

OPERATIONS 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

ARGENTINA: SOCIAL CRISIS

7 August 2003

Appeal No. 08/02; Operations Update no. 6

Appeal launched on 10 April 2002 for CHF 1,824,000 for 4 months. Budget revised on 12 February 2003 to CHF 1,447,374 and operation extended to 31 July 2003. Operation further extended to 30 November 2003

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Period covered: 12 June – 31 July 2003

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.
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In Brief

Appeal coverage: 100%

Outstanding needs: None

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 01.51/2003 South America

Operational Summary: Argentine families, particularly in the north of the country, continue to fall beneath the poverty line as the social crisis deepens. An average of over 70 per cent of families with children beneath 18 years of age are currently living below the poverty line in the north eastern and north western provinces. The eight Argentine Red Cross (ARC) branches involved in the social crisis operation work closely with beneficiaries, municipalities and local health institutions, supported by the headquarters. Given delays in the implementation of the revised plan of action, mainly as a result of the major floods in Santa Fé Province, the operational time frame has been extended to 30 November 2003. Under the ARC plan of action, 18,542 children and 1,316 senior citizens continue to receive supplementary breakfasts, hot meals and snacks in 190 soup kitchens and senior citizens' homes. During the reporting period, the regional warehouses of Tucumán and Corrientes received the second stock of food items, and distributed this to branches through two separate deliveries. Data received through community visits indicate numerous cases of malnutrition and prompted a change in soup kitchen menus in an effort to improve the nutritional value of meals. A delivery of medical items for the 32 health centres targeted under the programme is currently taking place. A number of successful community-based initiatives were launched over the reporting period, focusing on clean-up campaigns and garbage disposal. Plans and budgets are currently being drawn up to implement a number of projects in the area of water and sanitation. The Argentine Red Cross is ensuring that an exit strategy for the operation is planned and implemented, encouraging the continuation of sustainable locally-based development initiatives.

Operational developments

Despite a degree of stabilization of the local currency, the Peso (ARP), and of the national unemployment rate at around 25%, more Argentine families continue to fall below the poverty line, especially in the most affected areas in the north of the country. According to the National Institute for Statistics and Surveys (INDEC), the main cause

of this phenomenon is the rising price of basic food items, which during the last 12 months have increased more than 70%.

As it can be seen from the following table, the general situation in northern provinces of the country remains critical:

Region	North East				North West		
	Chaco	Corrientes	Formosa	Misiones	Jujuy	Tucumán	Salta
Unemployment rate	14,9%	23,1%	24%	13,8%	21,1%	23%	21%
Income reduction/family	50%	56%	48,5%	52%	N/A	50%	48%
Population living below the poverty line	87,8%	56%	48,5%	52%	68,1%	50%	48%
Families living below the poverty line with children < 18 yrs	71,3%	74,3%	80%	70,7%	71,6%	69,3%	73,8%
Population attending Public Health services	49%	48,1%	N/A	48,4%	N/A	30,5%	47,1%
Infant mortality rate (x 1,000)	24	24	29	20	18	25	19
Population > 65 yrs living below the poverty line	34,5%	33%	54,2%	50,4%	40%	37,2%	21,3%

Source: Ministry for Social Development, national statistics on poverty, 2003

This data demonstrates that, during the first semester of this year, conditions have worsened in the provinces of Chaco, Formosa, Jujuy and Salta. Short and mid term indicators, particularly in the field of health and nutrition, clearly show that this crisis is unlikely to be resolved; the increase of malnutrition among children and the high levels of infant mortality stem from the lack of access to primary health infrastructure, low incomes and unemployment.

A series of external factors affected the schedule for the revised plan of action outlined in operations update nº 3, published on 12 February 2003. Initially, a financial delay postponed the beginning of activities, which started in the month of March rather than in January. In addition, a major disaster influenced the development of the social crisis operation as floods struck the city of Santa Fé at the end of April, the worst ever recorded in the area. The ARC responded to the emergency which affected more than 100,000 people, with a major operation funded through a Federation international appeal. The headquarters and more than 60 branches of a total 76 were fully absorbed by this disaster. For almost 30 days the coordination team and the branches involved in the Social Crisis appeal were obliged to focus on the disaster in Santa Fé, and as a consequence, the social crisis operation incurred a number of delays.

Other obstacles to the development of activities were epidemics of hepatitis and other diseases, which required ad hoc solutions, resulting in the postponement of planned activities in the area of health. Presidential and regional elections had also an impact on ARC action, and the National Society took on a lower profile during the electoral campaign in order not to be identified with political agendas.

