

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

25 May 2006

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 No. 4; Period covered: February to May 2006; Appeal coverage: 74.8 per cent; ([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 382,170 or EUR 316,535 to assist 43,315 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 124,740 (USD 98,870 or EUR 80,555).

Due to savings in construction costs, the total operational budget turned out to be lower than was initially expected. The major objectives of the programme, as outlined in the exit strategy established in 2004, have been achieved and the International Federation and the Iranian Red Crescent Society are not looking for further funding for the continuation of the programme.

Operational Summary:

With funding support from the European Commission of Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) built four more public water distribution stations and distributed 16,000 jerry cans to the beneficiaries.

Funds remaining from the Appeal (05EA007) will be used for improving the IRCS' water-related disaster preparedness in Sistan-Baluchistan and achieving the objectives of the Appeal not yet implemented.

This update serves as notice that the Appeal will remain active and that its time frame will be extended till the end of August 2006.

A Final Report will be issued in November 2006, covering the period from 15 April 2005 to the end of August 2006.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Seyed Hadi Samaei, Director General of International Affairs Department, Iranian Red Crescent Society, Tehran; email: intdep@rcs.ir; mobile: 98. 912 384 7050; tel: 98.21.88662618/88662619; fax: 98.21.88662652
- Chang Hun Choe, Acting Head of Delegation, Tehran; email: ch.choe@ifrc.org; mobile: 98.912 2172507; tel: 98.21.88672424-28, fax: 98.21.88672429
- Evgeni Parfenov, Regional Desk Officer, Geneva; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org; tel: 41.22.730 4325; fax: 41.22.733 0395

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at

<http://www.ifrc.org>

The IRCS maintains a website (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

With the funding support from ECHO and the UAE Red Crescent Society, the Federation and the IRCS started construction of four more public water distribution stations on the outskirts of Zahedan in mid-January 2006. The Ojabadi Construction Company, which had been selected as the winner of the bid, completed the construction by early March 2006. These water stations are providing 18,790 beneficiaries with free access to safe drinking water round the clock.



Water stations providing round the clock free access to safe drinking water.

By using the balance of the ECHO fund, the Federation and the IRCS purchased and distributed 16,000 jerry cans to the beneficiaries of the water stations in order to ensure sanitary conditions during the water-carrying process.

Coordination

The IRCS and the Federation held a series of meetings with the Water & Sewage Company and the local authorities to settle the issues related to running the water stations built in 2005 and building the new ones. Coordination meetings are being held between the IRCS, the Federation, the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Iranian Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Close coordination has been maintained with ACH (a Spanish non-governmental organisation) which implements a hygiene project for Afghan refugees in the same operational areas. The Federation and ACH held regular meetings in Zahedan to share information and experience concerning getting the necessary permits and designs from the local authorities concerned and signing the necessary documents before proceeding with the construction. The construction companies with which the Federation worked before were introduced to ACH to facilitate its contractor-selection process.

Objectives, activities and results

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

The IRCS and the Federation worked hard for several months with the Water & Sewage Company and the local authorities to normalize the water supply through the water distribution stations constructed under the previous appeal. Finally, one of the stations which had not been operational because of the city's disrupted water network was connected to a new water network and resumed water supply in March 2006. The Water Company also took measures to improve the maintenance and security of the water stations by posting some persons in charge. All these water stations are running smoothly.

In February 2006 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Federation, IRCS, the Sistan-Baluchestan Province Governor General and the Provincial Water and Sewage Company to clearly define their roles and responsibilities in constructing four new water distribution stations. Besides, the Federation signed a technical monitoring contract with the Water Company to ensure technical approval and guarantee for the project.

With all necessary arrangement and preparations, the Ojabadi Company started digging the land and building water stations on 17 January 2006. The construction went through a process of building the physics of the stations, then cutting the asphalt, digging the land, pipe planting, connecting the stations to the central city water network and repairing the asphalt. The contractor had to overcome many obstacles in the way of construction, including the change of sites, permission for digging, lack of proper pipes and hindrance by private water sellers. Despite these challenges, the contractor managed to resolve all the problems and complete the construction by early March, working very closely with the Federation and IRCS.

Three engineers from the Water Company monitored each process of construction and gave technical approval after checking it as per the local regulations. The final test of water supply from the water stations was very positive in terms of water pressure and flow.

In April 2006 the Federation and the IRCS drafted an official hand-over agreement and signed it with the Water & Sewage Company and the local authorities. On 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, there was an official inaugural ceremony to officially hand over the water stations to the Sistan-Baluchistan Provincial Water and Sewage Company. The ceremony was attended by many people including representatives from the Province Governor General's Office, Zahedan Municipality and heads of sub-offices of UNHCR, ACH and MSF in Zahedan. After the speeches, the participants looked round the stations. The event was covered by the media including Hamaan Provincial TV, the national daily newspaper "Jam-Jam" and the weekly newspaper "Ayyran". On the same day there was an exhibition at the building of the Youth Organization of the IRCS branch in Zahedan, showing, among others, the photos on the Federation's assistance programmes in Sistan-Baluchistan.

All eight water stations built in 2005 and 2006 are running well, providing 43,315 beneficiaries with daily access to clean drinking water.



IRCS and the Federation distributed 16,000 jerry cans to families so that drinking water did not become contaminated.

The hygiene condition of water containers used by beneficiaries was a concern for the Federation and the IRCS, as worn-out containers may lead to the contamination of water. After consultation with ECHO, the Federation and the IRCS decided to procure and distribute 16,000 jerry cans to the beneficiaries of water stations. The remaining balance from the ECHO funding was used to do it. Through a competitive bidding process, the Federation and the IRCS chose the Baharan Plastic Producing Company as a winner of the tender. On 24 April 2006 a contract was signed with this company for production and delivery of 16,000 jerry cans of 20 litres to the IRCS relief warehouse in Zahedan within 10 days. The Federation and the IRCS gave distribution coupons to

8,000 selected beneficiary families, who collected jerry cans by exchanging them with RC staff or volunteers. Each family received two jerry cans. The distribution was completed by 11 May 2006.

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

No activity has been carried out due to the uncertain funding situation. However, funds remaining from the Appeal (05EA007) will allow the Federation and the IRCS to carry out some of the remaining activities planned in the Appeal.

Therefore, by this Operations Update, the Federation extends the time frame of the Appeal till the end of August 2006. In this period the activities will be focused on:

- Training in the promotion of the Fundamental Principles, humanitarian values and gender mainstreaming.
- Improving the water-related disaster preparedness of the IRCS in Sistan-Baluchistan.

An overall Final Report for the Appeal will be issued in November 2006, covering the period from 15 April 2005 to the end of August 2006.

[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)