

The Year in Disasters 1993

Appeals and needs: a year of Federation operations

The disasters in 1993 combined, as always, both disasters with a natural trigger - starting with an earthquake, flood or drought - and those disasters whose trigger was man-made - in the main, conflict, though with a growing number because of economic crisis. The results in both cases were deaths and injuries, hunger and suffering, and in many situations, large movements of populations.

With its National Delegations, Regional Delegations and National Societies in 161 nations around the world, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issues a stream of relief appeals every year to support the efforts of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to meet the needs of those affected by disaster. This is in addition to its annual Disaster Preparedness and Development Programme to support the growth and capability of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Although the number of relief appeals fell from 54 in 1992 to 31 in 1993, the number of operations moved down from 54 to 45, and the number of people targeted for assistance declined from 19,408,450 to 15,182,400, the total value of aid sought climbed once more, from CHF304 million in 1992 to almost CHF410 million in 1993, reflecting the growing cost, duration, scale, complexity and diversity of disasters worldwide.

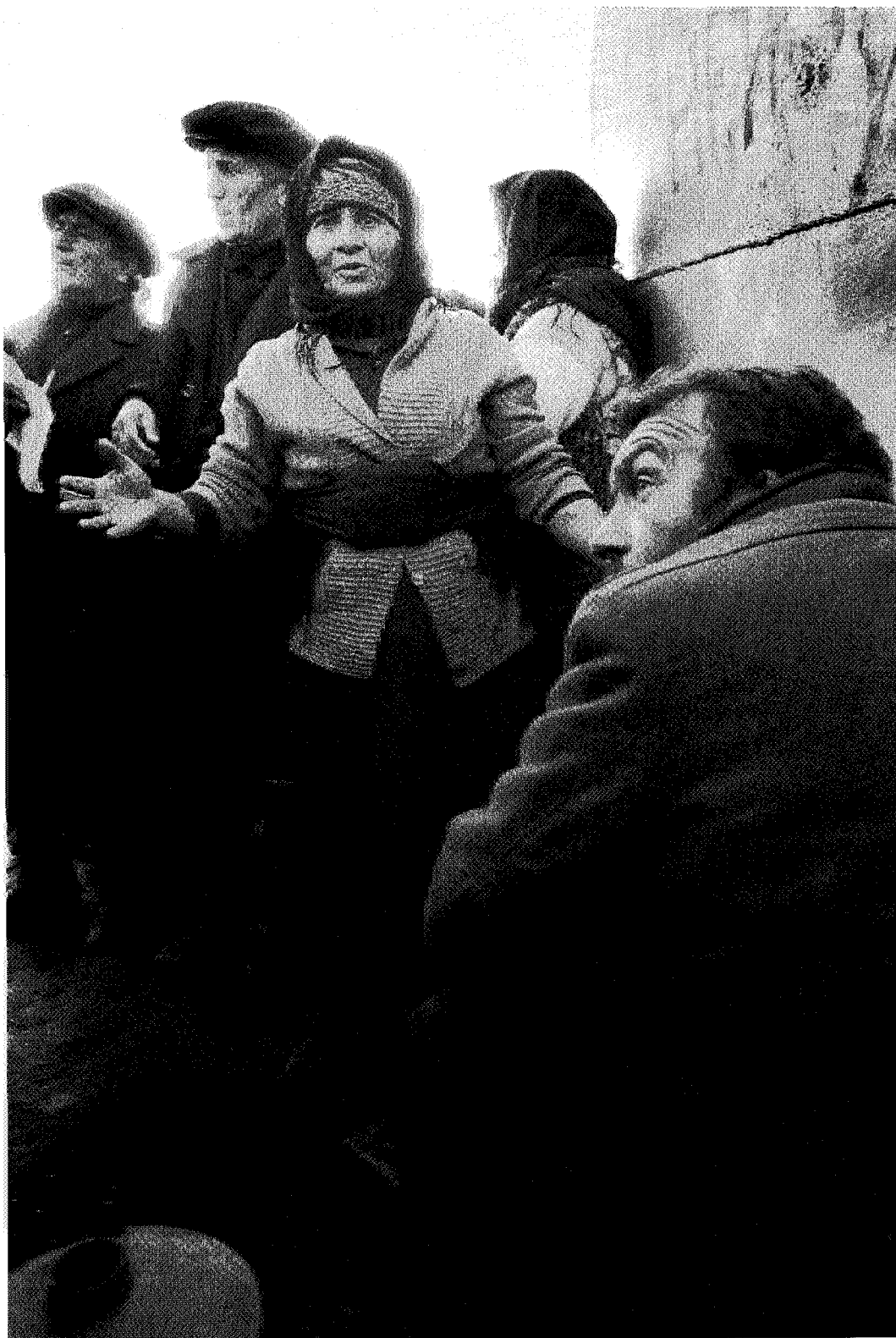
As well as a major shift in the direction of Europe because of the enormous increase in needs in the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia, the appeals and operations also reflect the common themes of today's

