

PROGRAMME 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

PAKISTAN

3 August 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.38/2001

Appeal Target CHF 1,066,181

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 01 January 2001-30 June 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 43%

Related Appeals: South Asia Regional Programme 01.33/01 (Appeal 2001)

Outstanding needs: CHF 607,877

Summary: The institutional development programme - essential to underpin the programme activities - remains the funding priority for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Overall, the Pakistan Appeal has reached 43% of its target at the midyear stage, compared to a total of 4% achieved for the whole of last year, although significant funds were raised for emergency operations.

Operational Developments:

The political situation remains much the same, with the military government headed by the chief executive, who also appointed himself as president just before the end of this reporting period. Ongoing efforts have been made to address corruption and accountability issues and to increase revenue. Elections for local bodies have now been held in most areas of the country. The Government remains under pressure from all political parties to hold elections before the deadline in October 2002, but this looks unlikely. Karachi continues to experience sectarian and civil violence. Quetta too has security problems, which are mostly political and tribal in nature. Conflict is ongoing on both the eastern and western borders, in Indian-administered Kashmir and also in Afghanistan.

The drought has continued from last year and is as severe in Baluchistan, although interestingly there have been fewer population movements. The Government is encouraging people to remain in their own areas. Cholistan in Punjab Province is also severely affected. However, a slightly higher-than-normal monsoon is predicted for Pakistan and it is hoped that this will be the case. The Government has allocated major additional resources to address issues of water utilisation, collection and storage. The International Federation Appeal for the drought was successfully undertaken by the National Society

and all objectives were met. The Appeal closed at the end of April, although some activities are still ongoing, with specific agreements for funding extensions. These activities include the mobile health project and drought monitoring teams in Baluchistan and the installation of 50 hand-pumps in Sindh Province.

The devastating earthquake in India also affected the Thar area of Sindh Province with 12 people killed and 10,000 houses destroyed. An International Federation appeal enabled the National Society to respond with the distribution of tents and blankets. Numerous other earth tremors have been experienced, but with no major losses.

The situation of Afghan refugees in and around Peshawar became an increasingly high-profile and politicised issue during this six months. While the media focus was on the unofficial Jalojai camp, where the conditions are deplorable. The Government is taking a firmer attitude to the increasing influx of refugees and to existing refugees, many of whom have been in the country for up to 20 years. While the official figure is 1.2 million, unofficially it is thought that there are as many as two million Afghan refugees in the country, set against a background of a declining socioeconomic situation in Pakistan itself.

From the Federation perspective, there is an outposting arrangement for Pakistan whereby the regional health delegate is permanently based in Islamabad.

Disaster Response

Objective 1 : To establish well-equipped operational cells (at national headquarters and at four provincial headquarters) to coordinate disasters and provide emergency relief.

Objective 2 : To develop regular standardised reporting and feedback systems and make them operational.

Objective 3 : To prepare and distribute a video to provincial and district branches for emergency training purposes.

Objective 4 : To establish an emergency relief & rehabilitation fund (ERRF) at national headquarters and four provincial headquarters.

The disaster response programme defined by these objectives has been merged with the disaster preparedness programme, to make best use of human and financial resources and to reflect priorities in the DFID-funded programme for 2001-2002. In this way the programme is now fully funded. Thus all details on this programme are given in the next section.

Disaster Preparedness

Objectives stated in the 2001 Appeal were :

Objective 1 : To establish a comprehensive disaster preparedness policy for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

Objective 2 : To conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) in key hazard-prone areas.

Objective 3 : To integrate the society's disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to maximise their resources.

Objective 4 : To enhance the capacities of local vulnerable communities

As explained above, the DR and DP programmes have now been amalgamated and the objectives and activities reviewed. The overall goal of the programme remains similar to the original one, namely to

improve the ability of PRCS to respond to disasters and to enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities to prepare for and mitigate the effects of disasters. It should be noted that due to demands on the regional DP delegate and the remainder of the regional delegation in Delhi after the Gujarat earthquake in India, this programme has progressed slowly. At the same time the Federation has been required to fit in with DFID dates and timings. This has at least given the National Society time to close the drought and earthquake appeals before undertaking the detailed planning for this programme. Two DP planning workshops have now been undertaken with technical support from the regional DP delegate and DP manager. The second workshop was near to the end of the funding period and thus few activities have started yet.

There are three objectives for the revised programme which runs for the period April 2001-June 2002:

Objective 1 : Undertake a comprehensive assessment of PRCS DP/DR capacities and resources to provide a baseline for the development of PRCS DP/DR policy

This involves appointment of an external consultant, experienced in institutional assessments, followed by design of an information collection process and training of PRCS staff to implement. The resulting information will be collated and analysed and a final report and recommendations produced. This information will be utilised in the development of future DP/DR policy and strategies.

