

TAIPEI: EARTHQUAKE

22 September 2000

appeal no. 25/99

situation report no. 6

period covered: 15 May - 21 September 2000

Overwhelming donor support has enabled the Taiwan Red Cross Organisation (TRCO), supported by the Federation, to carry out effective emergency relief in the aftermath of the earthquake which shook Taiwan one year ago. The focus is now on the rehabilitation programme which is made up of seven components. In particular, the TRCO and the Federation are supporting the construction and renovation of 17 elementary schools, the reconstruction of three health care stations, and are funding community welfare activities to assist those living in temporary housing.

The context

An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the island of Taiwan on 21 September 1999, leaving 2,368 dead, more than 10,000 seriously injured and over 300,000 homeless. The earthquake caused extensive structural damage in the worst hit areas near the epicentre in Nantou and Taichung counties. Severe aftershocks triggered large mudslides that also caused serious damage. In October, another earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale hit Chiayi County, causing further destruction to central Taiwan.

The scale of the disaster prompted the International Federation, in consultation with the Taiwan Red Cross Organisation (TRCO), to launch an international request for assistance seeking CHF 3.3 million (USD 2.2 million) on 24 September 1999, to support the relief operation with basic relief supplies for the earthquake victims. It was stated that funds might also be required at a later stage for rehabilitation and reconstruction, given the large number of people left homeless.

Latest events

This year, a further 3 earthquakes registering over 6 on the Richter scale have struck the island of Taiwan. The latest, measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale occurred on 10 September 2000, though there were no major injuries or damage reported. 21 September marks the anniversary of last year's devastating earthquake and a period of silence was observed in the early hours of the morning in memory of those who lost their lives.

The National Alliance for Post-Earthquake Reconstruction has recently published findings of a survey carried out on the relief efforts following last year's earthquake which emphasises the slowness of reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

Feedback gathered during Federation's field trips shows that the priority for those living in temporary housing units is to be able to return to their homes, though the cost of rebuilding remains financially out of reach for many, despite various schemes aimed to facilitate this process.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Rehabilitation Programme •

The overwhelming response to the Federation's request for assistance for the Taipei earthquake operation has enabled the Red Cross to complete the emergency relief phase and to plan a comprehensive and extensive rehabilitation programme. Since December 1999, the TRCO and the Federation have worked together to identify the following rehabilitation projects to receive Federation support:

1. Construction of temporary housing
2. Provision of basic household items
3. Financial support to families
4. Construction/renovation of schools
5. Construction/renovation of health facilities
6. Community welfare activities in temporary housing areas
7. TRCO disaster preparedness activities.

Project descriptions and budgets were drawn up and an overall revised budget for the rehabilitation phase of the Taipei earthquake operation was submitted with the last situation report issued in May 2000. The MoU between the International Federation and the TRCO was revised in May 2000, bringing the Federation's current financial commitment to the rehabilitation phase to CHF 48.4 million.

Although the construction of temporary housing, provision of basic household items, financial support to families and community welfare projects have already been implemented, it is likely that the Federation's commitment to the remaining projects in the rehabilitation phase will last until December 2001 or beyond.

Construction of temporary housing

Following last year's earthquake, the authorities committed to construct some 5,000 temporary housing units for those whose houses had been damaged or destroyed and who were not able to participate in any of the government's loan or subsidy schemes.

The Federation and the TRCO have provided funding to support the building and furnishing of a total of 1,886 temporary housing units of which some 1,321 were fully funded by the Federation.

The housing units follow a standard design and vary in size from 8 ping to 12 ping (1 ping is approximately 36 square feet). The cost of each housing unit varied due to the different local authorities/agencies involved and the varying geographical locations of the housing units.

Families were allocated to the temporary housing units by the local authorities and most moved in before the end of last year with the remainder taking up residence in the first few months of this year. In some instances, large families are occupying more than one housing unit and under the current arrangements, each family is allowed to remain in the temporary housing units for a period of 2 years.

The temporary housing units funded by the Federation / TRCO are detailed as follows:

County/City	Location	Number of houses funded by TRCO and the Federation
Nantou	Nantou city	255
	Lu Ku village	30
	Shui Li villages	102
	Pu Li town	296
	Tsao Tun town	112
	Chu Shan town	112
	Yu Chih village	49
	Kuo Shin village	130
	Ren Ai village	106
	Puli town	150
Taichung	Tong Shih town	151
	Tai Ping city	147
	Hsin Sheh village	98
Miaoli	Chou Lan town	48
Taichung city	Taichung city	100
	TOTAL	1'886

Provision of basic household items

A total of 5,000 sets of household items, comprising a quilt, a blanket, a water boiler and radio/clock were procured by the Red Cross and provided to the 5,000 families allocated to the temporary housing units. 2,285 of these sets were funded by the Federation and were distributed as families moved into the housing units. This project was completed in the first two months of this year.