disasters: conflict, denial of human rights, increasing vulnerability and the crucial role of timely, high-quality information. Finally, they are a reminder of the disasters affecting millions that pass us by - forgotten or ignored in a world where disasters are increasingly common.

This Section of the *World Disasters Report 1994* first sets the scene on The Year in Disasters 1993 with a summary of Federation appeals and operations, giving a global picture of the diversity of emergencies, the economic cost of response and the types of need, and then reviews in greater depth particular aspects of a series of 1993's major disasters.

These range from the appalling combination of war, refugees and economic collapse of Caucasus and Yugoslavia to the death toll of India's earthquake, and include the success of disaster averted in drought-affected Southern Africa, the risk of impending disaster in drought-prone northeastern Brazil, and even the positive signals that are all too easily missed amid the seemingly intractable conflict and chaos of today's Somalia.

The following extracts from the Federation's regular operations reports identify, in each region, the country affected, the appeal subject, 1993 date of appeal or update, appeal target (in Swiss Francs), the nature of the disaster and the response undertaken. Most of these programmes and appeals continued into 1994.



Kerosene, kilowatts, mazout, transmission lines, piped supplies, tanker routes, the new language of disasters in Europe, where the weather is a major factor in disasters and recovery. Temperatures have an impact on food needs, clothing, shelter, and the economic conditions of disaster-affected countries. Fuel for cooking and heating has become an essential part of refugee-support operations, leading to kerosene queues in camps. Azerbaijan, 1994. Ian Berry/Magnum

AFRICA

Sudan

January 20

CHF96,000

Eritrean refugees

The appeal aimed to improve support for the Sudanese Red Crescent programme at Wad Sheriffe providing medical assistance to 30,000 Eritrean refugees.

Congo

January 20

CHF513,000

Angolan refugees

The Congolese Red Cross Society assists 10,000 Angolan refugees, mainly from the Cabinda enclave, with distributions of sheets, blankets, mats, saucepans, plates, water containers, machetes and soap. The National Society also assists with medical and vaccination teams

Kenya

January 20

CHF4,183,000

Somali refugees

By the end of October 1992, the number of Somali refugees assisted by the Kenya Red Cross-Federation programme stood at 96,000, including 13,036 who received only food assistance.

Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone

January 20

CHF5,949,000

Conflict victims

The Federation supported the National Societies in their efforts to bring food, shelter and other relief to almost

one million beneficiaries. In Sierra Leone, the Federation and the National Society began the first resettlement and rehabilitation programme for displaced people.

Malawi

January 20

CHF4,462,000

Mozambican refugees

Significant reductions were recorded in 1993 in the numbers of Mozambican refugees. 300 full-time and 2,064 part-time Malawi Red Cross relief workers continued to distribute food.

Benin, Togo, Ghana

February 19

CHF3,508,000

Displaced and refugees

In 1993, there was little hopes that the 120,000 Togolese refugees in Ghana and 100,000 in Benin would return soon. The National Societies of Togo, Benin and Ghana continued to provide refugees and displaced persons with food, water, shelter and medical care. 150,000 people were displaced inside Togo; the Federation supported the Togolese Red Cross in ad hoc food distributions to hospitals and the needy in Lomé.

Malawi

March 1

CHF428,000

Cholera/dysentery epidemic

Medicines, hospitals tents and strengthened public information campaign were provided after a total of 62,624 cases and 546 deaths were reported from December 1992 to March 1993.

