

PROGRAMME 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

SOMALIA

13 August, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.16/2001

Appeal Target CHF 2,580,166

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: April - June 2001; (last Programme Update no. 1 issued No. 1 on 8 May, 2001)

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 59.9%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,034,253

Summary: Effective work has been undertaken in the health sector, and the operation requires further support and assistance for the implementation of the planned activities.

Operational Developments:

In May 2000 a gathering of Somalis from all over the world met in Arta, Djibouti, and after some months of deliberations, elected a parliament, whose members elected a President, who appointed a Prime Minister who drew up a Cabinet of ministers and assistant ministers. The parliamentarians and members of the administration, known as the Transitional National Government (TNG), established themselves in Mogadishu, to international acclaim and with the expressed hope of reconciling the contending factions in Somalia and holding democratic elections after three years. Somalis have been disappointed by the lack of progress and six months after the TNG established itself in the capital, Mogadishu, it has failed to establish security throughout the city or to reopen the main sea and air ports. Despite support from some members of the business community in Somalia, religious groups and Arab leaders, the TNG continues to make more impact at international meetings outside Somalia than in the country itself. The leaders of Somaliland, Puntland and the RRA oppose the TNG which claims to represent the whole of Somalia.

Conflict between militias loyal to faction leaders based in Mogadishu and forces supporting the TNG have broken out on a number of occasions this year in the city. One incident occurred when visiting United Nations personnel met in an NGO compound in north Mogadishu. Two UN security men were held captive for a week.

President Abdullahi Yusuf and his government are set to continue in office for a further three years after a vote by traditional elders in the state capital Garoe. There were some open declarations of disquiet about this move by opponents of Abdullahi Yusuf but there has been no positive confrontation with the administration.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) lifted the ban on imported livestock from Somalia which had been imposed in September last year following an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in the Gulf. This gave some limited relief to the economies in the north and eased the pressure on the Somali shilling. However, food security in the north remains a concern as the UAE market only accounts for a small proportion of livestock exports from the ports

of Berbera and Bosasso. Seasonal rains came late to Somalia and although rainfall was fairly well distributed throughout the country the mainly agricultural regions of Gedo, Bakool and Bay reported abnormally dry weather. Insecurity in the south makes foodstuff difficult to distribute and sell. In Somaliland, petty traders in the impoverished Awdal region suffered from the closure of the border with Djibouti.

Disaster Response

There were no large scale disasters in Somalia during the period under review. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) with its network of branches and clinics throughout the country, is a key partner of the Food Security Assessment Unit (Somalia) and provided information throughout the quarter. The SRCS is not, on its own, currently well equipped to deal with high emergencies in the country but regularly attends local administration health co-ordination meetings and liaises with UN agencies and NGOs. Difficulties of communication within Somalia inhibit large-scale response to disasters which are more easily dealt with regionally.

Disaster Preparedness

The SRCS has a limited supply of equipment, beds and bedding to use in cases of epidemic outbreaks, such as cholera. Clinic staff, volunteers and local communities have co-operated in setting up cholera prevention and control activities. Cholera has not been a major problem in Somalia during the current season. Flooding has also not occurred on a large scale. First aid training was a priority for all branches. The Federation Disaster Preparedness delegate plans a second workshop at branch level, in Somalia, before the end of the year.

Health and Care

The SRCS, supported by the Federation, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC, continue to run their network of 46 MCH/OPD clinics throughout Somalia. The Federation continued to support 24 of the clinics and the OPD at Alla-Aamin orphanage in Baidoa. Support for the Garoe community hospital included development of the new TB facility (in conjunction with the WHO), drug supplies and management advice.

The Norwegian Red Cross continued its bilateral support for the three rehabilitation centres in Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Galkaiyo. Their physiotherapist training course continued in Hargeisa.

The ICRC continued to support surgical hospitals in Mogadishu, Puntland, and Baidoa, as well as the 22 SRCS health posts in southern Somalia.

In April and May a five day training course was conducted for health officers and head nurses in order to increase their managerial skills. The Federation Delegation took part in the health co-ordination meetings in Somaliland and Puntland during the quarter. The Federation health officer and pharmacist continued their regular visits to Somalia. The campaign of advocacy and information about HIV/AIDS began, with a presentation on a module including poetry, music and a drama at the Federation Regional Partnership meeting in Nairobi in June.

The Federation and World Bank health study programme in Puntland continued with the start of a year's pilot project at the clinic in Qarhis, which has a typical clientele of mainly pastoralist families. The community joined with the Puntland Ministry of Social Affairs in contributing materially and financially to the enhanced clinic. WHO completed the design for the clinic's laboratory. The Federation World Disasters Report (2001), which has an account of the project, and was presented at a press conference in Nairobi, simultaneously with its launch world wide.

Organizational Development (OD)

Training for SRCS staff continued. Federation staff conducted training sessions inside Somalia and in Nairobi, provided support for health and administrative units and visited clinics.

The Federation Regional OD delegate worked with the Secretary General of the SRCS on development plans for the society.

A Canadian University graduate IT specialist arrived and began work on the SRCS website.

The top management of the SRCS held meetings in Nairobi and Mombasa and drew up plans for the development of the Society, which included proposals to reduce the numbers of paid staff in each branch, the addition of 6 new branches so that there would be a branch in each of Somalia's 19 regions and the opening of up to four new MCH/OPD clinics in the south west of Somalia. A three hour meeting of the SRCS senior management, IFRC, ICRC, members of contributing national and regional national societies was held in Mombasa in June during the Regional Partnership meeting. The meeting covered issues of governance, funding and development.

Outstanding needs

Standards in reporting, both narrative and financial, at branch and clinic levels still need improvement. The discussions in Nairobi and Mombasa hopefully paved the way for a more dynamic approach to the Society's continuing needs of redevelopment and adjustment to the reshaping of the political scene in Somalia.

Additional financial support for the two clinics in Mogadishu and the hospital in Garoe is still required.

For further details please contact: Josse Gillijns, Phone: 41 22 730 42 24; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: gillijns@ifrc.org

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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

Somalia						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.16/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03.08.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'580'166		TOTAL COVERAGE 59.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
BELGIUM - RC				7'500	11.05.2001	CLINICS IN MOGADISHU
BRITISH - RC		86'931	GBP	209'504	27.03.01	SOMALILAND MOHTER & CHILD CLINICS
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		73'162	EUR	111'155	02.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
GERMAN - RC				34'513	31.01.01	
GERMAN - RC				86'067	04.07.2001	
ITALIAN - RC				159'491	18.07.2001	GAROE HOSPITAL
NETHERLANDS - RC		115'107	NLG	79'342	11.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE, OBJECTIVE 4
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'886'792	NOK	355'281	04.03.2001	BAIDOA CLINICS
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'100'000	SEK	186'890	31.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH & CARE, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
WORLD BANK		135'879	USD	221'211	13.03.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'450'954	CHF	56.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Great Britain	delegate			59'959		
Finland RC	delegate			35'000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				94'959	CHF	3.7%