

13 July 1999

CAMBODIA: REPATRIATION

appeal no. 3/1999 (revised)

situation report no. 3

period covered: 15 March - 10 July 1999

After the transport of the last household kits to the north in the next few days, emergency assistance to returnees will be completed. The operation will continue, providing longer term health and social welfare assistance to both returnees and those in the receiving communities.

The context

The last 10,000 Cambodian returnees left the border camps in Thailand in mid March, well ahead of the anticipated June closing date for the camps. Most returnees passed through one of four reception centres in Cambodia, where they were provided with household kits and assisted with onward travel to their preferred destination.

The rapid movement of so many returnees was a major challenge for both the Federation Delegation and for the Cambodian Red Cross, which was responsible for distributing a household kit to each returning family. Assessments have shown the need for longer term support to facilitate resettlement and reintegration, particularly in the four north eastern provinces and in two north western provinces.

Latest events

The distribution of the last household kits is facing a transportation problem due to unexpected early rains.

The outbreak of cholera in the far north east province of Ratanakiri has further highlighted the need for water and sanitation activities in all areas. The CRC has helped co-ordinate the transportation of medical supplies to the province and the Federation Water and Sanitation Delegate is supporting CRC in its co-ordinating role with agencies and government departments.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Household kits

More than 10,000 household kits have now been distributed to the returnees and vulnerable families among the local population.

Movements/Transport

In the north of Cambodia, in the Anglong Veng and Trapaeng Prasat districts, the distribution of household kits to 7,500 families, initially planned for the first week of April, has not yet been completed due to inaccessibility and continued rains; only 3,150 kits have been delivered to date. While alternatives such as the use of helicopters and army six wheels drive trucks were considered, the preferred option of utilising the road through Thailand has now been made possible. Convoys carrying the remaining kits are scheduled for 13, 14 and 15 July.

Food-for-work activities

The returnees have benefited from the food for work programme which has enabled them to be actively involved in house construction, clearing of land for planting and community activities such as road and bridge repairs. The food-for-work activities are supported by WFP, with assistance from CRC for transport and distribution.

Water and Sanitation

Initial assessments were completed in the six provinces where the most urgent needs were identified. The supply of safer drinking water was considered the highest priority. Six sub-contracts for the construction of water points have commenced, but the timely provision of safe water supplies faces several challenges, including the onset of the rainy season and land mine clearance. All operations are being conducted in co-ordination with other agencies working in these provinces.

Human Resources/Capacity building

Following a one week briefing in Kuala Lumpur, a Federation Finance and Administration Development Delegate arrived in the country on 9 April. This will greatly assist in the development and strengthening of the finance and administration systems within both the Delegation and the CRC.

A Programme Co-ordinator for the North-eastern Provinces (a Federation delegate funded by UNHCR), developed a long term social welfare/health programme for the returnees and the receiving communities in the north east provinces, in the course of a three months assignment 5 April - 5 July. The programme is to commence January 2000. A part has been submitted to UNHCR for possible funding.

A Water and Sanitation Delegate began a six months assignment on 2 May to assist the CRC in co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of water activities in all three main resettlement areas in the north, west and north-east.

Institutional Development

Complementing the repatriation operation, a logistics workshop on stock control, warehouse management and reporting was held on 6 and 7 July. A logistics manual and accompanying forms have been developed and are being put to use.

Outstanding Needs

Whilst there are no outstanding needs for this operation, support will be required for the longer term social welfare and health programme focusing on the needs of the returnees and the local population in the resettlement areas. This proposal is available from the Secretariat on request.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation continues to enjoy successful relationships with other agencies and these relationships are being further enhanced through the implementation of the new north east programme and the water and sanitation programme.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The repatriation operation, despite major operational challenges, has met the most urgent needs of the returnees and of the local population impacted by the repatriation. The operation will continue, seeking support for longer term social/health needs. The valuable lessons learnt from the operation will continue to be institutionalised into the Cambodia Red Cross.

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CAMBODIA: REPATRIATION						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. AP03/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			07/14/99	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				2,042,000	01/22/99	101.09%
AMERICAN - RC		20,000	USD	26,740	02/02/99	
BELGIAN - RC		4,984,000	BEF	197,521	02/25/99	
CANADIAN -RC		5,000	CAD	4,402	02/09/99	
CANADIAN -RC		160	CAD	153	05/10/99	
CIDSE		1,000	USD	1,353	02/08/99	
DANISH - RC		150,000	DKK	31,935	02/04/99	
ECHO -FEDERATION		1,000,000	EUR	1,598,100	03/12/99	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	3,913	02/09/99	
JAPANESE - RC		2,800,000	JPY	33,653	02/05/99	
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE		10,000	USD	14,300	02/27/99	DIRECT TO CRC
OXFAM		5,093	USD	7,459	03/17/99	RICE AND TRANSPORTATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,919,529 CHF		94.00%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH RC		25,000	GBP	56,395	02/02/99	
SWISS - RC				40,000	03/22/99	DELEGATE COSTS
OXFAM		32,981	USD	48,301	03/17/99	1,000 HOUSEHOLD KITS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				144,696 CHF		7.09%