Since 1988, spending has more than doubled, more than three times as many delegates are employed, and there is more than a five fold increase in target beneficiaries. The work load has gone up, but are the resources to meet that load keeping pace? (Appeal values represent millions of francs)

Source: The Federation, 1993

The growth in Federation humanitarian assistance						
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Relief Appeals (N°)	51	39	44	45	54	31
Relief Appeals (CHF)	193	54.0	121.0	263.0	304.0	410.0
Development Appeals (CHF)	N/A	N/A	32.0	62.0	104.0	72.0
Delegates (N°)	185	245	332	543	523	669
Beneficiaries (millions)	N/A	2.6	5.2	5.7	19.4	15.2

Ethiopia

March 18

CHF20,967,000

Displaced and drought victims

In the Ethiopian Red Cross Society - Federation operational areas of Afar, Arsi, Addis Ababa, Bale, E. Hararghe (Jijiga), Negele, Sidamo and South Shoa, a total of 11,430.5 mts food, 1,118 mts seeds and 53,609 agricultural tools were distributed to 125,165 beneficiaries in the period March to August 1993.

Mozambique

May 27

CHF19,092,000

Post-war rehabilitation and resettlement

By the end of September 1992, Mozambique Red Cross Society - Federation food distributions had reached over 75,000 beneficiaries and the operation continued towards its target of 212,500 beneficiaries. Many areas previously closed by RENAMO were gradually opened up despite delays in implementing the full peace accord. Other activities underway included recruitment of programme staff, vaccination, building health posts, latrine construction, securing warehousing and selecting distribution points.

Southern Africa

July 21

CHF4,995,000

Regional post-drought rehabilitation and recovery

During 1992, the Southern African region experienced unprecedented drought. Across eight of the most severely-affected countries a total of over 18 million people were in need of emergency assistance. Through a series of appeals for Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Federation together with National Societies reached over 1.4 million beneficiaries with food and other assistance. National Societies began implementing rehabilitation programmes.

Namibia: Work in the area of water rehabilitation

South Africa: Targeted food assistance continued to 65,500 beneficiaries.

Malawi: Training trainers and 1,500 community village workers in sanitation and water hygiene to provide safe water supplies for 80,000 people.

Lesotho: Purchase of 60 mts bean seeds and 410 mts wheat seeds for 10,000 to 15,000 drought-affected families.

Swaziland: Seeds provided to 500 households.

Zambia: Food security programme with funding for seeds and the establishment of granaries.

Zimbabwe: Seed and agricultural tools were distributed before the rainy season. Health education focused on diarrhoeal diseases.

Somalia

August 3

CHF34,144,000

Health, relief and rehabilitation

A health programme was being implemented through a network of 19 clinics serving 190,000 people. The Federation, with the support of the Italian Red Cross and the Italian government, began assisting a 100-bed hospital in Garoe which serves as a referral hospital for the region.

Uganda

September 21

CHF1,072,000

Sudanese refugees

The influx of refugees seeking assistance and protection in the Koboko area of northern Uganda continued. A programme was initiated to meet the needs of 80,000 beneficiaries. The Federation took on responsibility for camps management, including construction, distributions of both food and non-food items, and social services. By the year's end, 60,000 refugees were accommodated in the five camps, and their numbers were increasing.

Rwanda, Tanzania

October 29

CHF4,477,000

Burundi refugees

The inter-tribal bloodshed and anarchy which followed the inconclusive military coup in Burundi on October 21 drove thousands of people to seek refuge in neighbouring Rwanda, Tan-

zania and Zaire. The Federation released CHF 100,000 to assist the National Societies in Rwanda and Tanzania care for 300,000 refugees. Training assistance was given to National Society staff. This is particularly important in Rwanda where most skilled National Society personnel are already deployed in the north of the country, where there are some 900,000 displaced.

AMERICAS

Cuba

March 23

CHF275,000

Tropical storm

The tropical storm of March 13-14 killed five people and directly affected 150,000, who needed supplies of food, hygiene articles, household items, plastic sheeting, clothing, bedding and blankets.

Ecuador

April 9

CHF280,000

Landslide and flooding

Up to 20,000 people were affected by a landslide and subsequent flooding, and needed assistance with relief items.

Cuba

June 7

CHF2,196,000

Neuromyelopathy epidemic

An epidemic disease affecting the nervous system struck 50,000 people mostly aged 25-64. The National Society appealed to the Federation to provide patient support in the form of food, linen, toilet and cleaning articles for six months for 3,000 beds.

Nicaragua, Honduras

September 28

CHF3,286,000

Floods

Two tropical storms in August and September brought torrential rains and floods and left more than 100,000 people displaced or destitute

Nicaragua: Food baskets were delivered to 2,899 families, and kitchen utensils, small hand grinders, table

ware and cooking pots were distributed to 1,200 families

Honduras: food was distributed to 1,304 families.