For these reasons, the National Society has drawn up a new timeframe, and implementation of the operation is scheduled for completion by the end of November 2003. This new timeframe will not only ensure that the appeal objectives are accomplished, but will also facilitate the identification of new possibilities of community based development projects together with beneficiaries.

These adjustments were reviewed in relation to the revised plan of action drawn up by the ARC in cooperation with the Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) mission.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

The eight ARC branches involved in the operation work closely with beneficiaries, municipalities and local health institutions, supported by the National Society's headquarters. All the components of the plan of action are being implemented with the exception of community capacity building activities in disaster preparedness, which are linked to the exit strategy and are scheduled to be carried out in between September and November.

In addition to a major donation from the Italian government, the following National Societies have contributed funding for the social crisis operation: the British, Chilean, Finnish, Japanese and Swedish Red Cross Societies (through the Swedish government). The Spanish Red Cross is funding bilateral projects in the field of food and medicine relief assistance and community education in some provinces which are provided with assistance under this appeal.

Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items

Under the ARC plan of action, 18,542 children and 1,316 senior citizens are receiving supplementary breakfasts, hot meals and snacks according to their needs for a period of six months. The nutritional content of the packages is designed to meet SPHERE standards and local dietary habits are taken into account; local suppliers are used and consistency with Federation purchasing procedures is ensured.

Since the food distribution component of the operation was postponed for a period of two months for administrative and technical reasons, the third and final delivery to the regional warehouses of Tucumán and Corrientes, which was originally scheduled for the beginning of June, will take place in early August. This delivery will cover needs for the period 1 August – 30 September 2003. This extension will permit volunteers to remain longer with beneficiary communities and to identify future activities for implementation in the area of community capacity building and development.

Objective 1

Improve the nutrition of 19,858 children and senior citizens who are living in extreme poverty and are utilizing the services of the community soup kitchens and/or senior citizens' homes in the target region.

Progress/Achievements

During the period covered by this update, the regional warehouses of Tucumán and Corrientes received the second stock of food items, and distributed this to branches through two separate deliveries. The stock provided is intended to cover a period of two months: branches are distributing food packages according to soup kitchens' and senior citizens homes' stocking capacities. While the majority of the deliveries occur once per month, some beneficiary centres receive food rations every 15 days or more frequently. Some branches are distributing food packages thanks to the help of external partners. These are the cases of Posadas, where food deliveries are made in cooperation with the local newspaper "Primera Edición", and Resistencia, in which food is distributed on a monthly basis to the local municipality, which delivers to soup kitchens. This system was implemented for those refectories run in private houses which do not have enough storage space.

The distribution to soup kitchens and senior citizens' homes per branch is as follows:

Branch	Soup kitchens/ seniors' homes
Resistencia	32
Corrientes	48
Formosa	22
Posadas	14
Mercedes	5
Rosario de la Frontera	6
Tucumán	19
Salta (includes Jujuy)	28
Buenos Aires	4
La Pampa	2
Córdoba	2
Mendoza	8
TOTAL	190

Thanks to funding from the Municipality of Valladolid and the Spanish Red Cross, the ARC is providing food relief to a total of 3,500 children and senior citizens in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Entre Rios.

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The content of the food package is the same as that under the Federation appeal, and three deliveries are scheduled.

The totals of food items distributed to date, together with quantities relating to the final delivery, are as follows:

Item	Total distributed at 31/07/03	Quantity to be distributed in the third regional delivery
Rice	39,686 kg	19, 848 kg
Oil	9,924 lt	4,962 lt
Soup base	2,264 kg	1,191 kg
Pasta	59,544 kg	29, 772 kg
Wheat flour	29,772 kg	14, 886 kg
Maize flour	29,772 kg	14, 886 kg
Soya beans	19,849 kg	9,924 kg
Canned peas	11,908 kg	5, 954 kg
Salt	2,481 kg	4,962 kg
Tomato paste	29,772 kg	14,886 kg
Sugar	10,404 kg	5,204 kg
Cocoa powder	5,204 kg	2,602 kg
Powder milk	30,182 kg	15,091 kg
Yerba mate (tea)	15,612 kg	7,806 kg



Soup kitchen for school children in Villa Poujade, Posadas

Impact

Following ARC suggestions, some soup kitchens have changed the composition of menus in order to offer a wider choice and better nutritional content for beneficiaries. Regular coordination meetings between ARC and soup kitchen staff are held at the ARC branch of Tucumán. These meetings, which were not envisaged at the outset of the operation, demonstrate the deep commitment of staff and their willingness to participate in addressing problems and finding solutions. During a field visit in the field which took place between the months of May and June, the coordination team suggested that other branches might adopt this approach. ARC branches also organized meetings between staff from different soup kitchens in order for them to exchange information and to improve food standards. Changes introduced as a result have been welcomed by beneficiaries.

