

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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, LEBANON AND SYRIA BRANCHES

May 2002

*This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's
Annual Appeals only.*

Appeal No. 01.69/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 3,402,499

Operational Developments

During the year under review, the security situation in Lebanon was relatively calm. However, the political and economic context remained fragile, both at domestic and regional levels. The Lebanese parliament and government placed strong emphasis on reconciliation and on the economy, both prerequisites for future stability. Nonetheless, key objectives such as a resumption in economic growth have proved difficult to achieve.

Nearly two years after Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon, tension was still high on the border between the two countries.

The government maintained its stand on the right of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to return to their homeland. To date, some 380,000 Palestinian refugees have sought refuge in Lebanon. They have found it difficult to integrate, and have only limited employment opportunities. Their economic situation is precarious: many refugees live in abject poverty, completely dependent on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and various humanitarian organizations.

Although the 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria have, in theory, the same rights as Syrian citizens, they nonetheless were subject to tremendous economic and social constraints.

In 2001 the two PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria continued to face challenges in most areas and experienced greater demands in the quality and quantity of the health care services they provided. The PRCS branches have established long-term strategic plans, designed to improve their efforts to render humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugee population.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Over the past four years, the reconstruction of the PRCS health care centres and hospitals in Lebanon and Syria was ongoing, and in 2001 was close to completion. To ensure a return on this investment, it

has been and will continue to be a priority to focus on the quality and the quantity of the services delivered, as well as the funding necessary for the maintenance and upkeep of medical equipment.

UNRWA has contracted 77 beds in the five PRCS hospitals in Lebanon; since 1998, the total number of admissions and other medical activities at the hospitals have more than doubled as a consequence of the ongoing rehabilitation programme.

In 2001 the PRCS hospitals and health centres in Lebanon and Syria faced enormous financial problems, particularly since support from the headquarters in the West Bank was no longer forthcoming, owing to the deteriorating political climate in the occupied and autonomous territories.

The main objectives of the PRCS in Lebanon and Syria in 2001 were:

- To ensure the continuation of PRCS health services to Palestinian refugees;
- w** To upgrade the level and quality of the management of medical and administrative services;
- w** To increase activities to support the most vulnerable amongst the Palestinian population, especially the elderly and chronically ill patients.

In order to reach its objectives, the Federation has worked within two main programme areas: the medical supply support programme for hospitals and health centres, and capacity building in the societies, which is covered under a master plan for human resource development.

The main programme objectives in 2001 were the following:

Disaster Response

Objective 1 To provide medical supplies to the PRCS health structures in Lebanon and enable them to continue offering medical care to the vulnerable population, especially to chronically ill patients. In Syria, to help the PRCS consolidate its health care activities in order to ensure public services where other alternatives were not available for economic or practical reasons.

This objective was partially achieved, thanks to support from the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO VII programme), which provided approximately CHF 500,000, or 50 per cent of the appeal budget for medical supplies to the PRCS in Lebanon. The ECHO donation enabled the national society to avert the total collapse of its health care structures. Key PRCS/Lebanon staff received training support for this project.

It was more difficult to obtain support for the PRCS branch in Syria. There was no donor support for the Federation's Appeal, and an application to ECHO was rejected. Objectives were consequently adjusted to concentrate on the renewal of medical equipment in two of the hospitals.

Health and Care

Objectives 1, 2, and 4 of the 2001 Appeal were as follows : To build a doctor's residence to accommodate medical staff while on duty; to supply spare parts for medical equipment at PRCS facilities, and; to equip Balsam hospital with an intensive care unit.

No funding support was received for these objectives.

Objectives 3 and 5 To support the maintenance programme for primary health care centres in the refugee camps, and; to complete the reconstruction of Hamshary hospital (clinical areas).

For the most part, these objectives were achieved. Two health centres, Shattila in Beirut and Al Buss in Tyr were fully refurbished. Construction and maintenance work was carried out according to the

highest standards prevailing in the country. The Hamshary hospital was rehabilitated with new clinical space consisting of three surgical theatres, an area for training, and air-conditioning and piping systems were upgraded.

Humanitarian Values

First Aid Voluntary Project.

This programme aimed to promote humanitarian values in parallel with first-aid training, thereby disseminating the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement among the refugee community. This was little financial donor support for this project, and even less from the PRCS itself, because of the precarious circumstances prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza. This programme will be developed separately in 2002, and will include first aid and volunteer cooperation between the Lebanese Red Cross and PRCS Lebanon.

Organizational Development

Objective 1 To reorganize and restructure PRCS administration, upgrading management systems and capacities and to promote team building and leadership skills.

