

# 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

## TAJIKISTAN

31 December, 2001

*This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.*

*Appeal No. 01.63/2001*

*Appeal Target CHF 6,361,778*

*Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: 1 June - 31 December 2001 (last Programme Update issued: Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January - 31 May 2001)*

### “At a Glance”

*Appeal coverage: 90.1%*

*Related Appeals: 26/01 - Tajikistan: Drought*

*Summary/Update and Outstanding needs: Despite the appeal coverage of over 90 per cent, the only activities which fully achieved the set objectives were in the sector of disaster response, more precisely food assistance, as well as health. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's (RCST's) priority areas of disaster preparedness, organizational development, and largely water and sanitation did not unfortunately receive similar levels of donor support. However, those areas will remain in the National Society's focus in the coming years, and the Federation is committed to ensuring mid to long-term support for their successful implementation and donors are encouraged to provide timely contributions for these programmes in the 2002 Annual Appeal for Tajikistan (no. 01.53/2002).*

### **Operational Developments:**

Over the last six months, the humanitarian and socio-economic situation in Tajikistan has been affected mostly by the drought and events in neighbouring Afghanistan.

In May the President of Tajikistan requested international assistance to respond to the second year of a devastating drought in the country. Following assessments carried out by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation WFP and the International Federation's Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT), the International Federation launched a food deficit appeal to assist 130,000 people affected by severe food shortages over a period of nine months. In recent months needs of the most vulnerable Tajik population further increased in view of the harsh winter. Shortages of electricity and gas supplies became critical for both rural and urban population.

Public health is declining persistently with the sharp rise in the incidence of infectious diseases, with tuberculosis (TB) and malaria among the most significant. TB is now causing almost 500 deaths a year, according to health officials in Tajikistan and the real death rate is probably higher, as most home deaths are not officially recorded. Malaria, which was virtually eradicated during the former Soviet Union, is on the rise again, mainly as a result of increased population movements from Afghanistan and

bordering areas. According to WHO, the disease has reached epidemic proportions, and 200,000 people are now targeted in anti-malaria campaigns.

## ***Disaster Response***

### **Food Assistance to the vulnerable in Tajikistan**

**Objective 1** To distribute food to 25,000 people in four districts of the capital Dushanbe over a 10-month period.

#### **Achievements**

Thanks to ECHO and Finnish Red Cross support, the RCST and the International Federation assisted 40,000 people with supplementary food rations by the end of June, thus surpassing the initial set objective. In August, both donors announced new contributions which allowed the Federation to target approximately the same number of people in four districts of Dushanbe with supplementary food rations (wheat flour, oil and iodised salt), as well as seeds and fertilizers to 3,000 beneficiaries in rural RRS. The implementation takes place during the winter 2001-2002, and the first round of distribution finished in December.

In addition to this appeal objective, the RCST's regional branch in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBO) signed a direct cooperation agreement with WFP on the implementation of a school-feeding project. Through this project, the RCST will deliver food necessary for preparation of hot snacks in all primary and secondary schools and kindergartens in the region, over the school year 2001-2002. Total number of beneficiaries is approximately 64,000 including teachers and staff, providing them with hot snacks

**Objective 2** To distribute agricultural inputs to 10,000 beneficiaries in three districts of RRS, close to the capital Dushanbe.

#### **Achievements**

The above objective was already achieved by mid-2001, with approximately 10,000 people in RRS receiving food parcels and fertiliser as part of the ECHO funded supplementary food project. Following an external evaluation of this project component, carried out upon its completion, and a new round of funding approved by ECHO in August 2001, the RCST and the Federation initiated a new and improved food security project. It provides seeds and fertilisers to 3,000 people with access to small plots of irrigable land in the regions around the capital Dushanbe. The commodities were procured in the region and, despite some delays in the delivery, they were distributed in December, in time for the autumn planting season. The project will end in March 2002.

**Objective 3** To continue strengthening the capacities of the RCST throughout the operation.

#### **Achievements**

The RCST is actively involved in all aspects of operational planning and implementation, alongside the Federation. Through previous food and food security programmes RCST staff and volunteers have developed skills and knowledge in the areas of beneficiary selection, monitoring and distribution. Those skills were further strengthened with the training in project planning and reporting, and the National Society's subsequent participation in the design of the latest project proposal for ECHO. Furthermore, beneficiary targeting as well as monitoring methodology were further developed and improved jointly by the RCST and Federation's programme managers.

