

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ALGERIA: EARTHQUAKE

6 November 2005

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### In Brief

**Appeal No. 14/03; Operations Update no. 6; Period covered: September 2004 to July 2005.**

#### Appeal History:

- Appeal launched on 22 May 2003 for CHF 1,958,000 (USD 1,512,000 or EUR 1,293,000) to assist 10,000-20,000 beneficiaries for 3 months.
- Appeal revised on 27 June 2003 for CHF 4,798,000 to assist 40,000 beneficiaries, including an extension of the operation until May 2005. A second extension on the emergency appeal was granted until December 2005.

**Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000 (has been reimbursed to the DREF)**

#### Operational Summary:

On 21 May 2003, the most powerful earthquake that has affected North Africa since 1980 struck northern Algeria. This tragic disaster led to the death of more than 2,200 people, injured more than 10,000 and made at least 180,000 homeless. Within a few hours of the earthquake, the Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was in action and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) disaster management systems were activated hand in hand with ARCS and sister societies around the world.

The Algerian authorities housed the displaced population in chalets used as temporary housing and erected on various sites. In early 2005, the Algerian authorities started to relocate families living in the temporary housing to the newly built – permanent – houses. The liberated chalets have now been allocated to other deprived families, who will have these houses as permanent accommodation. The Red Crescent is looking into the possibilities to continue their service in the various sites.

The second phase of direct assistance provided to the affected population by the ARCS following the first emergency phase is over. The ARCS, together with its international partners (Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross and the Federation), have now focussed on more long term programmes including reinforcing their community development programmes, increasing capacity of the national society in disaster preparedness and response, emergency health and psychological assistance.

The Federation's Emergency Appeal (Appeal no.14/03), which was extended to the end of May 2005, is coming to an end. However, considering the large funding left over and following discussions with the national society, an extension till the end of 2005 is recommended as to complete the large projects initiated. The humanitarian assistance to the affected population and the capacity building programme will be continued though the regional office based in Tunis and the bilateral offices supporting the development oriented programmes and assistance to traditional programmes of the National Society.

## Operational developments

### A. General

Many activities initially planned during the reporting period were slowed down or postponed due to the organization of the PanAfrican Conference (mobilization of the NS resources for the preparation of this big event), the internal turmoil faced by the National societies, and the uncertainties of the staff confronted to the management changes. However, the assistance to the earthquake affected people continued to be provided, especially for children (by summer camps, school programs), women (by vocational training and community centres), and through food security programs (Ramadan operation in the various wilayas) and the preparation of the general assembly at local and regional level.

One of the main constraints faced in the implementation of the operation has been the several changes which have affected the management of the national society. After the passing of **Professor Abdelkader Boukhroufa** in March 2004, the vice president **Dr. Mohamed Salah Badouna** was appointed as President to carry on programs until the next general assembly.

Following some internal problems with the preparation of the general assembly, consultations were made with the Ministry of "Tutelle", a ministerial decree dissolved the governance in place (board of directors, the president and its secretary general) on 3 January 2005. One of the reasons for the decision of the minister of social affairs was the delayed preparation leading to the ARCS General Assembly (GA) within the agreed timing as well as the complain of several committees regarding the preparation of local/regional assemblies. A new temporary Board was immediately established. The NS is now managed through a provisional committee, comprising of members of the various ARC committees in the country, representatives from the civil society and few representatives of ministries. The task of the provisional committee is to prepare the general assembly and take care of the daily running of the society by ensuring the continuity of the services delivered to the vulnerable people. The initial timing for the provisional commission was three months - up to end of March. However, this period has been extended. A new date for the General Assembly was decided for the end of May. Due to a slow process in the field, the deadline was postponed to the end of September. According to the last report, the date has again been postponed to end of the year, due to the national reconciliation programme planned by the Government in the end of September and the impossibility to organize the general assembly during the Ramadan (October).

The national society organised **summer camps** for deprived children in all of the 48 wilayas. Part of the funding for this traditional programme was provided by the French Red Cross and the Federation. This operation funding was agreed on through a tripartite agreement signed by the above-mentioned donors and the national society. The Federation funds alone, secured smiley faces of around 10,000 children and was mainly targeting the children coming from affected wilayas. The operation consisted of transport of the children to the sites, procurement of clothes, accommodation and food for 15 days session, organization of activities including educational and awareness programs (Earthquake awareness, road safety, domestic accidents, first aid). In 2004 and in 2005, specific RC teams and units were providing psychological support to the most affected children (orphans, handicapped children).

During the **Ramadan** period (2004), all committees in the country assisted the homeless. The traditional programme of the national society used its temporary soup kitchen procured during the emergency phase to serve the homeless and the less fortunate. Special focus was made on the population affected by the earthquake. The Federation funded the Ramadan operation in 4 wilayas touched by natural disasters, namely Boumerdes, Rouiba, El Qued and Quargla.