Objective 2 To improve medical services through training in different managerial and medical skills.

Both of these objectives focused on human resource development, through 13 courses on middle and high level clinical and administrative management, designed to upgrade the capacities of the staff. Some 250 persons from all levels of management within PRCS in Lebanon and Syria participated in the courses, which were conducted mainly by Lebanese management consultants.

Training sessions were held over a period of two to three months, depending on the nature of the course. This time frame includes the training itself over three to four days, a follow-up programme and a reporting phase at the end. A notable achievement was the establishment of a computer training centre in Saida, with eight units aiming to train personnel from both branches. It was decided to choose this option rather than use outside consultants.

Regional Cooperation

There were no objectives in the sphere of regional cooperation in the 2001 appeal. However, the PRCS in both Lebanon and Syria participated in the HIV/AIDS and psychological support network in the region.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 To facilitate capacity building, primarily in the PRCS Lebanon branch, through its disaster response, health and care, organizational development and humanitarian values programmes, and to provide assistance and coordination within the region and on an international basis.

This objective was achieved through the support given to the appeal and contacts with potential supporters, facilitators, participating national societies and in three donor conferences in 2001. Nonetheless, it was still extremely difficult to raise donor interest in programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and the need for coordination and management of these programmes. The delegation in Lebanon was pared down to just one expatriate and one field officer by the end of 2001, which was insufficient for the tremendous needs existing in the country. Without substantial support in the coming period, the delegation's existence has to be reconsidered or restructured.

Overall, 50 per cent of the country delegation's objectives were achieved in 2001, in implementation, financial coverage, and programme support.

Conclusions

Lessons learnt in 2001 will be reflected in planning strategies for 2002. Priority areas will be to keep the focus on the vulnerability of the Palestinian refugees, to increase coordination with UNRWA and donors other than traditional sources of funding, through direct contacts in the Middle East North Africa region. This observation also concerns the PRCS branch in Syria, where strategy clearly needs to be revised in order to attract support for health care activities. Support through the annual appeal for PRCS health institutions in Lebanon must also be intensified, with an emphasis on human resource development rather than on purely technical inputs, which have proved difficult to obtain over the last few years.

The future of the delegation in Lebanon depends entirely on the support of the donor community. Programme objectives for the country are necessarily ambitious, given the magnitude of the needs of the resident population and of the Palestinian refugees. However, implementation of the objectives can only be achieved through exemplary coordination and management on the part of the delegation, which in turn relies on backing from donors.

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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

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.69/2001 PRCS Lebanon/Syria branches
Period: year 2001
Project(s): LB022, 421, 422
Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED INCOME 2001, CASH, KIND, SERVICES

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget less Cash brought forward	3,402,499				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	3,402,499				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
ECHO/Netherlands Red Cross-70	189,358				189,358
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian	91,536				91,536
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Re	90,616				90,616
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Re	84,495				84,495
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Re	83,646				83,646
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Re	46,242				46,242
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	22,654				22,654
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	22,884				22,884
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	20,911				20,911
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	11,561				11,561
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	21,124				21,124
Netherlands				30,883	30,883
TOTAL	685,027			30,883	715,910

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	685,027
CASH EXPENDITURE	-871,220

CASH BALANCE	-186,193

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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	574,504	177,867			177,867	396,638
Clothing & Textiles						
Food/Seeds						
Water						
Medical & First Aid	1,853,594	398,447			398,447	1,455,147
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total	2,428,098	576,313			576,313	1,851,785
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.		22,597			22,597	-22,597
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
Sub-Total		22,597			22,597	-22,597
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>						
	45,000	604			604	44,396
Sub-Total	45,000	604			604	44,396
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	11,700	24,217		30,883	55,100	-43,400
Personnel (local staff)	362,078	2,313			2,313	359,765
Training						
Sub-Total	373,778	26,530		30,883	57,413	316,365
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	10,600					10,600
Travel & related expenses	5,000	23			23	4,977
Information expenses		1,545			1,545	-1,545
Administrative expenses	66,068	6,755			6,755	59,313
External workshops & Seminars	99,680	170,022			170,022	-70,342
Sub-Total	181,348	178,345			178,345	3,003
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	229,430	40,962			40,962	188,468
Technical services	68,679	12,264			12,264	56,415
Professional services	76,165	13,605			13,605	62,560
Sub-Total	374,275	66,831			66,831	307,444
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	3,402,499	871,220		30,883	902,103	2,500,396

Consumption rate: Expenditures versus income 126%
Expenditures versus budget 27%