

DISASTER  
RELIEF

CASE REPORT  
Cyprus-Civil Strike  
July-August 1974

*Error in addition  
corrected figure for  
Worldwide asst 26 957 139*

Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523



*Displaced Greek Cypriots with their personal belongings found temporary shelter under the trees in Xylophagou.*

**Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.**

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# CYPRUS

## CIVIL STRIFE—July/August 1974

The military hostilities in Cyprus effectively partitioned the island and generated massive numbers of refugees and displaced persons on both sides, representing almost 45 percent of the country's population. The needs for shelter, food, medicines and other necessities of life were critical. External assistance was provided by the following:

U.S. Government .....	\$25,000,000
U.S. Voluntary Agencies .....	49,310
International Community .....	<u>26,957,129 139</u>
	\$52,006,439 449

The July 1974 coup d'etat in Cyprus and the subsequent Turkish military intervention dealt a heavy blow to the Cyprus economy, effectively partitioned the island with a Turkish occupied area in the north, uprooted much of the population, and saddled the country with a large number of needy and displaced persons. Physical damage due to hostilities was minimal. The humanitarian consequences of the hostilities were substantial. Early estimates put the number of refugees, prisoners of war, and detainees on both sides at 282,000. This represented about 45 percent of a total population of 630,000. Subsequently, approximately 41,300 Greek Cypriots displaced to the South became self-supporting. Estimates revised in May 1975 indicated the following:

Greek Cypriots displaced to the South—needy and requiring assistance .....	140,200
Greek Cypriots not displaced but needy and receiving assistance ...	21,500
Turkish Cypriots remaining in the South—requiring assistance .....	7,097
Greek Cypriots remaining in the North—all receiving Government assistance .....	11,500
Total .....	<u>180,297</u>
Greek Cypriots displaced to the South but self-supporting .....	41,300
Total Displaced .....	<u>221,597</u>

The critical problems of the refugees were classic—the need for shelter, food, medicine, and other necessities of life.

With a significant part of the Cyprus population in need of some form of relief assistance, it soon became evident that local efforts would not suffice, and that international relief assistance on a major scale would be necessary to provide adequate care, feeding, and protection for the civilian population. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was the first international relief organization to appear on the scene and began operating in Cyprus in early August 1974, performing both relief and Geneva Conventions functions. Their Geneva Conventions functions included such activities as treatment of POWs and detainees, protection of civilians, and tracing of missing persons. Relief activities included the provision of food, shelter, and medical assistance to displaced persons and returnees. The relief activities of the ICRC were to meet the most pressing needs until the responsibility could be assumed by other bodies, in particular the United Nations.

By the end of November 1974, the ICRC had distributed 19.1 tons of medicines, 48.8 tons of powdered milk, 22 tons of baby food, 160 tons of protein-enriched food, 25.6 tons of clothing, 132,000 blankets, 9,671 tents, 13,200 camp beds, more than 2,000 jerry cans, and more than 800 bedding items.

After designation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to coordinate UN relief activities for Cyprus, the ICRC continued some relief assistance

in the form of food and medicine distribution to supplement the UN system relief programs. ICRC activities in Cyprus received generous support from a large number of governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and other donors. U.S. Government support to the ICRC for Cyprus relief activities totaled \$4,218,600. This consisted of \$2,493,600 aid-in-kind consigned to the ICRC, and \$1,725,000 in cash contributions.

On August 20 the United Nations Secretary General (UNSYG) requested the UNHCR to assume responsibility for coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance in Cyprus. The Commissioner immediately proceeded to Cyprus on August 22 for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and needs. On September 6, 1974, the UNSYG appealed to the international community to extend to the UNHCR the necessary resources and financial means to meet relief needs estimated at \$22 million for the balance of 1974.