### **Public Canteens**

**Objective 1** To provide supplementary food of good nutritional value to some 2,000 vulnerable elderly people in urban areas.

#### **Achievements and constraints**

Continuos support is ongoing for vulnerable urban elderly people in 18 RCST soup kitchens around the country, out of which three soup kitchens in the areas of Garm and Karategin valley are supported by ICRC, and the rest by the Federation. Through this project the RCST is providing around 2,000 beneficiaries with two to three hot meals per week. The project has been financed mainly by the Swedish Red Cross, who announced a gradual withdrawal of their support. Despite a number of initiatives, the RCST has encountered difficulties in securing its longer-term financial support. All possibilities will be further explored, as the National Society is committed to continuing this project, within the framework of the appeal 2002 - 2003.

## ***Disaster Preparedness***

### **Disaster Preparedness**

Due to the lack of funding, the RCST and the Federation have been unable to meet the objectives of the programme set in the appeal 2001-2002, although disaster preparedness is of a high priority in the Tajikistan's context, due to the country's high susceptibility to natural and other disasters. However, within the framework of the drought emergency appeal, series of training workshops for branch staff and volunteers in the subject areas of disaster preparedness and response were undertaken. Local authorities and other humanitarian organizations active in this sector took part in the seminars. For more details, please refer to operational updates on the emergency appeals 26/00 and 26/01.

### **Disaster mitigation in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO)**

The first phase of the three year disaster mitigation programme, funded by the Finnish Government through the Finnish Red Cross, has been mostly completed, despite the late confirmation of funding. Out of the four objectives set in the appeal 2001-2002, most activities focused on implementing the first objective, related to the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation canals. A technical assessment team identified three villages vulnerable to potential landslide disaster, and designed projects for each specific location. By September, the implementation of the construction work started in one village and, to this date, the project is in its final stages. A quadripartite agreement between the RCST, Federation, Ministry of Emergencies and the local administration was finalized, stipulating the roles and responsibilities of each party during the implementation of the programme, and ensuring good cooperation with the local authorities. In order to ensure high level of community participation in the implementation of the project, an agreement was reached with WFP for provision of food as part of the 'food for asset rehabilitation' (FFAR) project. According to the agreement, the skilled labourers each receive daily rations of 2 kg of wheat-flour, 100g of vegetable oil and 25g of iodised salt for a period of programme implementation. The RCST continued to work on preparing community seminars on water-management systems in project villages, aimed at encouraging communities to assume direct responsibility towards the rational utilisation of irrigation water.

## ***Health and Care***

### **Medical Relief Programme**

**Objective 1** To assist 180 dispensaries and 250 health posts in the Khatlon region, southern Tajikistan, with supplies of essential medicines and medical equipment.

### **Achievements**

After the completion of the 2000-2001 ECHO-funded medical programme in July 2001, a new contract was signed with ECHO in August. A total allocation of 550,000 EUR was approved for a programme that will last nine months, which includes distribution of medical supplies, first aid training of RC volunteers, as well as public health training and campaigns. While the relief component of the programme is implemented in the southern region of Khatlon and areas around the capital Dushanbe, the remaining two components are expanded to other parts of the country, as well. Thanks to savings incurred in the procurement process of medicines as part of the completed programme, carried out by

Pharmaciens sans frontieres (PSF), an additional quantity of medical kits for primary health care units was purchased and distributed in July to some 500 health posts.

Regular monitoring was conducted by the RCST branch workers in almost all medical institutions included in the programme. The monitoring reports showed that 50 % of them meet all of the Federation requirements (proper prescription and use of medicines, sanitary conditions, preventive measures), and only 5 % do not meet the requirements and will be subject to new monitoring.

**Objective 2** To assist the RCST in promoting the shift to the primary health-care system through training of medical staff and general education of the population.

Training component of the new ECHO funded contract has been expanded to cover the whole country, as compared to the last year, where it focused only on the southern region of Khatlon and areas around the capital Dushanbe. It includes training of Red Crescent volunteers in first aid and preventive health. The training and curricula have been prepared, and the information material approved by the Ministry of Health. As part of the public health programme component, 30 training sessions in public health promotion were carried out for 300 participants in Kulyab, Kurgan Tube, RRS and Sughd. In GBAO, health promotion was combined with the first aid training. The trained volunteers started organizing the seminars in their respective communities, and to this date more than 500 people have been informed on preventive measures against diarrheal diseases. 33 workshops on prevention of respiratory infections were conducted for almost 500 volunteers who will promote similar training in their communities. The final phase of training within the current ECHO-funded project, which ends in March 2002, will tackle the issues related to safe pregnancy and breast-feeding.

