

PAKISTAN: BUILDING CAPACITIES

5 February 2001

appeal no. 01.57/2000

situation report no. 2

period covered: 1 July - 31 December 2000

Despite funding support of only 4.1% for the Appeal 2000 programmes and the National Society's involvement in a major drought relief operation, the Society was able to chalk up progress in its priority programme areas, chiefly through training initiatives and the creation of a Development and Co-operation Unit. Efforts are under way to improve funding support in 2001.

The context

The general socio-economic situation in Pakistan remained fairly stable, although the Pakistani rupee continued to lose value during the second half of the year, making life increasingly difficult for the most vulnerable. The military Government continued its efforts to combat corruption and to develop a tax revenue system. The security situation was generally calm, although the situation in Afghanistan and the ongoing dispute over Kashmir were still potentially sources of problems. Towards the end of the year, elections were held for the new local government bodies which are to be established and passed off without any major incident.

Latest events

The serious drought in Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces remained a source of concern for Government and non-governmental organisations within the country. In Baluchistan, it caused 80-100% livestock losses in some areas and serious agricultural production losses, besides provoking population movements over and above the seasonal norms, including in both directions across the Afghan border. Sindh Province received some rain, but Baluchistan, which relies on winter rain and snowfall in the mountains, continued to suffer from the dry climate. By the autumn, Government focus in Baluchistan had shifted from the provision of emergency assistance in camps to a more community-based and outreach approach, despite the logistical difficulties this implies.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

During the entire reporting period, the main constraint for Federation-supported programme activities presented in the Appeal 2000/2001 has been the lack of funding. New activities have also been limited by the large drought operation which the National Society is undertaking in Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces. A major priority for 2001 will therefore be to attract additional funding for Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) programmes and activities, through a much improved set of programme plans and documents.

Linked to this, one of the key achievements of the period was a strategic planning workshop, held in July, to develop the Country Assistance Strategy for 2001. This was a fully participatory process, attended by PRCS staff and volunteers from all areas of the country as well as from the National Headquarters. The National Society subsequently developed detailed programme documents for each of the core components of Disaster Response, Disaster Preparedness, Health and Care, and Humanitarian Values, as well as for the full Institutional Development programme. Funding will be sought for these programmes through the Appeal for 2001.

The Development and Cooperation Unit (DCU), established at the beginning of this year to address the institutional development needs of the National Society, consolidated its position during the second half of the year, demonstrating the advantages of such a Unit. The good working relationship between the National Society, the Federation and the ICRC was further strengthened at the end of the year with the development of a more detailed draft Tripartite Working Agreement for 2001, which was due to be finalised in January.

Disaster Response •

Drought: Baluchistan and Sindh

The National Society was very busy throughout the period with the drought relief operation, for which an international Federation appeal was launched in July. After a slow start, the Appeal was successful in attracting funding (around 75% by the end of December); this enabled the National Society to undertake a significant operation to provide around 51,000 supplementary food packs to over 70,000 beneficiaries in Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces. Additionally, four mobile health teams will be established in Baluchistan to provide preventive and basic curative health care and maintain nutritional surveillance to around 4,000 drought-affected beneficiaries each month.

The Federation is supporting the National Society with a Relief Delegate and a Health/Nutrition Delegate.

The Appeal period was extended from the end of December 2000 to the end of April 2001, to reflect the continuing needs of the population, the capacity of the National Society and the nature and timing of the pledges received.

Disaster Preparedness •

Four members of staff attended the Regional Disaster Preparedness workshop held in Sri Lanka during the fourth quarter.

Planning was undertaken in the period to develop Community Based Disaster Preparedness training workshops for disaster-prone communities in selected areas of Punjab and Sindh Provinces. These will be held early in 2001.

The prospect of significant funding being available for the Disaster Preparedness programme in early 2001 will enable the National Society to proceed immediately with the implementation of this programme and planning is already under way. The arrival of a Regional DP Delegate in January 2001 will further enhance the Federation's hitherto limited support to the National Society in this area.

Health •

The three health-related programmes featured in the Appeal 2000/2001 were: Safe Blood; Reproductive and Child Health; and Primary Health Care in Baluchistan. No new funding was received for these programmes during the period. However, one of the key strengths of the National Society is its ability to sustain its own programmes to a large extent and thus activities were not seriously curtailed. Nevertheless, an important priority for 2001 will be to attract additional funding for the health programme, in order to further strengthen and develop activities.

Training in community based first aid was maintained, using earlier support from CIDA, the Canadian development agency, and plans were under way at the end of the year to develop the Basic Health Unit at Mastung in Baluchistan, drawing on funds from the Norwegian Red Cross. This project is closely linked to the current drought activities. A mobile health unit will also be established in Mastung, to serve outlying drought-affected communities.

Federation support for blood activities will constitute an additional challenge for 2001. In Pakistan this includes the full range of activities from donor recruitment to testing and provision of blood for transfusion.

Capacity Building •***Institutional development***

The Federation, in conjunction with the ICRC, supported eight positions within the DCU and some associated costs. This support will continue in 2001, as per the Tripartite Working Agreement.

A specific focus for 2001 will be Human Resource Development. To this end, the Head of the DCU attended the Regional Human Resource Development workshop held in Nepal during the fourth quarter of 2000. Also linked to human resource development, the National Society itself ran a two-day workshop to introduce the basic principles of gender awareness, identified within the CAS development process as being a key priority. More in-depth consideration of gender issues for the National Society will take place in 2001.

Finance Development Programme

The Regional Finance Delegate visited the National Society during the fourth quarter to continue discussions about the planned further computerisation of the PRCS financial management systems. The NHQ and state branches accounts departments have already received basic hardware and software support, plus basic training in word processing and spreadsheet packages. The accountants should therefore be in a strong position to adapt to the computerised accounting software when it is introduced.

Tenders have been received from software suppliers; these were reviewed with the Regional Finance Delegate during her visit. The aim is to select the appropriate accounting package in early 2001, and introduce it in NHQ and a selected provincial branch. The process of computerisation continues the process of updating and improving PRCS financial procedures.

Outstanding needs

Appeal coverage for Pakistan ended the year at a disappointing 4.1%. Major efforts will be made in early 2001 to significantly raise awareness of the National Society's activities and thus the level of funding support pledged to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society for its ongoing programmes. It is hoped that the permanent presence of the Regional Health Delegate in Islamabad will improve the potential for securing funds.

Substantial funding for both the Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response programmes is expected to be available early in 2001. However, as a matter of priority, funding is actively sought for the Institutional Development programme, which includes support to the DCU, and for Health programmes.

No further support is sought for the Drought Appeal, which will close at the end of April 2001.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Annual General Meeting of the National Society was held in December in the presence of the President of Pakistan, who is also the President of the Society.

High level delegations from the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the Red Cross Society of China were received by the National Society during this period. The Iranian Red Crescent provided relief items for the drought in Baluchistan and both National Societies pledged further bilateral assistance to the PRCS.

The National Society maintained its good relationships with Government Departments and non-governmental organisations.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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Pakistan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.57/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02/06/01	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,249,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 4.1%
Balance carried forward from 1999				(18,072)		
BRITISH - GOVT				50,000	19.01.2000	DFID 1.4.2, 1.4.3
NORWEGIAN - RC				19,000	16.05.00	PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				50,928	CHF	4.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PPK000, PPK001, PPK002, PPK004, PPK160						