

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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 RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Appeal no: 13/02

6 May 2002

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,873,000
(USD 1.17m/ EUR 1.28m)
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
FOR 12 MONTHS ASSISTANCE***

The Situation

The past weeks have been marked by a severe escalation of the crisis in Israel and the Palestinian Territories (West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem). Conditions in the West Bank and Gaza cities and towns have been rapidly deteriorating as a result of widespread violence, large-scale military activities and massive damage to infrastructure. The destruction of houses is leaving thousands homeless and without adequate shelter or protection. The imposition of a curfew and the closure of the communities to the outside have resulted in restrictions on access to water and electricity, while providing little opportunity to replenish basic supplies of food and medicine. The destruction of physical infrastructure in the Palestinian territories, and the weakening of the institutions has led to major instability and long-term uncertainty. The humanitarian consequences of the crisis continue to have a highly negative impact on the Palestinian people and their institutions.

The Needs

Immediate Needs

The escalation of the conflict, especially over past month, is having severe implications for pre-hospital emergency care and the general health status of the population in West Bank and Gaza. Though the full impact on health cannot be adequately assessed now - for a number of reasons, including denied access to rescue teams and other professionals to the areas under siege - the immediate effects of the crisis are expected to include:

{ Increasing morbidity, mortality and complications resulting from inability to tend the sick, wounded and other critical emergency cases who require medical interventions (e.g. women in labour, elderly suffering from chronic diseases, etc.)

{ Public Health Disaster Zones resulting from inadequate and/or complete lack of sanitation measures. No garbage collection, dead bodies being left unburied and hospitals and public areas lacking clean water because of destroyed or cut off mains are among the causes.

{ Paralysis of national functions - including medical services networks, access to supplies, and movement of medical professionals - resulting from destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure.

{ Threat of infectious diseases outbreaks/epidemics resulting from the environmental threats listed above. In addition halted immunisation efforts, poor nutrition and contamination of drinking water and lack of or denied access to appropriate medical care and related treatment have contributed to the situation.

{ the health needs of the internally displaced/homeless in Gaza and West Bank - estimated at 2,000 in the Jenin refugee camp alone - as a result of recent events.

The Proposed Operation

Objectives and Activities planned w

Given the nature and evolution of the current conflict, coupled with the continued risk of natural disasters, such as drought, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) will continue to build on its current disaster preparedness and response programme. It will focus on better integration of the relief programme with ongoing emergency medical services (EMS) and primary health care (PHC) branch activities being implemented by the volunteer network. The programme pillars will be:

{ EMS/PHC integration

{ emergency response unit (ERU) field hospital (with a regional vision within the Federation network)

{ Volunteer/branch networks that will conduct the following activities: rapid needs assessments, water/ sanitation, camp management, EMS and ERU Field Hospital support.

{ Centralised emergency and logistics management

The PRCS has planned the proposed humanitarian assistance programme in full cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation.

Both ICRC and the International Federation's assistance programmes are aimed to meet urgent, short term, intermediate and long term requirements identified in the PRCS Post Disaster Rehabilitation Plan (April 2002).

The ICRC, as lead agency for the Movement in Israel, the occupied and the autonomous territories, has been and will continue to address the bulk of urgent and short-term needs in such areas as strengthening the EMS, replacing damaged ambulances, expanding the capacity of the dispatch stations, providing critically needed medical and other relevant equipment, tackling the problems of electricity, water and sanitation and replacing and transferring consumable and medicines. The full scope of the ICRC assistance to the vulnerable civilians is communicated to the interested parties through its own channels.

The International Federation's Appeal on behalf of the PRCS is aimed to mobilise the badly needed support to sustain uninterrupted functioning of all the Society's critical services during the next 6-12 months. It is largely based on the areas of the PRCS needs assessment (cf. PNS Briefing Note of ICRC dated 25 April 2002) of 23 April 2002, much of which falls under the International Federation's traditional areas of support to the PRCS. External support is required for home based care programme, medical consultations and community based health development programme. Establishment of the ERU (field hospital) is considered to be vital to strengthen the preparedness capacity of the PRCS.

All these measures should be integrated with the continuous development of the National Society with an emphasis on the human resources development and management training.

Health w

Objective 1: Sustain vital PRCS services in the territories.

{ Replace stocks of medicines and medical supplies linked with the primary health care and home based care programmes of the PRCS according to the specific requirement.

{ Support all existing PRCS programmes that are essential for responding to the needs of the population, namely PHC, secondary health care, rehabilitation, social services, and volunteers' network.

