

ANNUAL REPORT



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

IRAN

May 2002

Appeal No. 01.65/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 920,000 (USD 567,000/ EUR 629,000)

Operational Developments

The Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) has an area of 1,648,000 square kilometres and a population of about 62 million. The annual population growth is 1.2 per cent, life expectancy at birth is 68.5 years, the adult literacy rate is 69 per cent (1995) and the infant mortality rate is 11 per 1,000 live births. The government spends some 5 per cent of the GDP on health.

The general situation in Iran is calm and stable and the country's standing continues to improve steadily through reciprocal official contacts with the European Union and its member states as well as with the countries in the region and throughout the world. Significant progress has been made in strengthening the ties, both economically and politically, through various agreements mainly with the European Union and its member states. High-level visits between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EU, Austria, Greece, Afghanistan and many others regularly took place, bringing new opportunities for economic, business investments and cultural exchanges.

The "Dialogue between civilisations" initiative, launched in 2001, has brought an increased level of cultural and political exchanges with many other nations and states, and was aimed at helping people understand each other better and easing tensions regionally and throughout the world in general.

However, even if the political climate showed signs of improvement, it should not be forgotten that Iran is located in a highly disaster prone area with a pattern of frequent earthquakes, floods, droughts and landslides, and that it hosts the largest refugee population in the world. During the last decade alone, major disasters in Gilan, Zanjian, Khorasan and Shiraz have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of lives, injured many more and caused serious damage to the infrastructure of the affected areas. Moreover, after a massive influx from neighbouring countries during the past two decades, there are currently some 2,1 million refugees, most of them from Afghanistan (1,4 million) and Iraq (580,000), receiving assistance from various governmental and non-governmental sources.

Following the events in the United States on September 11, the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan put an additional burden on Iran's National Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The IRCS responded immediately to ever-increasing needs by setting up refugee camps, supplying emergency relief items and supporting the extensive relief operations of the Movement inside Afghanistan.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

During the last year, the main objective was to assist the IRCS in creating a realistic framework for its future development in accordance with relevant Federation policies and regulations. The Federation also wished to encourage and guide the IRCS in sharing its resources and experience, especially in disaster preparedness, with neighbouring countries and elsewhere. Longer term objectives were to assist the IRCS in its continuous capacity building in four priority areas: disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The main partnership objectives between the IFRC and the IRCS in 2001 were:

- To strengthen the IRCS management of and community preparedness for involvement in disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery;
- To improve communications infrastructure including installation of equipment and training of staff to improve communication during disasters;
- To support the national society in capacity building;
- To establish/strengthen links between IRCS and the international community and Red Cross/Red Crescent partners.

To reach these objectives, the Federation worked with the little donor support available in two main programme areas: disaster preparedness and coordination and management. A shortfall in funding has meant that the Federation was unable to mobilize the human and material resources needed to alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable in Iran.

However, during 2001, the Federation launched emergency appeals mainly in support of the IRCS drought programme for Afghan refugees and for IRCS involvement in the Humanitarian Crisis operation since September 2001. Since these emergency appeals benefited from more generous donor response, the Federation was able to support the IRCS' operations.

The drought programme was continually monitored by a Federation delegate working in close collaboration with the IRCS International Affairs Department and IRCS branches in Sistan-van-Balouchistan province. The principal donors were ECHO, and the Netherlands, Swedish, Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The main objectives of this programme were therefore fully met: beneficiaries received regular supplies of relief items and their daily water and sanitation needs were covered. As a result, no major health concerns emerged within the targeted beneficiary group and there was even a significant increase in their living standards. For more information, please refer to the last "Iran Drought Operation Update" available at the Secretariat.

With regard to the humanitarian crisis operation, the IRCS provided initial emergency relief at the early stage of the crisis in Afghanistan, by using their existing emergency stocks and previous experience gained in setting up camps along the border. Ten locations were identified as possible camp locations, two of which in Makaki and Mile 46 became operational and hosted over 10,000 IDPs. The most important beneficiary needs were identified as shelter, health, water and sanitation, food items and coordination both within the Movement and with other partners involved. The Federation in turn responded immediately to the crisis by mobilizing the resources needed to run the camps for longer periods and by establishing a system of replenishing IRCS stocks. The general situation in these two camps was therefore adequate, with standards above those outlined in the Sphere Project.

