

## ***PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (Branches in Lebanon and Syria): HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE***

*18 September,  
2000*

*appeal no. 01.42/2000  
situation report no. 1  
period covered: January - June, 2000*

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*The Palestinian refugee situation remains a heavy financial burden on the resources of the host countries of Syria and Lebanon, and the Federation therefore encourages all donors to continue supporting the humanitarian activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) branches in Lebanon and Syria, particularly in the area of health.*

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### ***The context***

With the growth rate of 5%, high unemployment and insufficient resources, the situation of the Palestinian refugees living with the refugee status in Lebanon continues to be very difficult. The Palestinian refugees living in Syria have the same rights and obligations as Syrian nationals. However, the economic situation of refugees is worsening there too while the institutions assisting them are suffering from the shortage of funds.

### ***Latest events***

Withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon in May and the change of leadership in Syria may have an impact on the future of the Palestinian refugees. The withdrawal was welcomed by many parties but humanitarian concerns related to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria still remain. A final solution for the Palestinian refugees seems to be still far away and therefore, humanitarian assistance is still needed.

Partnership with the UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) in both countries continues to play an important role in the field of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Support to the Palestine Red Crescent Branch in Lebanon •**

#### *Capacity building*

Emphasis remains on strengthening the capacity of the branch and supporting the health care needs of the refugee communities.

#### *Disaster response*

Support to refugees continues in terms of medical care, though it is reactive rather than proactive.

#### *Health, Information, Quality Management and Human Resource Management*

The Federation has continued with the rehabilitation of Hamshary hospital run by the Palestine Red Crescent branch in Lebanon (PRCS/Lebanon) and funded by the Norwegian Red Cross Society. In another project, the Federation has finished early this year a medical assistance project to the health centres of the PRCS/Lebanon which has started last year and was funded by ECHO through the Netherlands Red Cross. This project assisted the PRCS/Lebanon to maintain the quality of its services to the Palestinian refugees and local communities in Lebanon. The quality of service in the Palestine Red Crescent branch in Lebanon is planned to be further improved through a four year PRCS and Federation Human Resource Development project starting in the second half of 2000.

### **Support to the Palestine Red Crescent Branch in Syria •**

#### *Support to Palestinian Communities*

The relations between the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the PRCS branch in Syria are good. The Federation Regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) which started in 2000, has included visits to the PRCS in Damascus as part of its assessment. The PRCS (Syria) has been included in all SARC activities. The main bulk of health care is provided through the work of UNRWA and PRCS hospitals in refugee camps and in Damascus. Facilities in the hospital in Damascus are good. A well respected Orthotics and Prosthetics Department offers free services not only to the Palestinian community but also to their Syrian hosts.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Presently, the Appeal has received coverage of only 16.6%. In order to meet the needs of the Palestine Red Crescent Society branches in Lebanon and Syria, donors are invited to contribute to the Appeal, primarily for the capacity building activities and health services. In the first half of the year, the Federation support has been mainly provided through the Federation Regional Delegation in Amman. However, a new Head of Delegation was posted in Lebanon as of 1 September 2000.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria cooperate with a number of National Societies and NGOs co-ordinated by the Federation. The main partner, however, is the UNRWA.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Director  
MENA Department

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

<b>PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.42/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				21/09/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>3,438,000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 16.6%</b>
Balance carried forward from 1999				<b>-45,836</b>		
NORWAY - GOVT/RC		2,439,920	NOK	483,043	13/01/00	REHABILITATION
NORWAY - RC		609,980	NOK	120,761	13/01/00	REHABILITATION
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				557,968	CHF	16.2%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			14,291		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				14,291	CHF	0.4%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PLB006, PSY004, PSY005						