A more in depth evaluation of the Algeria earthquake operation is scheduled in the end of the appeal period in November 2005. This evaluation will be carried out by a large team including local RC partners as well as an external consultant. This in depth evaluation has the potential for a good learning opportunity for all stakeholders. In deciding the scope of the "in-depth" evaluation, the suggestion would be to review the impact the ARCS/Federation/National Societies relief intervention has had on the beneficiaries in the Algeria Earthquake operation.

The Federation permanent presence in Algeria has been discussed with the national society. Considering the capacity and the resources of the ARCS, the presence of a program coordinator was not needed on a full time basis. The same view was shared by other partner national societies (PNS). Therefore an exit strategy was worked out by the regional office in Tunis and discussed with the national society. The Program Officer terminated his mission in June 2005, marking as well the closure of the office in Algeria. The remaining programmes, as discussed and highlighted below in the report, are now handled and coordinated through the regional office in Tunis. The monitoring of the program is done on basis of agreed plans and deadlines and through regular contacts, in country visits from the Disaster Management delegate and the Head of Delegation.

## **B. Earthquake operation**

### **1. Summer camps (Colonies de Vacances)** (paid and settled in March 2005)

Following their traditional annual programme, the Algerian Red Crescent organised summer camps for the less privileged children in Algeria. Like the previous year, the 2004 programme was extended to around 3,000 children between 8 and 12 years old, affected by the earthquake in 2003 and the children from families affected by the disasters in Skikda and Adrar region.



**The Algerian Red Crescent organised summer camps for the less privileged children in Algeria, which in total reached approximately 10,000 children**

The Federation emergency appeal financed the camps in four (4) wilayas; Ain Defla, Tizi Ouzou, Boumerdes, and Rouiba. The financial support for the transport of the children from the flood-hit region of Adrar to the summer camp of Oran was given through the Federation appeal as well.

The total budget for the project was set at 5,300,000 DZD (CHF 87,500). After settling of the invoices, a total of 4,869,890.77

DZD (CHF 83,964) was spent for the summer camps and the day trips to the beaches (Plage pour Tous) in all 4 regions for around 10,000 children.

Wilaya	Summer camps	Plage pour Tous
<b>Ain Defla</b>	224 children	-
<b>Tizi Ouzou</b>	458 children	6750 children
<b>Boumerdes</b>	218 children	1250 children
<b>Rouiba</b>	-	554 children

- In **Ain Defla**, a total of 224 children participated in the summer camps.
- In **Tizi Ouzou**, the Plage pour Tous assisted 6,750 children, who enjoyed one or more days on the beach, doing activities with the Algerian Red Crescent volunteers. Another 458 children participated in the summer camps.
- **Boumerdes** had an attendance of 218 children in the summer camps, while 1,250 children played on the beach.
- **Rouiba** assisted 554 children in the Plage pour Tous programme
- **Adrar** had no camps organised in this region, however, the Federation assisted financially in the transport of the children to participate in the summer camps in another region - Oran.

In 2005, the Federation continues to support the summer camps in 3 wilayas, focusing on DP awareness programs for children.

**2. Rentrée Scolaire** (paid and settled in December 2004)

The assistance given to the children of deprived families at the start of the new school year is one of the long-established programmes carried out by the Algerian Red Crescent. While traditionally the distribution of school bags, pencils, books, and uniforms is done at the beginning of the school year, the request by the national society for the funding of the programme in 2004 was received too late to allow the implementation in the beginning of the school year 2004-2005. A tender and purchase for 6,000 schoolbags with a value of CHF 12 per bag and material (3,000 schoolbags for grade 2; 1,500 schoolbags for grade 3; 1,500 bags for grade 5) was done in the last quarter of 2004, in time to allow the distribution to take place in the beginning of January 2005. However, the changes in the national society around the same period did not allow the ARCS to organise the scheduled distribution. It is now foreseen that the items, with a total value of CHF 69,900, will be distributed to the most needed schoolchildren at the start of the new school year in September 2005. The regional office in Tunis will follow up further on this programme.

**3. Ramadan** (paid and settled in February 2005)

**The Ramadan operation is a programme organised over the whole Algerian territory in order to assist the most needed**

The Ramadan operation is an annual programme organised by the Algerian Red Crescent. The assistance given to the most needed families in this holy month is carried out over the whole Algerian territory.

All 48 committees of the Red Crescent organised restaurants, packed food parcels, visited the sick in the hospitals, and assisted in the traditional circumcision of children. The national headquarters gave a financial assistance of 24,540,000 DZD (CHF 423,100) to all committees.

The Federation funded committees distributed around 15,000 meals to the homeless and less fortunate.

The Federation reimbursed the committees of Boumerdes, Rouiba, El Qued and Ouargla a total of 91,227 CHF for the assistance given and the expenses made during the month of Ramadan.

Wilaya	Meals served	Food parcels	Visits to hospitals	Circumcisions
Boumerdes	607	407	77	180
Rouiba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
El Qued	-	1,800	-	-
Ouargla	7,238	976	-	325

The Federation will continue to support the Ramadan program in 2005.