Constraints

As mentioned above, the food delivery component of the programme began 60 days after the scheduled date. For this reason, the final distribution will take place between the months of August and September.



Delivery of food items in Posadas

Health and care

Health and hygiene conditions in beneficiary communities continue to be adversely affected by widespread poverty of the population and the lack of resources within local public institutions. While endemic health problems, such as hepatitis, scabies and parasites continue to affect the population, illnesses associated with the winter climate have begun to emerge, and there are outbreaks of fever and bronchitis, particularly in the most vulnerable sectors of the population, children and senior citizens.

For this reason, a readjustment was made to the basket of items to be delivered during the second distribution of medicines, which included antibiotics and aspirins.

Volunteers are working in the communities together with primary health centre (CAPS) staff and ARC nursing and paramedic school students. Besides provision of medicines, activities carried out include weight and size monitoring of children, awareness-raising and training sessions with the population.

During the field visit made by the Buenos Aires sub regional office staff in May and June, it was possible to monitor the standards of hygiene in the soup kitchens. Despite some cases in which suggestions had to be made in order to improve conditions, the majority of the centres had made significant progress in this respect, thanks to volunteers' awareness-raising within the communities.

Objective 1:

Improve the situation of 62,500 people in 36 target communities through a community based health promotion and disease prevention programme.

Progress/Achievements

The health promotion and disease prevention programme is made up of two components: training for volunteers and communities and community/home visits.

1) Training:

Workshops and training activities were delayed in some branches given that a large number of volunteers moved to the city of Santa Fé during the floods emergency and post emergency phase of the operation. The final module for volunteer training concerning HIV/AIDS and the Red Cross principles, was held in Corrientes on 26 July for north eastern branches, and will be repeated on 9 August in Tucumán for north western branches.

Teaching staff is composed of professionals and experts in each topic from the ARC, the Federation, NGOs and public administration. Subjects covered during the workshops are as follows:

- Red Cross Movement Principles
- Nutrition;
- Food chain;
- Hygiene;
- Water and sanitation;
- Waste water disposal;
- Poverty and climate-related disease;
- Family planning;
- HIV/AIDS; and
- Blood donation.

2) Community/home visits:

Awareness-raising meetings with local community health promoters, families and soup kitchen staff cover the same subjects as those attended by volunteers. With the aim of reaching as many beneficiaries as possible inside the communities, volunteers are holding speeches and also implementing hygiene campaigns at the home level. These kinds of visits have successfully generated a link with the population as well as creating a solid basis for further joint activities.

ARC volunteers and nurses are working in schools, soup kitchens and houses monitoring children's nutritional status, weight and height, in cooperation with local health authorities. Measurement of children is conducted according to a standards defined by the Federation and ARC health representatives. During the period covered by this update, all branches carried out an initial measurement, while the second is currently ongoing.

Data from different provinces indicate that, due to bad diets, children's height is in many cases lower than the average for their age. Cases of overweight children were also found together with malnutrition. The data collected

was used to review menus in soup kitchen, and will be compared with the ones from the next measurement in order to evaluate the impact of the project.

Branch	Surveyed beneficiaries	Malnourished	Underweight	Overweight
Salta	89	9	0	0
Corrientes	533	225	55	0
Formosa	145	15	0	2
Posadas	207	45	27	2
Rosario de la Frontera	296	15	34	51
Mercedes	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Resistencia	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TOTAL	1270	309	116	55

Impact

Workshops proved very effective in all the branches and a total of 150 participants from public administration, NGOs and Red Cross volunteers and staff attended them.

Meetings with the population are held in different ways according to beneficiary target audiences. Methods which have proved effective are theatre and role playing, in which communities are fully involved in the learning process. These presentations are currently performed in the provinces of Formosa and Resistencia. The branch of Rosario de la Frontera is sending written invitations to the parents of children attending the centres. Children, parents and soup kitchen staff participate in regular meetings.