ASIA, PACIFIC

Pakistan

January 7

CHF1,464,000

Afghan refugees

Insecurity in Afghanistan discouraged refugees from returning. The population of Kot Chandna camp, the largest camp in Pakistan, remained at 150,000, many of whom were children, women, the sick and the elderly. Together with a local population of 40,000, they are dependent for medical care on the Federation-supported Kalabagh Referral Hospital, which is run by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

Afghanistan

January 20

CHF2,040,000

Displaced and returnees

The Afghanistan Red Crescent continued to function in Kabul, where seven of its 10 medical dispensaries were operational. The National Society delivered food to 1,907 families housed in public buildings in Kabul

Bangladesh

January 20

CHF900,000

Myanmar refugees

In a continuing operation from 1992, which thus had no appeal target, 400 National Society staff and volunteers carried out weekly distributions of basic relief supplies to approximately 230,000 refugees living in 20 camps. The total amount distributed reached 55,000 mts.

Cambodia

January 20

CHF 5,711,000

Returnees and displaced

The termination of the repatriation programme and poor security conditions brought about a geographical concentration of the overall programme but, within these limits, the

Federation continued to pursue its programmes of assistance. Returnees received food supply for a maximum of four hundred days after their arrival in Cambodia. Over 500,000 people were assisted.

Nepal

January 20
CHF1,587,000

Bhutanese refugees

By the end of 1993 the refugee population stabilised at about 90-92,000 with neither major influx nor considerable repatriation envisaged in 1994. With the completion of infrastructure development in the camps by December 1993, the operation entered a phase of maintenance of existing services, with a gradual transfer of responsibilities to local NGOs, especially the Nepal Red Cross, and government departments. Additional social services will be offered to local communities in refugee-impacted areas.

Sri Lanka

January 20
CHF1,709,000

Displaced people

The Federation continued to support Sri Lanka Red Cross Society programmes in health, welfare, shelter and sanitation for 50,000 people who fled conflict areas in the north and east of Sri Lanka and live in camps.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines

January 20
CHF274,000

Vietnamese boat people

The Federation supported National Societies in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in health, social welfare and education programmes for 32,000 Vietnamese boat people in camps of first asylum or in refugee processing centres.

The distribution of Federation assistance (CHF millions)

	1991	1992	1993
Americas	4	6	6.0
Africa	115	132	103.9
Europe	28	130	239.5
M. East, N. Africa	74	19	22.7
Asia, Pacific	42	18	33.6

Americas
 Africa
 Europe
 M.E.; N.A.
 Asia & Pacific



Since 1991, most of the growth in Federation spending has taken place in Europe, bringing with it new challenges of working in urbanised societies and harsh winter climates (Figures represent millions of Swiss francs.)

Source: Appeals and reports unit. The Federation. 1993

Fiji

February 12

CHF400,000

Tropical cyclone

The National Society assisted 57,000 people with emergency relief, including clothing and household articles

Nepal

July 29

CHF2,380,000

Floods

Unusually heavy monsoon rains in July 1993 brought floods and landslides. By November, more than 29,000 families had received relief supplies from the Nepalese Red Cross Society.

India

August 17

CHF3,109,000

Floods

The Indian Red Cross Society helped the federal government and local authorities to mitigate the effects of the country's heaviest monsoon for half a century. More than 19 million people were affected, at least 1,100 people died; more than 48,000 animals were lost, crops valued at CHF200 million were destroyed and 750,000 houses in 30,000 villages were damaged. The IRCS concentrated its efforts on emergency assistance to vulnerable groups, including the destitute, landless labourers unable to work, the sick, the elderly and poor families with young children.

China

August 20

CHF6,962,000

Floods

The Red Cross distributed disinfectants and chemicals to 210,000 people, drugs for 400,000 people, rice for 433,000 people, clothes for 90,000 people, and bedding for 80,000 people.

Papua New Guinea

August 26

CHF649,000

Bougainville relief

After five years of conflict in

Bougainville, the main island of Papua New Guinea's North Solomons Province, the Federation assisted the National Society in providing basic relief and medical supplies and setting up an immunisation programme for 32,600 children.

India

October 15

CHF6,199,000

Earthquake

The Indian Red Cross Society immediately responded to the earthquake which killed some 10,000 people on September 30, and augmented government relief assistance, including food, water, shelter and medical relief. The National Society also began offering psychological support for survivors, as well as disaster preparedness training.

Philippines

December 13

CHF3,162,000

Typhoons

The Philippines National Red Cross provided assistance to one million people and supported more than 200 centres across the country in which 10,000 homeless people are sheltering.