The main elements of the \$22 million in relief requirements were:

	<i>In Millions</i>
Emergency accommodation (tents, beds, and blankets) . . . . .	\$ 8.9
Food (cereals, edible oil, condensed milk, sugar, canned meat, fish, and pulses) . . . . .	8.1
Transportation (air and sea freight and inland transportation) . . . . .	2.5
Domestic and community equipment (stoves, domestic utensils, mobile kitchens, etc.) . . . . .	0.9
Program support and contingency reserve . . . . .	1.6
Total . . . . .	<u>\$22.0</u>

More than forty governments, other elements of the UN system, and innumerable private and non-government organizations responded to the UNSYG's appeal. Contributions pledged in cash and in kind totaled \$24.5 million. The portion donated by the U.S. Government was \$7.8 million, or ap-

proximately one-third. The UNHCR proceeded to set up an office in Cyprus, established coordinating mechanisms in Geneva and Nicosia, and based a representative in the Turkish occupied zone.

In January 1975, the UNHCR made a second appeal to the international community for \$9.3 million to cover the costs of food (\$8.3 million), medical supplies (\$666,000), and other relief items (\$400,000) to be provided under programs in both north and south for the four month period January through April 1975. Then current estimates indicated a total of 168,000 persons required continuing help in the South, and 34,500 in the North. Contributions attributed to the second UNHCR appeal totaled \$9,228,440. The U.S. Government contributed \$3.1 million of this, or approximately one-third of the total.

On April 11, the UNHCR mandate was extended beyond the previously established termination date of April 30, 1975. Emphasis during this continuing period was placed on immediate relief needs, and on the UNHCR support to handicrafts, cottage industry, old age homes, clothing, and general self-sufficiency schemes having strong emphasis on employment of refugees. On June 4, 1975, the U.S. Government further committed \$9,872,105 for continuing relief and refugee employment activities.

Both the ICRC and the UNHCR relief efforts in Cyprus received logistics support from the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). UNFICYP delivered food and relief commodities to the Turkish Cypriot communities in the South, and to the Greek communities in the North, assisted the ICRC and the UNHCR in the evacuation of the sick, pregnant, aged, and stranded civilians in both sectors, and provided medical evacuation services. The July/August 1974 crisis resulted in a doubling of the UNFICYP personnel from 2,400 to 4,400.

While external assistance was vital to the relief effort after the conflict, the Government of Cyprus (GOC) made tremendous efforts on its own with speed and efficiency.



*A.I.D. tents being prepared for transport to Cyprus from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The tents were consigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross.*

The Government responded to the crisis in August 1974 by placing responsibility for relief matters with a specially designated Director of Special Services for Care and Rehabilitation of Refugees (SSCRR). Expenditures by the Cyprus Government from its own resources on refugee relief averaged £2,000,000 per month (equivalent to U.S. \$5.6 million).

In the early months of 1975, the GOC began a reassessment of its refugee problem beyond the classic relief activities that had been carried out to then. The GOC's new view stressed immediate employment of refugees in handicraft and cottage industries as well as support projects aimed at ameliorating the hardships of camp life. One aspect of the new thrust was the planned establishment, in camps and refugee centers, of handicraft and cottage industries including embroidery, weaving, wood carving, leather, pottery, sewing, and knitting. Another aspect was the establishment of

small workshops where refugees could construct such items as beds, foot lockers, dressers, chairs, etc., to replace furniture abandoned in the North.

#### **ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT**

On July 28, 1974, the U.S. Ambassador determined the situation to be a major disaster for purposes of providing U.S. emergency relief assistance.

In September 1974, A.I.D.'s Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator travelled to Cyprus for an on-the-spot appraisal of refugee problems, and subsequently consulted with ICRC and UNHCR officials at their Geneva headquarters regarding needs and U.S. assistance to be provided. A disaster relief expert from the Coordinator's office was sent to Cyprus several weeks earlier and remained there for a period of six weeks assisting the U.S. Embassy/Nicosia and GOC officials with relief matters.

