

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## JOINT ICRC AND LEAGUE APPEAL

### **In favour of Near East Refugees**

Among the victims of the recent Near East conflict, the civilian population which fled from the territories occupied by the Israeli forces—the West bank of the Jordan and South Syria—still need considerable help.<sup>1</sup>

Since the beginning of the conflict the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have, as is known, carried out relief operations on behalf of these refugees working closely with the Jordan and Syrian Red Crescent Societies. Appeals on behalf of these refugees were sent to National Societies by the ICRC on 14th June and the League on 6th July.

Once again, on the eve of winter, new steps must be taken to support the efforts of the Governments and the Red Crescent Societies and, in Jordan, those of UNRWA.

On October 17, therefore, a joint appeal on behalf of refugees in Syria and Jordan and for the needy populations in Israeli-occupied territories was made to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and

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<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, July, August, September, October 1967.

## NEAR EAST REFUGEES



**Syria.**— Waiting for the daily milk distribution by the Red Cross.

Photo R. Koella, Berne

NEAR EAST REFUGEES



Zizia camp in Jordan.— Food queues.

Red Lion and Sun Societies by the International Committee and the League.

The appeal asks for basic necessities to help feed, clothe and shelter more than 300,000 persons for the winter. It covers only the most urgently needed supplies to complement those already available through governments and other agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the World Food Programme.

In Syria <sup>1</sup>, Red Cross relief work for some 100,000 refugees is being carried on under the supervision of the ICRC in close co-operation with the Government and the Syrian Red Crescent Society.

The refugees in Syria are located in and around Damascus and at Deraa. At Damascus, most had been temporarily housed in schools, but now that the school year has begun, other shelter has had to be found. For the time being they are in tent camps, but the Syrian Government is making plans to build prefabricated barracks to provide a more permanent type of housing. At Deraa, the refugees are also living in tents.

The appeal lists mattresses, blankets, oil lamps, primus stoves, kitchen utensils and mats for tent floor covering as the most urgent needs to enable these refugees to pass a severe winter in relative comfort.

In Jordan <sup>2</sup>, the League is helping the Red Crescent Society to operate a relief programme for 51,000 refugees distributed in seven camps, of which all but one have now been moved from the high plateaux around Amman to the milder climate of the Jordan Valley.

Their numbers are expected to increase during the winter. The Jordanian authorities estimate that some 200,000 have fled to Jordan since the June hostilities.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* — Syria. Refugees waiting for daily milk distribution by the Red Cross.

<sup>2</sup> *Plate.* — Zizia Camp in Jordan. Refugees: Food queues.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

This means that the camp populations are on the increase, and it has become urgent to replace many of the light camping tents originally contributed from diverse sources, and which have rapidly deteriorated from the effects of the desert climate.

Under the overall control of an interministerial committee of the Jordanian Government, administration and supplies for camps are being handled by UNRWA, but there are many additional needs which are to be covered by the Jordanian Red Crescent, with the assistance of a delegate from the League. These, in particular, include tents, blankets, mats, soap, and supplementary foodstuffs. The League-Red Crescent programme also includes operation of milk stations in the camps.

In the Israeli-occupied territories on the West Bank of the Jordan the ICRC delegation in Jerusalem is assisting in relief work for certain sectors of the population who have suffered indirectly from the recent conflict and the economic and social consequences of the occupation.

The appeal asks for powdered milk, blankets, tarpaulins for repairing roofs and walls, primus stoves, clothing and layettes as well as funds for the local purchase of certain medicines.