

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

ASSISTANCE FOR SAHRAOUI VICTIMS

The following joint press release was published on 7 January 1976 by the League and the ICRC:

Recent events in Western Sahara have created a serious humanitarian problem.

Some 40,000 Sahraouis have fled their homes. At present 20,000 are living near the border with Algeria, and another 20,000 have sought refuge in Algeria near Tindouf.

Living conditions of the refugees in Algeria are bad, those of the displaced Sahraouis in Western Sahara tragic. Sixty per cent of the 40,000 are children.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have launched two separate relief operations, the ICRC assisting the displaced Sahraouis in Western Sahara, the League, the refugees in Algeria (in close cooperation with the Algerian Red Crescent).

The most urgently needed relief goods are: 3,000 tons of food, including baby food, 1,500 tents, 60,000 blankets, clothing (temperatures at night are often below zero), medicaments, including anti-tuberculosis products and disinfectants.

The ICRC and the League launched a joint appeal to a number of National Societies and governments for financial and material support for the two relief operations.

The League received an appeal from the Moroccan Red Crescent for help for some 30,000 Moroccans who have had to leave Algeria.