The dimensions of the relief needs were so extensive that the "Foreign Assistance Act of 1974" provided that not less than \$25 million of the funds appropriated for foreign famine and disaster relief for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, would be made available for Cyprus.

By the end of the fiscal year, the U.S. Government had committed the entire \$25 million, as follows:

*Through ICRC*

Cash grants to ICRC .....	\$ 1,725,000
Aid-in-kind consigned to ICRC .....	2,493,600
Total through ICRC .....	<u>\$ 4,218,600</u>

*Through UNHCR*

In support of the UNSYG's appeal for 1974 needs:

Cash grants .....	\$ 7,400,000
Aid-in-kind—5,600 tent flies (including air transport) .....	400,000

In support of appeal for first four months of 1975. One-third of total \$9.3 million appeal ...

3,100,000

In support of continuing 1975 relief needs .....

9,872,105

Other various support costs ..

9,295

Total through UNHCR ... \$20,781,400

Total U.S. Government

Assistance ..... \$25,000,000

The U.S. Government in-kind assistance noted above, totaling \$2,493,600, which was consigned to the ICRC, included:

- 5,700 tents ✓
- 10,000 cots ✓
- 10,000 blankets ✓
- 54,515 wool blankets ✓
- 10,000 water cans ✓
- 4 water trailers (400 gallons each) ✓
- 79 Red Cross markers ✓
- 200 body bags ✓
- 3 tent repair kits ✓

Costs of related airlift—both military and commercial.

These supplies were provided expeditiously in the early days of the emergency. A portion of the blankets, six-man tents, and cots were available in A.I.D.'s regional disaster

relief stockpile at Camp Darby, near Leghorn, Italy. At the request of A.I.D.'s Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Department of Defense on August 1 provided emergency airlifts of the supplies from Camp Darby as well as of additional cots borrowed from U.S. military forces in Europe. The balance of the U.S. relief items consigned to the ICRC was airlifted from the United States, including large general-purpose tents, plastic water containers, and body bags.

The program for the use of the \$9,872,105 committed by the U.S. Government for continuing needs during 1975 provided tentatively for:

Food .....	\$1,840,000
Temporary shelter .....	1,600,000
Cottage industry .....	435,000
Medical clinic for aged refugees .....	135,000
Old age homes for refugees ...	650,000
Blankets and sheets .....	3,502,105
Other projects .....	1,710,000
Total .....	<u>\$9,872,105</u>

The blankets and sheets are being procured by the U.S. Government and furnished in-kind. The balance of the pledge has been made available as a cash grant.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES**

*Catholic Relief Services (CRS)*

Catholic Relief Services donated 7,020 wool blankets, for a total value of approximately \$37,110, which were airlifted along with USG donated supplies.