EUROPE

Belarus, Ukraine,

Russian Federation

January 20

CHF880,000

Chernobyl humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation programme
Having provided early diagnostics on the health status of almost 150,000 people living in the severely contaminated areas, the National Societies, supported by the Federation, planned to improve collection and processing of information on people's health status; to equip mobile laboratories with ultra-sound scanners to increase the efficiency of diagnosing thyroid gland disorders, specifically among children; and to more closely integrate the Red Cross programme into the epidemiological surveillance of health authorities.

Former Yugoslavia

January 20

CHF136,024,300

Refugees, displaced and vulnerable groups

Continued fighting and the arrival of winter prompted a further appeal to meet winter needs. The Federation was working with National Societies to assist 523,000 refugees and displaced in Croatia; 35,000 in Slovenia; 10,000 in the (FYR) Macedonia; and 510,000 in Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro). Winter needs were most acute in areas where large numbers of refugees and displaced were living in collective accommodation, such as in Croatia, where 125,000 were living in such accommodation, including 3,000 in tents.

Bulgaria

February 18

CHF2,409,500

Assistance programme

The appeal covered another harsh winter for vulnerable groups in Bulgaria, particularly disadvantaged people living below the poverty line and dependent on Red Cross assistance to survive. The Bulgarian Red Cross has been running soup kitchens and distributing food, clothes and other items for 47,000 people.

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

March 8

CHF28,420,000

Emergency assistance

During October 1993 the general political and economic situation in the Caucasus region continued to rapidly deteriorate. Distribution of family food parcels and baby food to approximately 350,000 beneficiaries continued, despite tremendous logistical difficulties, lack of fuel and very limited access to the region.

Tajikistan

March 19

CHF1,235,000

Emergency assistance

The Federation and National Society distributed fuel, clothing and food to 50,000 internally-displaced people.

Newly Independent States

April 20

CHF69,505,000

Assistance programme

Assistance was provided to approximately six million children and adults in the Russian Far East, Siberia and Central Asia. Increasing emphasis was placed on development of National Societies with support from the seven Federation Delegations in Moscow (Regional - Russian Federation), Almaty (Kazakhstan, covering Kirgistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan), Kiev (Ukraine), Khabarovsk (Russian Federation), Tbilisi (Georgia), Yerevan (Armenia) and Baku (Azerbaijan). Support was also provided to an important network of 10,000 Red Cross and Red Crescent visiting nurses throughout the former Soviet Union.

Georgia

October 4

CHF1,945,500

Newly displaced from Abkhazia

Thousands fled towns and villages in western Georgia as fighting worsened between Georgian and Abkhazian forces. The Federation provided emergency assistance to 30,000 newly displaced with food, hygiene articles and clothing.

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA

Iran

January 20

CHF1,392,000

Afghan refugees

The repatriation of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan continued, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society proposed an expansion of orthopaedic and physiotherapy services to help 100,000 Afghan refugees.

Yemen

January 20

CHF2,873,000

Returnees and refugees

During the Gulf crisis, over 1.2 million Yemenis returned to the country from Saudi Arabia, and there were influxes of Somali and Ethiopian refugees. The Yemenite Red Crescent So-

ciety focused its assistance on the health sector, providing the only service to many returnees, refugees and the settled population, and expanded its food distribution to 10,000 families.

Iran

February 12

CHF3,470,000

Flood victims

The Iranian Red Crescent Society provided immediate relief following major floods, including tents, blankets, stoves and food for more than 100,000 families.

Yemen

February 18

CHF1,374,000

Flood victims

The Yemenite Red Crescent Society provided shelter, food and cooking utensils for 16,000 flood victims, and longer-term assistance with medical supplies and provision of clean water for 50,000 people.

Iraq

March 5

CHF12,037,000

Medico-nutritional needs of the vulnerable

A three-month assistance operation in northern Iraq provided food and shelter for up to 3,600 families, as well as tents, blankets, stoves, lamps and kitchen sets. The Federation provided medical assistance for many vulnerable groups through its office in Amman, Jordan, for onward distribution through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Ministry of Health.

Lebanon

September 1

CHF1,569,000

Post-conflict rehabilitation

Rehabilitation assistance was given after hostilities in South Lebanon in July killed 132 people, injured 500 and displaced 350,000, of which 85% later returned home. The Lebanese Red Cross Society continued to provide medical services through 48 dispensaries and health centres.