Financial support to families

The objective of this project was to provide the target population of 5,000 households living in temporary housing with financial support in the form of a cash donation worth approximately USD 1,350 which is equivalent to about 10 weeks' income.

This project was implemented in co-operation with the post office which was responsible for the disbursements of the individual allocations. The beneficiary lists were prepared by the TRCO in co-operation with the local authorities and a notification letter was sent to each person informing them that they were eligible to collect their cash donation from a designated post office between 1 - 31 May 2000 upon presentation of their letter and a form of identification.

To date, a total of 4,418 families have benefited from this project of which 2,341 were supported by funds from the Federation. PricewaterhouseCoopers in Taipei was commissioned by the Federation to monitor the process and follow-up on any discrepancies. The few that did arise were linked to an error in the original names on the beneficiary list provided by the local authorities. Feedback received during the Federation's monitoring visits has shown that beneficiaries were pleased and appreciative of this form of financial support which has enabled them to cover daily running costs such as the payment of water or electricity bills and to purchase food or clothes.

The TRCO has since provided a further 337 families with the same cash donation bringing the total number of families supported by this project by both TRCO and the Federation to 4,755.

Construction/renovation of schools

Some 100 elementary schools in central Taiwan suffered from severe structural damage following last year's earthquake and the rapid re-establishment of the school system is considered a major priority, not only from an academic point of view but to assist children to recover from the trauma of the earthquake.

The TRCO and the Federation will support the reconstruction of 17 elementary schools of which the Federation will financially support 10 schools located in 4 counties. Construction work on the first three Federation funded schools in Nantou county started between June and August 2000 and is due to finish between February and June 2001. As the school term had already started when the earthquake occurred, many had to close until temporary classrooms or alternative arrangements could be made. Since the end of October 1999, She Liao Elementary school in Nantou county, which has some 272 students, has been holding classes in the local town's grain store and parking areas which have been partitioned into classrooms.

Construction on two of the schools in Taichung county is due to start in December 2000 and the remaining 5 schools in Taichung, Yunlin and Chiayi counties are still at the planning stage. Due to the different local agencies and contractors involved in the reconstruction process, the length of time needed for each school is different and it is likely that this project will continue until December 2001.

Construction/renovation of health care facilities

This project will be fully funded by the Federation and funds will be used for the reconstruction of 3 health care stations in 3 settlements in Ren Ai village (district) of Nantou county which suffered severe structural damage in the earthquake. Home to a population of 15,285, health care in Ren Ai village (district) relies heavily on 13 health care stations staffed by doctors 2 days per week and 1 small hospital located centrally.

The health care stations in Chin Ai, Huchu and Jinyin settlements were identified because of the high level of damage caused by the earthquake, their geographical location, their easy accessibility and because they are in the most densely populated areas of the village (district).

Construction work is due to start in December 2000 and to be completed by June 2001. Each health care station will have 2 floors with emergency facilities, administrative offices, waiting and diagnosis rooms. Basic medical equipment will also be provided to each of the health care stations. One ambulance and one mobile dentist's car will be provided to the central hospital to provide support throughout Ren Ai village (district).

Once the health care stations are finished, they will be staffed by 2 doctors every day, thereby providing a significantly improved health care service, not only to the population in these settlements but also to those in neighbouring settlements.

Community welfare activities in temporary housing areas

The objective of this project was to provide the newly formed communities in the temporary housing units with funds to enable them to maintain or repair public facilities, improve public security,

provide nursing or studying facilities and to support cultural activities. The communities living in the housing units have appointed leaders to represent their interests and concerns.

Representatives from the TRCO held meetings with community leaders in each of the 6 counties being supported by this project to present them with a cheque for their community and guidelines on how the funds were to be used. A figure of approximately USD 16 per household was allocated to each community to cover a 12 month period.

Feedback gathered to date indicates that communities plan to use these funds for the following:

- Playground and sports grounds
- Repair to and maintenance of public facilities in the temporary housing unit compounds such as leaking roofs and emergency lights
- Care for the sick and elderly in the community

The 81 communities, representing a total of 4,684 households, benefiting from this project will report back on the use of the funds at the beginning of next year when more detailed analysis will be available.

Just under half of the Federation's commitment of CHF 3.4 million has been disbursed for this project as of today.

Disaster preparedness

The Federation has also allocated funds to support the strengthening and development of the disaster preparedness capacity of the Taiwan Red Cross Organisation. The TRCO is in the process of drawing up a detailed plan of action, budget and time frame for this project.

Management of assistance projects

The TRCO is mainly providing financial support to the rehabilitation schemes and the local authorities concerned will be entirely responsible for the management and implementation of the rehabilitation projects receiving Red Cross funding.