An important achievement resulting from volunteer speeches in the communities is the improvement of hygiene conditions, both in the kitchens and refectories. This was most evident in Rosario de la Frontera and Resistencia, where in the latter it had previously been allowed to bring domestic animals into the eating areas.

During the workshops with soup kitchen staff and children's parents, ARC volunteers had the possibility to identify new themes to develop with communities according to beneficiaries' needs. For this reason, the branch of Tucumán organized a specific workshop on alcoholism, a widespread problem in the region. Due to the precarious hygiene conditions in beneficiaries' home, the branch of Formosa organized specific workshops on hygiene attended by all the communities involved.

The necessity of a survey emerged during community workshops held by the branch of Salta in the community of Barrio Solidaridad, whose population has grown significantly during recent years. This tool proved useful since it facilitated relevant feedback from the population and focused the intervention according to the needs expressed by beneficiaries. Half of the neighbourhood has been surveyed to date, and the main problems which emerged are hygiene and reproductive health.

Constraints

As in the case of workshops for volunteers, community and home visits had to be postponed in some branches as a result of the emergency in Santa Fé. While the training for volunteers will conclude with the last module scheduled in Tucumán in the second week of August, community and home visits will continue until the end of September. The extension of the plan of action could provide the option for a third series of growth monitoring and a better evaluation of trends relating to growth of children.

Objective 2:

Improve access to basic medicines through the provision of determined items to 32 primary health care centres located in 36 target communities.

Progress/Achievements

The location of CAPS in each area of intervention is as follows:

BRANCH	CAPS
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North West (12 CAPS):	
Tucumán	3
Salta	4
Jujuy	2
Rosario de la Frontera	3
North East (20 CAPS):	
Resistencia	4
Corrientes	8
Mercedes	3
Formosa	2
Posadas	3
TOTAL	32

During the field mission by the coordination team in the months of May and June, it was noticed that oral rehydration salts distributed on the occasion of the first delivery were not needed in all the centres, and the ones which were using them still had significant quantities. For this reason, and taking into consideration the forthcoming winter season, it was decided to replace the salts with antibiotics and aspirins, much in demand by the CAPS.

Distribution of medicines to beneficiaries is monitored through a format designed by the branch of Corrientes .

As no further changes were required, the items included in the next delivery, which is currently reaching the regional warehouses of Tucumán and Corrientes are:

MEDICINE KITS	
Item	Quantity
Iron+ folic acid	25,600 cps
Iron (liquid)	2,560 doses
Anti parasite (liquid)	3,200 doses
Anti parasite	19,200 cps
Paracetamol	32,000 cps
Antibiotics (liquid)	6,400 doses

The branch of Tucumán is drafting a community health promotion project together with beneficiaries from the neighbourhood of Rio Chico which includes a CAPS attended by 900 inhabitants. ARC nursery school students from the capital of the province are working with CAPS staff, and will participate in the training of further personnel needed by the centre.

The Spanish Red Cross and the Municipality of Madrid are financing the delivery of basic hygiene items and medicines to 16 hospitals and two health centres in Tucumán, Salta and Santiago del Estero provinces. The first delivery, containing the vast majority of the items, was made between 23 and 24 of July. Once 60 ARC volunteers will have completed training in childhood diseases, 229 hygiene kits from the same donor will be distributed to 40 soup kitchens in the same provinces. This delivery will, in fact, take place at the same time of as educational campaign on health.

Impact

The provision of vital medicines through medical centres is succeeding in preventing illness in the target communities, particularly given regular assessment of needs in the CAPS.

Constraints

Epidemics of hepatitis A and B and conjunctivitis resulted in a specific intervention which briefly changed the focus of the health component of the operation. Seasonal diseases such as bronchitis and pneumonia made necessary a change in the items distributed. Aspirins and antibiotics took the place of oral rehydration salts which were not required to the extent originally envisaged. The third and final delivery of medicines is expected to

take place during the month of September, after a further assessment of needs in the CAPS that will take place during the first two weeks of August.

Objective 3

Improve the health situation of the 36 target communities through water and sanitation activities.

Progress/Achievements

During the months of June and July, projects relating to water and sanitation were identified together with beneficiaries. Activities include delivery of water tanks, extension of water pipelines, construction of sewers, improvement of the garbage collection system and hygiene awareness campaigns. With children spending most of their time outdoors, there is a serious problem of refuse in the streets which poses health risks.

During the period covered by this update, the ARC made posters on the theme of hygiene and water and sanitation, which will be delivered to beneficiaries during the month of August.