In parallel, a logistics supply route was established through Iran for all relief items intended for the humanitarian operation in western Afghanistan, implemented by the Federation's delegations in Kabul and Tehran, the Logistics and Resource Mobilization Service in Geneva and coordinated by the Federation's Disaster Management and Coordination division at the Secretariat. This was crucial in

ensuring the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to beneficiaries in western Afghanistan during the autumn and winter months. The IRCS' experienced staff, strategic position and significant resources were of enormous value as the crisis reached its peak and international aid was still being sought and mobilized. The result of this joint effort was that all relief needs were met in a timely fashion, the quality of assistance was high and beneficiaries were supported throughout the period, as planned. For more information, please see the last "Humanitarian Crisis Operations Update" available at the Secretariat.

Coordination and Management

The main objective of the Federation's office in Iran has been to provide continuous support to the IRCS in its activities in Iran and also to strengthen ties with the region and the donor community. Other objectives have been to ensure the staffing of the Federation's office with a Representative, whose mission was to promote the advocacy role of the Federation and to support the national society through technical assistance, liaison with the Secretariat and reporting on programme progress, as well as assisting in the organization of the third MENA conference.

Achievements

Drought programme: The objectives of the drought programme appeal were achieved at almost 100 per cent because of substantial financial donor support and through the commitment and professional qualities of both IRCS and Federation staff involved in the project.

The third MENA conference in Tehran was successfully organized and completed during June 2001 by the IRCS with Federation support. Seventeen national societies from the region, as well as 21 neighbouring and partner societies, participated and implementation of the conference's main conclusions and recommendations has already begun.

Of these recommendations the most notable were the decision to set-up a strategic relief centre in Tehran, the creation of a regional gender issues network, and the establishment of a regional steering committee formed by the national societies of Iran, Algeria and Bahrain.

For both the strategic relief centre and the regional gender issues network, concept papers were written by the IRCS with support from the Federation and shared with the national societies in the region.

Establishing a Federation delegation in Iran: this objective was achieved in September 2001, when a Federation liaison delegate and a logistics delegate were assigned to Iran, in addition to the reporting delegate already on the drought programme. A head of delegation is expected to complete the team in 2002.

The objective of strengthening the links between the IRCS, the international community and Red Cross/Red Crescent partners was achieved by establishing a Federation delegation in Iran, which ensured smooth and timely communication, exchanges of information and programme progress reports and updates to donors. Other potential partners and donors for ongoing programmes were identified and communications/coordination lines were established.

With regard to the objective of providing support and further guidance on upgrading the disaster preparedness and telecommunications capacities of the IRCS, the expected donor support was below the required level. In addition, the emerging crisis in neighbouring Afghanistan further stalled progress. Activities to achieve this objective were therefore postponed to 2002.

Conclusions

In 2002, priority areas will be to focus additional attention on the ongoing drought programme, the establishment of a regional strategic relief centre in Tehran, the continuation of support to the humanitarian crisis operation as well as the drafting by the IRCS of a national development plan or similar planning document that outlines the capacity building activities of the national society. The Federation aims therefore to provide technical, material and financial means to support the IRCS in creating a realistic framework for its future development in accordance with relevant Federation policies and regulations. The focus of Federation support will be in four priority areas, namely disaster preparedness, disaster response, health and the promotion of humanitarian values.

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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 web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

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Appeal No & title: 01.65/2001 Iran

Period: year 2001

Project(s): IR000, IR160

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED INCOME 2001, CASH, KIND, SERVICES

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	920,000				
less Cash brought forward	169,843				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	750,157				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Private Donors-online	84				84
Private Donors-online	78				78
Private Donors-online	59				59
Sweden				59,630	59,630
TOTAL	221			59,630	59,851

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	169,843
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	221
CASH EXPENDITURE	-42,006

CASH BALANCE	128,058

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III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles						
Food/Seeds						
Water						
Medical & First Aid						
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total						
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	424,795					424,795
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
Sub-Total	424,795					424,795
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	39,060					39,060
Sub-Total	39,060					39,060
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	111,450	21,337		59,630	80,967	30,483
Personnel (local staff)	195,000	19,865			19,865	175,135
Training						
Sub-Total	306,450	41,202		59,630	100,832	205,618
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts						
Travel & related expenses	19,100	50			50	19,050
Information expenses	960					960
Administrative expenses	23,435	-3,997			-3,997	27,432
External workshops & Seminars	5,000					5,000
Sub-Total	48,495	-3,947			-3,947	52,442
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	62,036	2,912			2,912	59,124
Technical services	18,570	872			872	17,698
Professional services	20,594	967			967	19,627
Sub-Total	101,200	4,751			4,751	96,449
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	920,000	42,006		59,630	101,636	818,364

Consumption rate: Expenditures versus income 170%
Expenditures versus budget 11%