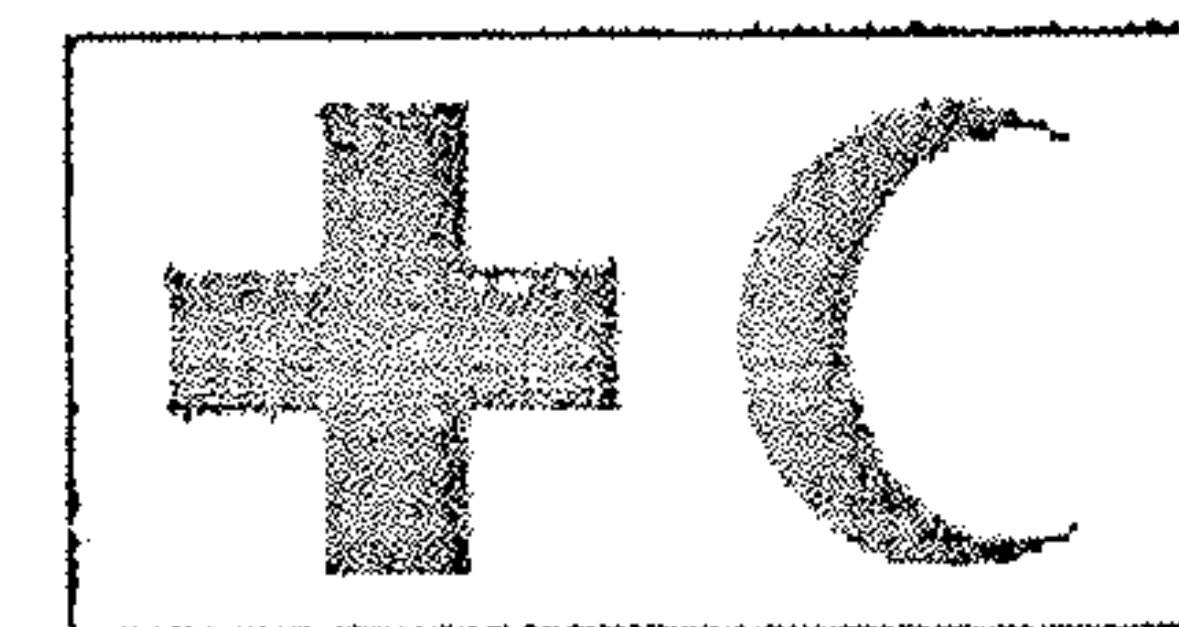




International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Cambodia Delegation, Phnom Penh

Cambodian Red Cross Society



PRESS RELEASE ON 5 FEBRUARY 2001 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 million units of deworming medication - mebendazole - will be donated by the International Federation and the Cambodian Red Cross to the Ministry of Health, National Malaria Centre on 6th February 2000 for national deworming program.

The Cambodian Delegation of the International Federation and the Cambodian Red Cross will make a contribution in 2001 to the treatment of parasites in children, through the Ministry of Health, National Malaria Centre, deworming program by providing 1 million units of mebendazole 500mg tablets. The value of this donation is US \$ 30,000, and a small hand-over ceremony will be held at the **Cambodian Red Cross OBK warehouse at 2.30 pm on 6th February.**

Today's donation is part of the Federation/CRC flood emergency operation launched on 13th September for US\$ 3.5 million. The Federation donor for this contribution is the **Swiss Government through its development department.**

This initiative has been the result of close cooperation with key health agencies including WHO, UNICEF and colleagues at the National Malaria Centre. The deworming medicine will supplement the national schools deworming program underway in the provinces of Takeo, Kampot, Kg.Spcu, Svay Rieng, Kg.Cham, Kratie and Stung Treng. It aims to reduce the parasite infestation in school-age children and improve their health status.

In addition to this donation, the International Federation has assisted the Cambodian Red Cross during the floods emergency to implement an extensive relief operation, and has provided further assistance to the National Malaria Centre for its malaria program. It is anticipated that a further 750,000 tablets of Artesunate for malaria treatment will be donated by the Red Cross to the Ministry of Health next month. Federation/Cambodian Red Cross possible contribution to the expected dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) epidemic in 2001 is also being negotiated with the Ministry of Health, National Malaria Centre and World Health Organisation (WHO).

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