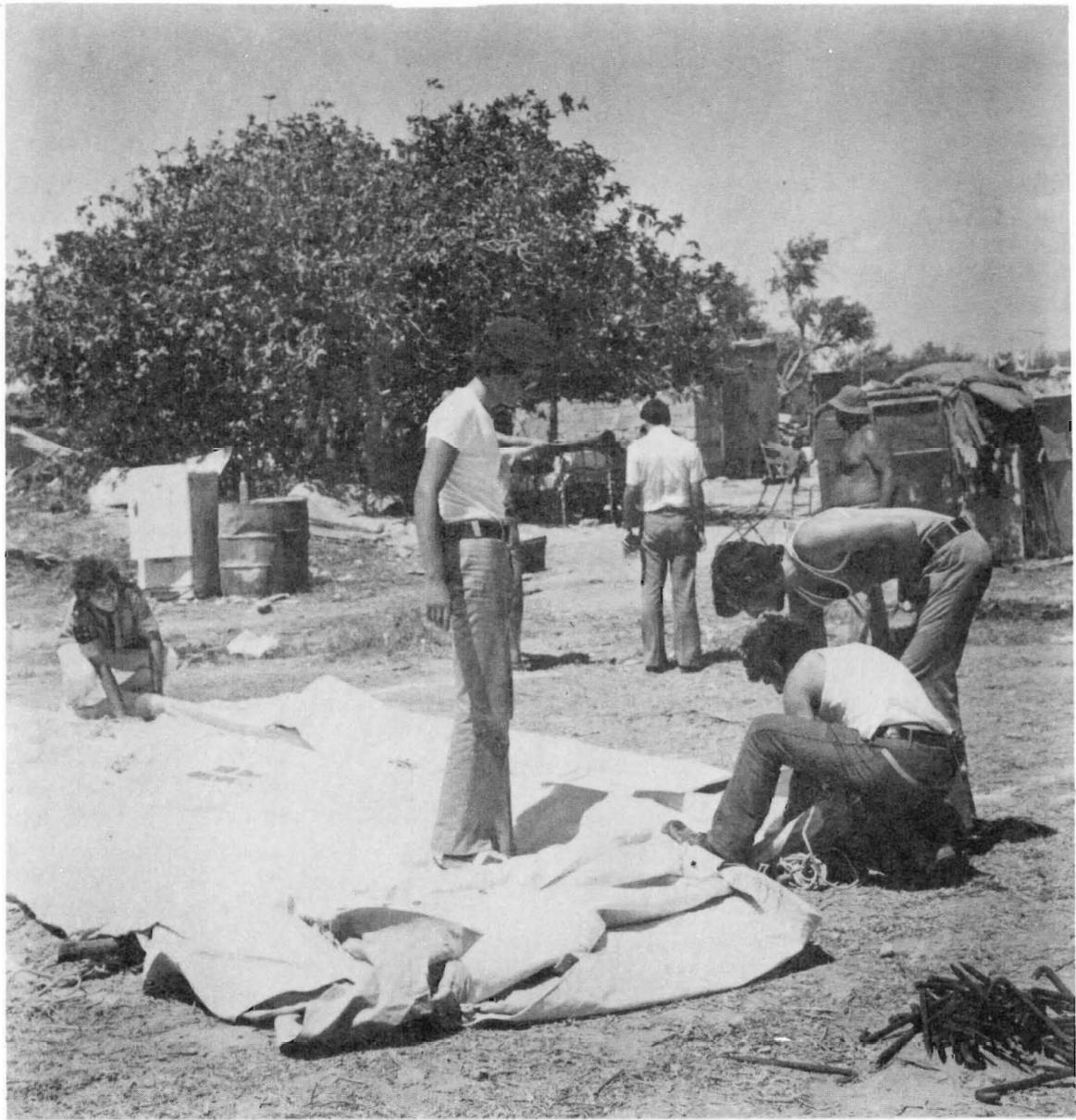
*Church World Service (CWS)*

Church World Service provided 2,000 wool blankets with an approximate value of \$10,200.

*Direct Relief Foundation (DRF)*

Direct Relief Foundation donated pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, valued at approximately \$2,000.

*American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA)*



*Tents donated by the Government of Greece are being erected at a refugee camp near Larnaca, Cyprus.*

Provided approximately 200 tons of food, clothing, and medicines during the period September 1974 - February 1975. Value not determinable.

External donors generally channeled their relief assistance to Cyprus through the two major international organizations, the ICRC and the UNHCR. This was accomplished through a variety of ways—cash transfers,

aid-in-kind consigned to the international organizations, and in some cases assistance provided directly was related to needs covered by appeals issued from the international organizations.

