

CAMBODIA: REPATRIATION

19 August 1999

appeal no. 3/1999 (revised)

situation report no. 4 (programme extended to 31 January 2000)

period covered: 11 July - 17 August 1999

All household kit distributions have been completed. To allow the completion of water and sanitation projects, now beginning in six areas, and improvements to logistics and communications networks, the operation is being extended for another six months

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.

Assessments have shown the need for longer term support to facilitate resettlement and reintegration. Water and sanitation were identified as the priority for the North-eastern provinces.

Latest events

The transportation of household kits to the north of Cambodia and their distribution was finally achieved in late July. The problem of early rains and the subsequent inaccessibility of the districts of Anglong Veng and Trapaeng Prasat was overcome by going through Thailand. All remaining kits have now been transported to the target districts in Rattnakmondul, Samlot, Vealveng and Mondulkiri. Kits have been distributed to beneficiaries in all other areas except Mondukiri where the distribution is planned for the end of August due to poor road access to the target communes.

Preparatory work for the implementation of water-sanitation projects in the six main resettlement areas (Odar Mean Chey, Samlot, Mondulkiri, Ratnakiri, Stung Treng and Kratie) is going well. With contracts now signed in each of the target provinces, efforts are being made to ensure there is adequate co-ordination with other agencies in each of the provinces.

Visibility materials for the Wat/San project have been designed, produced and distributed to all provinces, together with guidelines on the appropriate use of these materials. Photos are being taken at each step of the project in each of the provinces and visibility boards for each CRC office and Federation office are being prepared.

A draft evaluation tool for the Wat/San project has been prepared. It covers water points; operation and maintenance training; community health education; visibility.

The Wat/san project continues to monitor the progress of the cholera outbreak in Ratnakiri and Odar mean Chey provinces.

The operational period for repatriation activities financed by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has been extended for an additional five months, up to January 2000, mainly due to the implementation of the Wat/San project and follow-up activities in all six main resettlement areas. In view of this extension the entire repatriation operation has been extended to the same date, in order to be able to complete the planned Wat/San tasks, and install a communications network for the North-east.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Household Kits

All 15,000 household kits have now been distributed to the target provinces for both the returnees and vulnerable families among the local population. Transport of the remaining household kits to Anglong Veng and Trapeang Prasat districts in Odar Mean Chey Province took place at the end of July. Distribution was organised in close co-operation with district authorities and was monitored by the Federation Relief/Logistics Co-ordinator.

Water and Sanitation

Four of the six subcontracts are proceeding satisfactorily. The Mondulkiri subcontract has been suspended until the rainy season is over and in Stung Treng technical problems led to a delay in the commencement of activities.

Reintegration Programme of Cambodian Refugees

A sub-agreement was signed on 20 July between the Federation and UNHCR to carry out a six month pilot project in Mondulkiri in order "to assist the returnees from Thailand to reach a similar average health, social and economic level as the communities into which they return, ensuring that their return is sustainable and therefore durable". (This project, although generated by the repatriation operation, is not part of the programme covered by the Federation appeal.)

Human Resources/Capacity Building

The Federation Head of Delegation is continuing to support the overall institutional development and

capacity building process of the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), with support from the Regional Institutional Development Delegate based in Kuala Lumpur.

The Finance and Administration Development Delegate continues to assist in developing and strengthening finance and administration systems within both the Delegation and the CRC.

The Relief/Logistics Co-ordinator finished his six-month mission on 11 August after the distribution of the household kits was complete. During his mission he introduced the new Federation procurement procedures to the Delegation and CRC. He also assisted the CRC in developing a new logistics manual according to Federation standards and trained the National Headquarters staff and representatives from 15 provinces in the use of the new manual.

The Water and Sanitation Delegate continues to assist the CRC in co-ordination and monitoring the implementation of water and sanitation activities in all three main resettlement areas in the North, West and North-east.

The Disaster Preparedness Delegate continues to support the CRC in enhancing its capacity in disaster preparedness programmes.

The Branch Development Delegate, who arrived on 4 August, will support the institutional development process in four out of 24 provincial RC Branches: Kampong Cham, Kratie, Prey Veng and Kandal. He will be based in Kompong Cham after a one month language course and briefing programme in Phnom Penh.

Outstanding needs

There are no outstanding financial needs for the operation at the moment. However, the CRC Logistics Service needs further strengthening, based on the new logistics system introduced by the Federation. An experienced Logistics Co-ordinator is therefore needed for another three months.

Since the CRC Provincial Branches in the north-eastern provinces -- supported by the Federation -- are now actively monitoring the reintegration process of the returnees and implementing some activities amongst the returnees and vulnerable families, a reliable communications network needs to be established in all four provinces to facilitate longer term support to these remote areas.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Good co-operation has been maintained with all partners, including ECHO, UNHCR, WFP, ACF/Teuk Saat, SAWA Cambodia, Partners for Development (PfD), Action Nord Sud/DEEP, Oxfam and Belgian Development Co-operation. There is also continued co-operation with the government Ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Co-operation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Women's and Veterans Affairs).

The Delegation regularly shares Situation Reports with all diplomatic missions present in the country as well as with all main international and local organisations and agencies. The Red Cross continues to enjoy high visibility, publicity and media coverage in Cambodia. Activities are widely disseminated, especially through local TV-news and newspaper articles.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The operation is moving into its final phase. The water and sanitation component will be implemented over the coming six months together with activities to strengthen both communication in the field and also the logistics department of CRC. The programme has been well supported, the relief goods have been delivered and there has been sustainable impact on the capacity of the Cambodian Red Cross.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding & Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Director
Asia & Pacific Department