Terms of reference for the consultant are currently being drafted and a suitable person will then be sought. This work will be ongoing for some months however the other programme activities will not await the outcome of this capacity assessment.

Objective 2 : Strengthen the capacity of one urban and four rural communities to reduce the impact of current disasters

This will commence with building the capacity of the PRCS to implement the project and will involve forming and equipping disaster management cells at PRCS national headquarters, one provincial headquarters and four district headquarters. This will also serve to strengthen the disaster response capabilities of the PRCS. VCAs will then be conducted in five targeted communities in the provinces, and pilot DP and mitigation projects will be designed and implemented in these communities

A community-level DP component will be introduced into the existing mobile health teams working in Baluchistan.

Three provinces have been selected for the programme - Sindh, Baluchistan and Punjab. Sindh Province will establish a provincial disaster management cell and undertake an urban pilot project and the other two provinces will undertake the rural pilot projects.

Objective 3 : Establish and maintain a PRCS information resource centre to compile and share information, and to advocate PRCS position on disaster management issues

Skilled staff will be hired and the resource centre will be equipped. Contacts will be made with external information sources, including Government, UN, NGOs and media. The PRCS web site will also be updated with relevant DP/DR material and thereafter will be regularly enhanced with case studies and lessons learned during disaster response operations. Disaster awareness materials, including Sphere standards will be produced, translated and disseminated.

Work has already started to identify appropriate personnel and equipment required for the information resource centre. There is already a large amount of documentation related to the recent drought and earthquake operations, including the mobile health project in Baluchistan.

In summary, the DP/DR programme is taking off at the start of the second half of the year, but the detailed action planning which has been undertaken should ensure that all objectives and activities are

achieved according to plan. DFID will be monitoring the programme, in addition to the usual ongoing Federation monitoring and standard reporting.

Health and Care

The first half of the year got off to a slow start with regard to funding for the health and care programme, which comprises two components - health management and promotion, and reproductive health services. The single donor was the Swedish Red Cross and these funds are being utilised to support the health management and promotion component. The bulk of these funds will be utilised during the second half of the year and will be accordingly reported in the Annual Report.

The overall long-term goal of the health management and promotion programme is to ensure a trained First Aider in every home. There are three more immediate objectives.

Objective 1 : *Reorganise the health management capacity at national headquarters, including the establishment of an integrated approach to the National Society's health programmes*

Activity 1.1 : Employ a deputy director for health in 2001

Activity 1.2 : Formulate an integrated approach to the Society's programmes at national and provincial levels during 2001

A person specification and job description are currently being drafted by the National Society. This person will be a member of the development and cooperation unit.

Objective 2 : *Develop and further strengthen the national training and resource centre.*

Part of the funding will be utilised here to support salaries and to purchase some additional training materials and equipment

Objective 3 : *Strengthen strategic health promotion, using the community based first aid (CBFA) approach*

Most of the available funding will be utilised to provide CBFA training of trainers courses and to conduct mass health campaigns in the media. Additionally, a training centre will be established in one provincial branch and the Baluchistan provincial branch health officer's salary, which has hitherto been linked to the mobile health project funding, will now be supported by this funding to ensure that the position becomes institutionalised and integrated within the branch.

At the end of the reporting period, a soft pledge was received for the funding of the mobile health project in Baluchistan for a further six months, starting 1 August. Financial support will also be provided from the secretariat for the scaling-up in Pakistan of activities related to the polio eradication campaign. Both of these will be able to be offset against the second component of the health and care programme, and will be reported in the Annual Report.

Institutional and Resource Development

Progress in this key area of the programme has been severely hampered by funding constraints, but nevertheless some activities have been achieved and others are in the planning stage for the second half of the year.

Institutional Development Project

Objective 1 : *Review and strengthen the role and activities of the development and cooperation unit (DCU) within PRCS*

The DCU is jointly supported by the Federation and ICRC and a participatory midyear review of the DCU was undertaken. Most activities are behind schedule, although there are some good reasons for this, not least the drought and earthquake operations. Organisationally the DCU members now report straight to the director of operations and there is no specific head for the DCU itself. The key action points from the review were to: immediately complete all plans of action for the remainder of this year; ensure ongoing and regular monitoring of programmes and activities; prepare planning inputs for 2002, for both Federation and ICRC-supported activities; and undertake regular planning meetings and reviews. A more in-depth evaluation of the work of the DCU will be undertaken towards the end of this year.

Objective 2 : Revise the Society's constitution to achieve uniformity at all levels

This process has commenced with the attendance of the PRCS chairman, acting secretary general and the legal adviser at a constitution review workshop in Sri Lanka in June and facilitated by the regional ID delegate. The next step within the National Society will be to establish a constitution review body with a view to the adoption of a new constitution at national level by the end of this year. Currently it appears unlikely that this will be achieved within this timeframe.