The following table provides a breakdown of worldwide assistance, other than from the United States, based upon data currently available.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Country	Government and Inter-Governmental Organizations	Non-Government Organizations	Total
✓ Australia	\$ 221,282 ✓	\$ 6,962 ✓	\$ 228,244 ✓
✓ Austria	57,647	94,970	152,617 ✓
✓ Barbados	495		495 ✓
✓ Belgium	386,080	14,720	400,800 ✓
-800 ✓ Brazil	10,000		<u>10,800</u> ADDING ERROR ✓
✓ Bulgaria	100,997	10,000	110,997 ✓
✓ Canada	270,664	32,192	302,856 ✓
✓ China (People's Republic)		153,061	153,061 ✓
✓ Cuba	99,266		99,266 ✓
33758 ✓ Czechoslovakia <i>change</i>	C 34,800	28,600	63,400 ✓
✓ Denmark	308,978	65,574	374,552 ✓
✓ Egypt	6,389		6,389 ✓
✓ Finland	158,114		158,114 ✓
+20 ✓ France <i>448,133</i>	443,453	4,680	<u>448,133</u> ADDING ERROR ✓
✓ Germany (Democratic Republic)	22,500	14,256	36,756 ✓
✓ Germany (Federal Republic)	2,153,876	227,200	2,381,076 ✓
✓ Ghana	1,750		1,750 ✓
✓ Greece	6,322,165	3,167,547	9,489,712 ✓
✓ Haiti	1,000		1,000 ✓
✓ Hungary		11,200	11,200 ✓
✓ Iceland	34,980	680	35,660 ✓
✓ India		30,400	30,400 ✓
✓ Indonesia	3,000		3,000 ✓
✓ Iran	170,000		170,000 ✓
✓ Iraq	16,949		16,949 ✓
✓ Israel	17,850	17,857	35,707 ✓
✓ Italy	148,678		148,678 ✓
✓ Japan		36,669	36,669 ✓
✓ Kenya	13,165		13,165 ✓
✓ Korea (Republic)	5,000		5,000 ✓
✓ Kuwait	25,680		25,680 ✓
✓ Lebanon	310,592	13,848	324,440 ✓
✓ Libya	185,811		185,811 ✓
✓ Liechtenstein	5,422	400	5,822 ✓
✓ Luxembourg	423,148	3,200	426,348 ✓
✓ Mauritania	2,000	1,036	3,036 ✓
✓ Mauritius	17,544		17,544 ✓
✓ Monaco	1,042	1,240	2,282 ✓
✓ Netherlands	509,706	65,858	575,564 ✓
✓ New Zealand	23,300	11,864	35,164 ✓
✓ Norway	286,658	48,520	335,178 ✓
✓ Pakistan	10,101		10,101 ✓
✓ Philippines	2,500		2,500 ✓
✓ Poland		1,064	1,064 ✓

Country	Governmental and Inter- Government Organizations	Non- Government Organizations	Total
✓ Romania .....		10,168	10,168 ✓
✓ Spain .....	49,547	11,284	60,831 ✓
✓ Sweden .....	122,300	25,650	147,950 ✓
✓ Switzerland .....	546,764	270,947	817,711 ✓
✓ Syria .....	5,068		5,068 ✓
✓ Saudi Arabia .....		11,848	11,848 ✓
✓ South Africa .....		864	864 ✓
✓ Turkey .....	16,689	808,825	825,514 ✓
✓ U.S.S.R. ....	1,114,790	21,000	1,135,790 ✓
✓ United Kingdom .....	2,873,495	414,380	3,287,875 ✓
✓ Yugoslavia .....	30,488	8,400	38,888 ✓
✓ Sovereign Order of Malta .....	1,000		1,000 ✓
<i>Organizations</i>			
✓ UNICEF .....	176,784		176,784 ✓
✓ WHO .....	70,000		70,000 ✓
✓ UNHCR .....	212,484		212,484 ✓
✓ UNRWA .....	270		270 ✓
✓ FEC .....	2,510,080		2,510,080 ✓
✓ Council of Europe .....	300,372		300,372 ✓
World Council of Churches .....		253,967	253,967 ✓
Other non-government organizations— private donors, etc. ....		213,495	213,495 ✓
Totals .....	\$20,842,703	\$6,114,426	<del>\$26,957,129</del>

26,957,129