Local associations from Barrio Santa Clara participated in the drafting of a project which includes water tanks and a pipeline connection for a multifunctional community centre, the construction of which is ongoing. Starting from the month of August, the population will also contribute to the implementation of the project.

In the neighbourhood of Solidaridad, the ARC will provide dustbins, which are in short supply and in bad condition. These activities are being recorded to produce an informative video and educational materials. This project, as similar ones carried out by different branches, is made up of three components: awareness activities; waste disposal and collection campaign. The project is now in its initial phase.

On the outskirts of Resistencia, ARC volunteers identified together with beneficiaries from the Mopic neighbourhood, a project focusing on collection and disposal of garbage, which until now has been thrown on waste ground between the neighbourhood and the lagoon nearby. A project the aim of which is to kill pests, similar to that carried out in the Toba neighbourhood, will also be run.

The Branches of Mercedes and Formosa will implement a project for the construction of a network of a sewer and toilets, the need for which has been expressed by beneficiaries. These projects include a component of community education on toilet maintenance.

As of 31 July, communities involved and planned activities are as follows:

Branch	Name of Soup Kitchen/ Community	Activities
Tucumán	Una gota de amor	Water pipeline
	Carballito	Water tank
Rosario de la Frontera	Centro vicinal Barrio Santa Clara	Water pipeline and tank, community cleaning campaign. Roof of new community centre to be built.
Salta/Jujuy	Barrio Solidaridad	Construction of dustbins and community awareness re hygiene and water and sanitation issues
Resistencia	Barrio Mopic	Community campaign on waste collection, disposal and eradication of pests.
	Barrio Toba	Community campaign and eradication of pests.
Corrientes	Barrio Santa Lucia	Water tank in 2 soup kitchens.
	Barrio Esperanza	Water tank, toilets and sewers in the local soup kitchen.
	Laguna Brava	Water tank and water pipeline.
	Pueblo Libertador	Water tank and water pipeline.
	Cuidad Esquina	Water tank and water pipeline.
Mercedes	Merceditas	Toilets, sewer.
Posadas	El Fiaca	Toilets, sewer, plants nursery.
Formosa	Rincón de luz	Water tank and community awareness campaign
	Madres solteras	Water tank and community awareness campaign
	8 de Diciembre	Water tank and community awareness campaign
	Milagros	Water tank and water pipeline; community education campaign

Impact

The majority of the neighbourhoods involved are responding with interest and are actively participating in the activities proposed; volunteers are also working closely with beneficiaries and local associations. The most striking cases are those of Barrio Santa Clara, in the municipality of Rosario de la Frontera, and Barrio Solidaridad, on the outskirts of Salta. In these two different situations, ARC volunteers are participating together with beneficiaries in a community cleaning campaign called “*Juntos por un Barrio Limpio*” (“Together for a clean neighbourhood”), which consists of education in hygiene and garbage disposal and joint collection activities.

Constraints

Since during the first months of the operation, food assistance, medical relief and educational activities in soup kitchens and senior citizens’ homes were prioritized, some of the above mentioned components are currently in the phase of drafting and budgeting, and only a few are under implementation. Additional projects are also being identified in this area together with beneficiary communities.

For this reason, all water and sanitation activities will begin in August and it is estimated that an extension of three months will be needed to accomplish this objective, which is expected will be fully achieved by the end of November.

Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Progress/Achievements

The implementation of this component of the operation will be carried out through community awareness campaigns and community activities, is closely related with the exit strategy of this plan of action. As of the month of September, ARC branches will hold awareness sessions on disaster prevention and preparedness, and will assess the needs for the implementation of local projects together with the beneficiaries.

Impact

It will be possible to evaluate the impact of disaster prevention and preparedness activities once implementation is under way. Positive relations with the communities and the commitment demonstrated by beneficiaries during community activities indicate that disaster preparedness information will be successfully assimilated.

Constraints

As this part of the programme has been developed during the most recent phase of the operation, this component has yet to undergo implementation. According to the revised timeframe, disaster preparedness activities are scheduled to take place from the beginning of September until late November 2003.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and Initiatives

- The operation in Argentina responds to the needs of the most vulnerable affected by the social crisis in the country.
- Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the level of vulnerability of those affected, ensure gender sensitivity and prioritize assistance to children and elderly people.
- Activities are based on the SPHERE Project humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response.
- The operation includes many activities which are carried out through partnerships with governmental authorities, international, national and local organizations.
- Every training course given to the volunteers and the beneficiaries has an introductory Red Cross module.

