required the Federation Delegation and the IRCS to make thorough preparations in advance in order to avoid such problems as those which they had faced during the previous construction of the water stations. In the reporting period, the Federation and the IRCS worked on drafting an agreement to be signed with the Provincial Government and the Water and Sewage Company, getting necessary permits for construction and land allocation, and arranging for a guarantee paper from the local authorities. However, they have not yet obtained the firm commitment from the local government and the Water Company regarding the hand-over and running of the new water stations after their construction. This delays the start of the construction.

## **2. Other objectives concerning Health and Care, Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Cross Border Cooperation**

Nothing has been done in the reporting period due to the lack of funding.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

The experience and capacity gained by the Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial Branch of the IRCS during the implementation of the previous programme paid back in resuming the water trucking operation. However, it still lacks the understanding of the Federation's system of financial management and reporting. The Delegation is organizing coaching and training sessions for IRCS staff.

### **Federation Delegation**

The Federation Delegation is assisting the IRCS in the implementation of the programme by coordinating donor response and monitoring the implementation. It also provides technical support to the IRCS in managing the programme and training project staff.

A Federation programme officer based in Zahedan is in charge of daily supervision, monitoring and coordination of activities with the IRCS provincial branch. Technical backup and coordination at the Tehran level is provided by a Tehran-based Senior Programme Officer, a Disaster Preparedness & Disaster Response Coordinator and Head of Delegation.

**Outstanding needs**

CHF 356,746 is still required to achieve the original objectives outlined in the exit strategy and the current emergency appeal within the given timeframe.

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