**Objective 3** To assist the RCST in strengthening its organisational capacity and strengthening its co-operation with the Ministry of Health, as well as other agencies active in the field of health.

### **Achievement**

The National Society has a strong base of trained and experienced staff in the management and implementation of first aid training, monitoring of health institutions and production of public health materials. Their skills were further developed through training in project planning, joint designing of project with the Federation, improvement of monitoring and training curricula. As part of its increased visibility with the external partners, the RCST was approached by a number of organisations (UNHCR, PSF) to conduct first aid training courses, within the framework of their ongoing contingency planning for the Afghan crisis.

Apart from the ECHO-funded programme, the RCST and the Federation participated in the inter-agency national nutritional survey which was carried out in October-November 2001. The survey included anthropometric data (height and weight), as well as casual analysis, for which the information was collected through household interviews. The Federation and the RCST participated in the survey with two field groups, which were trained by an Action Against Hunger expert. Preliminary findings of the survey indicate a considerable deterioration of the nutritional situation, low access to an adequate quantity of good quality land, as well as low levels of household food production.

### **Tuberculosis pilot project**

The RCST and the International Federation's TB pilot project was not implemented in 2001 due to the fact that WHO recommended TB treatment programme - DOTS is not yet officially carried out in Tajikistan. The International Federation and the RCST are taking expectative policy towards implementation of the tuberculosis pilot project; in this respect, the project has been included in the 2002-2003 appeal. To date, WHO, Project Hope, Ministry of Health and the national TB centre are involved in designing anti-tuberculosis programme which will be fully operational in 2002.

### **Water and sanitation programme**

An almost total lack of funding for the annual water and sanitation programme has prevented the RCST and the Federation to meet the objectives set in the appeal. However, some results have been achieved within the framework of the drought 2000 emergency operation, disaster mitigation project in GBAO, and 2001 food deficit emergency appeal. They mainly focused on the rehabilitation of existing supplies of drinking water, sanitary facilities and small scale irrigation systems in selected communities. Water and sanitation remains one of the priority areas for the National Society and the Federation in the coming years, and financial and other support will continue to be needed.

### ***Institutional and Resource Development***

Extremely limited funding has not allowed the Federation to support the RCST in achieving all appeal objectives for this sector. However, a number of significant achievement has been made in spite of those objective constraints.

The RCST and the International Federation received a visit from the British Red Cross international finance development team. The aim of the visit was to review the existing RCST financial procedures and management practices, and to assist with identifying appropriate strategies to improve and upgrade National Society's financial systems and skills. A report with the specific recommendations was produced and its implementation will be prioritised by the National Society in the coming month.

In August, a follow-up mission to the last year's regional institutional and resource development review was carried out in Tajikistan. The aim of the mission was , to assess the progress made in the past year and to identify future priorities. The following positive results were identified:

- In the area of branch development, co-operation with local authorities and humanitarian organizations has improved, as well as active participation of RC volunteers in the implementation of programmes.
- The RCST has identified clear programme priorities, i.e. disaster preparedness, health promotion and first aid training, dissemination and organizational development.
- General management skills of RCST staff have improved, as well as internal communication.

A Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) planning workshop for 2002-2004 was carried out in November, jointly by the Federation and the RCST. National Society leadership from the headquarters and regional branches identified the RCST priorities and directions for the next three years based on current capacities and resources. The draft CAS document is under preparation and will be shared with partners in the beginning of 2002.

### ***Coordination and Management***

In October, the Federation's regional delegation for Central Asia hosted a partnership meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan to discuss priorities for cooperation. The meeting was attended by all Central Asian National Societies, representatives from the Federation's Tajikistan country delegation, ICRC and several partner-National Societies. Discussion was held on the Tajikistan Country Assistance Strategy, as well as regional assistance strategy planning for the coming three years.

The International Federation is continuing its good cooperation with the United Nations in Tajikistan. In this respect, the Federation's head of delegation participated in the launch of the UN Consolidated Inter Agency Appeal for Tajikistan in November in Tokyo, and made a presentation on humanitarian issues in Tajikistan. Furthermore, during his official visit to Tajikistan in November, the UN Under Secretary General Kenzo Oshima visited the programme sites of the Federation and the RCST.