National Society Capacity Building

The Argentine Red Cross is currently involved in a major process of structural reform and reorganization, implemented with funding granted by the Federation’s Capacity Building Fund (CBF). The flooding of Santa Fé province at the end of April resulted in strong cooperation initiatives and demonstrations of solidarity among branches, as well as with public institutions and partners. Federation delegates and ARC staff trained volunteers in the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)’s SUMA procedures for stocking and logistics procedures. Water

and sanitation and disaster response courses were organized both at the headquarters and branch level (especially aimed at volunteers involved in the Santa Fé operation, where training was held in cooperation with Oxfam).

The new national emergency plan is being drafted with the help of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The Federation is also supporting the ARC communications department in the implementation and reorganization of its long distance education programme for communicators, intended to train ARC volunteers from the branches and the headquarters in media and communication issues.

A 4 day National Intervention Team (NIT) course took place at the headquarters at the end of July. Participants were volunteers and staff from the ARC and other National Societies from the region, as well as Federation officers from the sub regional office in Buenos Aires. A one month computer course for volunteers and staff started in Buenos Aires on 23 July.

Federation Coordination

The Federation's sub regional office based in Buenos Aires is working closely with the Argentine Red Cross in all aspects of this operation and in other local activities, encouraging meetings and assisting the National Society in developing its network of contacts. Meetings are held regularly with staff, donors, local authorities and humanitarian actors. ARC relations have been strengthened with the Ministry of Health, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization and UNDP.

A regional intervention team (RIT) from the Ecuadorian Red Cross, who supported the development of the plan of action for the floods operation in Santa Fé, joined the staff in Buenos Aires with the task of assisting the National Society in drafting its new national emergency plan.

A coordination meeting was held on 7 and 8 July at the ARC headquarters with representatives from the National Society and of the Federation, including staff from the Buenos Aires sub regional office, the regional delegation in Lima and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama. The meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate the status of the operation. As a direct consequence, improved indicators to evaluate the operation were identified. The need to extend the operation and to ensure a phase out period which will enable branches and beneficiaries to draft and propose projects focusing on local sustainable development was also discussed.

Communication – Advocacy and Public Information

During the period covered by this update, all the branches involved in this plan of action finalized the creation of a communications team, composed of staff and volunteers, most of whom are attending the long distance education in communications course. The role of these teams is to keep local media informed of ARC activities, keep an archive of images and articles on the operation and to produce informative material.

Promotional activities are carried out regularly with the public and local and national media. ARC activities were publicized in Buenos Aires on the occasion of a national fair on health, when videos and information on the programme were provided to the public together with other institutional materials.

Different activities are carried out both at the branch and headquarters level in order to promote and disseminate the image of the ARC, the Federation and the donors. Jackets bearing Federation, ARC and donor logos, complementing volunteers' equipment, are currently being distributed to branches.

Outstanding needs

According to the new timeframe elaborated by the ARC, operational activities in the field of food and medicine distribution are scheduled to finish at the end of September. The implementation of water and sanitation activities, together with the disaster preparedness component including awareness campaigns and the drafting of new project proposals to take place outside this plan of action, are expected to conclude in November.

The identification of future mid-long term projects will contribute to alleviate the structural crisis in selected beneficiary communities. Donors are strongly encouraged to follow the development of this plan of action and to support development initiatives through contributions to the Federation's Annual Appeal for South America (01.51/2003).

For further information please contact:

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

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

Argentina social crisis

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 08/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

04/08/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

				VALUE CHF	DATE	TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----				1,448,000		100.0%
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,962	13/09/02	SOUP KITCHEN
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	23,083	05/12/02	
CHILEAN - RC		500	USD	806	03/05/02	DIRECT TO DELEGATION
FINNISH - RC		33,000	EUR	48,388	14/05/02	
ITALY GOVT		800,000	EUR	1,184,000	15/12/02	FROM ITALIAN DREF
JAPANESE - RC		36,300	USD	53,506	14/08/02	
SWEDISH - GOVT		292,000	SEK	47,129	16/10/02	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,379,874	CHF	95.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMANY	MEDICAL	45,000	USD	67,500	29/07/02	BILATERAL - COMMUNITY HEALTH
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				67,500	CHF	4.7%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMANY	HOSPITAL ITEMS	103,774	USD	155,661	29/07/02	BILATERAL
SPAIN - RC		71,860	USD	104,916	19/06/02	DIRECT CONTRIBUTION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				260,577	CHF	