Objective 3 : Strengthen the coordination between branches and the national headquarters

Quarterly planning, coordination, management and reporting mechanisms still need to be addressed, but there have been two DP workshops at national headquarters, plus the review of the DCU and a review of the drought operation, at which all branch secretaries, provincial programme officers and DCU personnel were present.

Objective 4 : Strengthen the district branch network and develop its capacity

Activities have yet to be formally started.

Finance Development Project

Objective 1 : To develop improved and standardised financial procedures at all levels throughout the Society.

Objective 2 : To introduce computerisation of financial management in planned phases at all levels.

Objective 3 : To develop an internal audit function.

The overall goal here is to strengthen the Society's financial management procedures at national, provincial and district levels. Progress in this area has been adversely affected by the lack of Federation regional finance development capacity and no technical visit has been made to the National Society this year. However, it is fair to say that there has been a marked improvement in the financial reporting from the National Society, although there are still difficulties in obtaining the timely and necessary information and documentation from branches. One major area of progress has been the establishment of a monthly tripartite finance group meeting, at which representatives of the National Society, Federation and ICRC meet to monitor financial reporting, management and issues arising.

Human Resource Development Project

The overall goal is to develop effective human resource mobilisation strategies for the Society.

Objective 1 : To increase the skills and professionalism of staff and volunteers.

Objective 2 : To formulate and implement a comprehensive human resource development strategy for staff, volunteers and members.

Objective 3 : To increase gender equity and awareness at all levels of the society's activities.

Funding and the regional capacity constraints have not enabled much progress in this component of the ID programme. The head of the DCU who had attended the regional HRD meeting, subsequently left the Society, but it was interesting to note during the course of the various planning workshops that there is real potential with several younger members of staff both at headquarters and in the branches. However it was not possible this year for the Society to identify any suitable candidates for the basic training course, although it is clear that several colleagues will be ready to be proposed for next year's course.

Finance Resource Development Project

The overall goal is to develop effective financial resource mobilisation strategies for the Society

Objective 1 : To generate dependable and permanent financial resources for the society's programmes.

Objective 2 : To diversify the funding base and maximize sources of income.

Objective 3 : To review existing programmes and strengthen their sustainability plans.

Objective 4 : To maximize the participation of the community at all levels.

No major progress has been made to date in this regard.

Information Development Project

The overall goal for the project is to create an even higher profile of PRCS and a credible image of it as an effective humanitarian organisation among the general populace.

Objective 1 : To increase PRCS's communications and public relations management capacity.

Objective 2 : To improve PRCS's internal communications and reporting mechanisms.

Objective 3 : To develop strategic partnerships with national and local media.

Objective 4 : To expand PRCS marketing/advertising activities.

Objective 5 : To develop a publication strategy for publicity materials.

A new information officer was recruited to the DCU at the start of the year and she has already increased the level of media coverage that PRCS receives. In addition, the monthly magazine (funded by ICRC) continues to develop in quality and content.

The information officer and the Punjab provincial programme officer attended the joint Federation/ICRC Information workshop in Delhi in May and were excellent ambassadors for their National Society.

A technical support visit from the regional information delegate, perhaps linked to a training workshop is envisaged for the second half of the year.

In summary, it must be emphasised again that the regional delegation's capacity to progress with the Institutional Development programme and its various components has been hampered by two major issues - the huge workload which was placed upon the regional delegation after the Gujarat earthquake and the lack of financial support for the programme. This is a matter which needs to be addressed as a priority.

Outstanding needs

The priority for funding support is the institutional development programme and the components within it - finance, human resource, financial resource and information development. Part of this need is of course closely linked to having those relevant regional delegate positions funded and filled.

The integrated DP/DR programme is fully funded as part of the DFID disaster preparedness initiative for the South Asia region. If the current soft pledges for the health and care programme are taken into account, around 60% of this part of the appeal is now covered, although more funds for the health programme would obviously be beneficial given the significance of health activities within the National Society.

The Pakistan Appeal has reached 43% of its target at the midyear stage, compared to a total of 4% achieved for the whole of last year, although significant funds were raised for emergency operations. However, the main shortfall and priority, as emphasised above, is funding for institutional development which is so essential to underpin the programme activities.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Pakistan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.38/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				02.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'066'181		TOTAL COVERAGE 43.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				48'528		
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				75'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				250'000	30.04.2001	DPP
SWEDISH - RC				125'000	28.02.2001	HEALTH MANAGEMENT & PROMOTION
SWEDISH - GOVT				375'000	21.05.2001	HEALTH MANAGEMENT & PROMOTION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				458'304	CHF	43.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	