The Federation has contracted PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Taipei to monitor and report on all of the rehabilitation projects and to provide financial management of the operation. A member of the internal audit department from the Secretariat in Geneva visited Taipei in May and held discussions with the TRCO, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the Federation Regional Finance Delegate, Kuala Lumpur, to review the systems in place and to ensure accountability and transparency of the use of Federation funds.

A comprehensive monitoring and reporting system is being put in place by the Federation and PWC and the latter plan to visit each school and each of the health facilities three times during the construction process and provide regular feedback to the Federation. The Federation Regional Finance Delegate based in Kuala Lumpur continues to work closely with PWC on the financial management of the projects and made 2 visits to Taipei during the reporting period.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Given the large number of people left homeless by the earthquake, the Federation and the TRCO have provided much needed assistance to the earthquake victims through their support to the temporary housing projects, the provision of household items, financial support to families and the community fund.

The emphasis of the Federation support is now on the construction/renovation of schools and health facilities and the Federation will continue to work in close co-operation with the TRCO on these remaining projects. In addition, the Federation will support the strengthening and development of the TRCO's disaster preparedness capacity.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

TAIPEI EARTHQUAKE						ANNEX 1
REQUEST No. 25/99		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09/22/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				57,473,100	01/01/99	100.15%
AUSTRALIAN - RC		20,000	AUD	19,408	09/28/99	
AUSTRALIAN - PRIVATE		100,000	AUD	105,020	12/16/99	
BELGIUM - RC		35,000	BEF	1,398	03/22/00	
BRITISH - RC		2,460	GBP	6,150	11/12/99	
BRITISH - RC		24,737	GBP	65,243	03/14/00	
CANADA - RC		100,000	CAD	100,924	09/28/99	
CANADA - GOVT		300,000	CAD	294,000	10/12/99	
CANADA - PRIVATE				50	11/10/99	
CYPRUS - RC				832	16/02/00	
DENMARK - RC				21,394	10/08/99	
GERMANY - RC/GOVT		100,000	USD	155,550	11/19/99	
GERMANY - PRIVATE		100,000	USD	156,750	12/10/99	
ITALIAN - GOVT		200,000	USD	314,000	09/27/99	
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,155	10/05/99	
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	420,900	09/26/99	
JAPANESE - RC		10,000,000	USD	15,534,999	10/26/99	REHABILITATION PHASE
JAPANESE - RC		5,400,000	USD	8,583,300	11/16/99	
JAPANESE - RC		1,166,000,000	JPY	18,008,870	02/03/00	Renovation of health facilities, assistance to temporary housing villages, renovation, reconstruction of schools TRCO DP activities.
JAPANESE - RC		114,400,000	JPY	1,821,805	07/03/00	
JAPANESE - RC		50,740,474		789,573	05/22/00	
KOREAN REP - RC				30,000	09/24/99	DIRECT TO TRCO
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC		54,776,488	KRW	83,534	13.06.00	DIRECT TO TRCO
MACAO - RC		83,430	USD	129,359	10/27/99	
MACAO - RC		16,995	USD	27,906	03/17/00	
MACAO - GOVT		1,000,000	USD	1,550,500	10/27/99	
MONACO - RC		40,000	FRF	9,780	10/13/99	
NETHERLANDS - RC/GOVT		250,000	NLG	182,646	09/30/99	
NETHERLANDS PRIVATE		11,949	NLG	8,639	11/23/99	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT				116,430	11/15/99	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		6,630	NZD	5,132	22.06.00	
OCHA - UN		33,980	USD	52,816	10/22/99	
POLAND - RC		2,475	USD	4,064	03/20/00	
SINGAPORE - RC		50,000	SGD	47,040	09/28/99	TENTS
SINGAPORE - PRIVATE		50,000	SGD	45,450	11/03/99	
SPANISH - RC		12,020	EUR	19,219	09/30/99	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE				15,000	11/08/99	
THAILAND				73,828	10/14/99	
AMERICAN - RC		100,000	USD	148,700	09/23/99	
AMERICAN - RC		250,000	USD	371,750	09/28/99	
AMERICAN - RC		500,000	USD	772,750	10/29/99	
AMERICAN - RC		350,000	USD	551,250	11/04/99	
AMERICAN - RC		1,500,000	USD	2,463,750	02/28/00	
AMERICAN - RC		2,000,000	USD	3,285,000	02/28/00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE				6,398	03/07/00	
AMERICAN - RC		260,000	USD	428,350	04/01/00	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	7,594	10/19/99	
WHO		50,000	USD	72,925	09/23/99	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				56,914,131	CHF	99.03%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
JAPANESE - RC				644,600	10/02/99	Sleeping bags, generators, flashlights
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				644,600	CHF	1.12%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	