Coordination of activities with other humanitarian organizations and the government is ongoing. In this context, continuation of partnership with WFP in the implementation of our new emergency operation has been announced. Also, senior representatives of the British Department for International Development (DFID) visited the country between 21 and 25 August and discussed possible co-operation with the Federation and other humanitarian organizations. Agreements with relevant

ministries on the implementation of all Federation and the RCST programmes have been successfully finalized.

### ***Outstanding needs***

In line with the overall humanitarian trend in Tajikistan, the only activities which fully achieved the set objectives are in the sector of disaster response, more precisely food assistance, as well as health. Unfortunately, despite intense fundraising efforts, the RCST's priority areas of disaster preparedness, organizational development, and largely water and sanitation, have not met the same level of interest with the donor-community. However, those areas will remain in the National Society's focus in the coming years, since they are responding to the most burning humanitarian needs in the country, as identified by all humanitarian actors in Tajikistan. The Federation is committed to pursuing all options to ensure mid- to long-term support for their successful implementation.

*For further details please contact: Susanna Soderstrom, Phone: 41 22 730 4424; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: soderstrom@ifrc.org*

*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>.*

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Lynette Lowndes  
Head  
Europe Department

| Tajikistan                                     |             |                  |      |                  |            | ANNEX 1  |
|--|-------------|------------------|------|------------------|------------|--|
| APPEAL No. 01.63/2001                          |             | PLEDGES RECEIVED |      |                  | 07.01.2002 |  |
| DONOR  | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF        | DATE       | COMMENT  |
| <b>CASH</b>                                    |             |                  |      |                  |            | <b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>                                      |
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->                 |             |                  |      | <b>6'361'777</b> |            | <b>90.1%</b>   |
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD                           |             |                  |      |                  |            |  |
| BRITISH - GOVT                                 |             | 8'500            | GBP  | 21'151           | 31.07.2001 | ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN/GBAO                                   |
| ECHO (01010)                                   |             | 600'000          | EUR  | 923'040          | 01.03.01   | MEDICAL SUPPLY   |
| ECHO (01004)                                   |             | 1'100'000        | EUR  | 1'662'650        | 10.08.2001 | SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING AND FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE         |
| ECHO (02001)                                   |             | 200'000          | EUR  | 295'740          | 03.10.2001 | EMERGENCY REHABILITATION OF SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS |
| ECHO (01007)                                   |             | 550'000          | EUR  | 813'560          | 25.10.2001 | HEALTH SERVICE THROUGH PROVISIONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES      |
| FINNISH - GOVT/RC                              |             | 100'072          | EUR  | 152'039          | 15.05.2001 | DISASTER MITIGATION  |
| FINNISH - GOVT                                 |             | 381'000          | EUR  | 575'882          | 13.08.2001 | DIASASTER RESPONSE   |
| PRIVATE ON LINE                                |             |                  |      | 167              | 14.09.2001 |  |
| SWEDISH - RC                                   |             | 80'000           | SEK  | 13'896           | 01.03.01   | COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT                                  |
| SWEDISH - RC                                   |             | 125'000          | SEK  | 21'713           | 01.03.01   | INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT                                  |
| SWEDISH - RC                                   |             | 400'000          | SEK  | 69'840           | 01.03.01   | DISASTER RESP. PUBLIC CANTEENS                             |
| SWEDISH - GOVT                                 |             | 375'000          | SEK  | 63'188           | 23.05.2001 | INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT                                  |
| SWEDISH - GOVT                                 |             | 275'000          | SEK  | 46'338           | 23.05.2001 | COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT                                  |
| SWEDISH - GOVT                                 |             | 2'200'000        | SEK  | 373'780          | 23.05.2001 | DISASTER RESPONSE, PUBLIC CANTEENS                         |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH                     |             |                  |      | 5'032'984        | CHF        | 79.1%  |
| <b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b> |             |                  |      |                  |            |  |
| DONOR  | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF        | DATE       | COMMENT  |
| Finland  | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 74'414           |            |  |
| Netherlands                                    | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 5'257            |            |  |
| Sweden   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 101'354          |            |  |
| Great Britain                                  | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 114'660          |            |  |
| FINNISH - GOVT                                 |             | 267'600          | EUR  | 404'476          | 13.08.2001 | 500 MT WHEAT FLOUR, 100'000 L. OIL, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE  |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES            |             |                  |      | 700'161          | CHF        | 11.0%  |
| <b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>             |             |                  |      |                  |            |  |
| DONOR  | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF        | DATE       | COMMENT  |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED                             |             |                  |      | 0                | CHF        |  |