{ Provide direct financial support to the health and relief staff of the National Society.

Objective 2: Establish the PRCS leadership role in disaster preparedness & response in the territories.

{ Complete establishment and equipment of medical ERU field hospital

{ Further develop the PRCS human resources in management skills and disaster preparedness/ response (DP/R). Training to include theory and practice (the ICRC will contribute an introduction to IHL in the training module).

Capacity Building for Disaster Preparedness and Response (DP/R)

Objective 1: Expansion / development of selected PRCS programmes, which are necessary to respond to the increasing needs of the Palestinian population.

{ The home-based care programme will focus on conflict victims and all vulnerable groups affected by the current situation. Home visits will be an important means for the dissemination of information.

{ Establish a medical hotline to assist the most vulnerable, especially where accessibility is limited.

{ Increase the focus of the community based programmes on disaster preparedness & response. This includes community based first aid training, review of the membership of emergency committees in local communities, recruitment of volunteers and assisting in the rehabilitation arrangements of war victims. (rapid assessments, water/sanitation, first aid, ERU back up and camp management)

{ PRCS hospitals will be integrated in the DP/R programme. Accordingly, the emergency units in six hospitals will be developed in order to increase the capability for responding to ER situations.

Objective 2: Increase networking and social awareness regarding the PRCS disaster preparedness and response programme (DP/R).

{ Produce audio-visual and printed materials directed towards raising the public awareness to DP/R.

{ Coordinate and disseminate information regarding the DP/R programme (which will include an IHL component contributed by the ICRC) . Scope of this activity includes Palestinian Authority structures, NGOs and other community groups.

{ Maintain an appropriate database on the changing situation affecting the PRCS in performing its humanitarian mission

National Society Capacity Building w

Assistance to the Palestinian Red Crescent in building its capacity to respond to the immediate and longer-term needs of the population in the West Bank and Gaza is a priority for the International Federation. With the establishment of the Ministry of Health in the autonomous territories, the role of the Palestinian Red Crescent has been gradually changing from an institution providing purely curative care to an one whose main concern is preventive health care. For instance, the Palestine Red Crescent has substantially expanded its network of primary health care centres..

Coordination w

The ICRC is the lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the West Bank and Gaza. It has taken responsibility for coordination of International Red Cross/Red Crescent assistance during the emergency phase. All physical commodities are being channelled via the ICRC logistics infrastructure in Amman. The International Federation will coordinate the response to this appeal, in close consultation with the ICRC. The International Federation has fully supported the ICRC.

Capacity of the National Society w

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society was established in 1968. In 1969 it was mandated by the Palestinian National Council to be responsible for health and social services for the Palestinian people inside and outside of the territories. To date, the PRCS continues its activities in the territories, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt as well as other locations.

PRCS is operating six hospitals (with a capacity of 320 beds), 25 clinics, 78 ambulances in the West Bank and Gaza regions. It employs 2.000 permanent staff..

In the West Bank and Gaza, the PRCS has 22 branches, approximately 1.200 staff offering rehabilitation, primary health care, secondary health care and social welfare.

Present Capacity of the Federation w

The International Federation has an office in the West Bank which represents it to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The Federation is supported by the professional and technical infrastructure at its regional delegation in Amman. The total assistance provided through the International Federation to the Palestinian Red Crescent in 2001 was almost CHF 1,8 million. Assistance worth CHF 1.1 million was mobilised for the PRCS branch in Lebanon..

A number of national Red Cross Societies - such as the French, German, Norwegian, Spanish as well as other Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies - have maintained or stepped up their regular support to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

In planning the required support, the International Federation is considering reinforcing its management support structure with the establishment of a field health delegate whose responsibilities will include monitoring the implementation of the primary health care programme.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details

For further details please contact: Mr. Evgeni Parfenov, Federation Senior Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4325; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: parfenov@ifrc.org.

All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

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

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 13/2002
Palestine Red Crescent Society		
TYPE		VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Shelter & constructions		33'000
Water and sanitation		17'000
Teaching materials		50'000
Utensils & tools		17'000
Other relief supplies		33'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		150'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers & telecom. equipment		17'000
Medical equipment		198'000
Other equipment		107'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		126'000
Technical support		38'000
Professional services		42'000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		30'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff		180'000
National staff		594'000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		17'000
Information expenses		20'000
Administrative & general expenses		139'000
External workshops & seminars		215'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		1'723'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		1'873'000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		0
NET REQUEST		1'873'000