**4. Community Centres (ongoing)**

This project encountered a serious delay. The rejection of the initial tender, called for in March 2004, prompted the Federation office in Algeria to hire an expert architect to follow the project. After the initial rejection, the Algerian Red Crescent and the Federation organised a new tender process in October 2004 for the purchase of the 11 remaining chalets which were scheduled to be purchased by the Federation. In total 8 companies responded to the appeal for quotations. The national committee of contracts of the national society evaluated the submitted offers and made its recommendations. Unfortunately, again some delays were encountered in the final approval through Geneva logistics department. The final approval was received in the end of January 2005. However, the particular situation in the national society, with the change of management and the installation of the temporary committee, delayed the project implementation even further. This resulted in the selected offer being expired. The recommended company did increase its price and a new tender was required if the project was to be implemented

before the end of the appeal period. After a special meeting between the regional office and the logistics department in Geneva, it was agreed that a restricted tender would be called for. In total, three companies were contacted to give their offer based on a very detailed order book for fully installed community chalets in 4 selected wilayas. The new tender gave an exceptional offer from the state-run company SNVI, and resulted in a total of 31% economy on the purchase. This economy allowed to include an additional purchase of one sanitary block per site, and still ending up with a total economy of 20% on the purchase based on the forecasted expenditure. The tender for the equipment for the above-mentioned vocational centres (sewing, knitting and hair dressing training centres for women, and computer training) was organised in mid April, and delivered in June 2005.

### **5. Rehabilitation Regional Warehouses (ongoing)**

The programme on the reinforcement of the response capacity of the national society started with the identification of the six regions in which the ARCS plans to invest in the storage capacity for a regional disaster preparedness stock. The six regions - Oran, Constantine, Ouargla, Bechar, Tipaza and Tamanrasset - have all forwarded the data on their respected warehouse capacity and proposals for the renovations. This data has been further assessed by a two-member team of the national headquarters and the Federation, who have been visiting the regions to further discuss the possibilities on the renovation and improvement of the existing warehouses. The project does also plan for funding one storekeeper till the end of 2005, and training of all logistics staff in the different committees. This logistics training will take place during the first week of June 2005, in the south of the country - Bechar.

Due to the late start of the programme, the implementation of the project will be finalised by the end of the year with a support which will continue to be provided in 2006. Renovation of the 3 large regional warehouses (Tipaza, Bechar and Ouargla) is now completed, and training of staff in warehouse management is ongoing.

### **6. Telecommunication project (ongoing)**

The telecom project is yet another project that experienced heavy delays in its implementation. The main obstacle to start the project was the backlog of invoices for the different radio licences, dating back to the early nineties. After many discussions and different approaches initiated by the ARCS, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication has finally agreed to waive part of the outstanding invoices. This waiver has been received after the intervention directly addressed to the Minister of PTT in the end of March 2005.

As a first action in the Telecom project, the ARCS organised interviews to hire a telecommunication coordinator. The CV of the selected candidate has been forwarded to the relevant department in Geneva for comments and feedback. The coordinator has been recruited and realised so far an important work, assessing the situation, proceeding to a full inventory of the equipment available, working on project document breakdown in phases and including the human resource factor (identification of needed staff, training plan, funding plan).

After discussions with the ARCS Director of operation, a decision has been taken to incorporate the project in the regional warehousing project. This would allow the ARCS to have the regional warehouses equipped with the necessary radio equipment resulting in a better communication circuit in the country during relief operations. The first phase of the project is being developed and evaluated in October with the support of the Geneva Secretariat technical department. The findings and recommendations made through this evaluation will help the ARCS to design the next phases of the Telecom project, as well as to identify potential partners.

As reported in the previous update (update no 5, dated October 2004), the funding for this project (CHF 100,000) is part of the total cost for the programme which amounts to a budget of CHF 217,000. With the various economical purchases and under spending done in the different projects over the reporting period, additional money could be made available to finalise this project in its totality.

### **7. Capacity Building of the National Society (ongoing)**

#### **7.1. Training**

From the twelve (12) scheduled workshops and trainings, based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ARCS, so far only six (6) have been organised. The vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) workshop organised by the regional disaster management delegate was conducted in February 2005, and was

attended by 20 people from 6 regions. Follow-up meeting on the VCA training took place in April and July 2005 with the support of the Moroccan Red Crescent VCA coordinator (use of regional resources as well as willingness to share the best practices and experiences). The logistic training was provided in June and continuous assessments were made from June to August by the Telecom coordinator to identify the needs and develop training plans for staff (Programs linked to Telecom and Regional warehouse programs).

The National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop was organized in April. This workshop worked on general disaster management and was attended by a total of 30 volunteers and staff from the national society, spread over the whole national territory. Interventions by the United Nations, Civil Protection and the Ministry of Health was seen during this 10-day workshop, while a practical two days exercise on assessments and camp set up were organised. Sphere training of trainers was successfully organized in July and the Algerian RC was then used to support the Training in Morocco in August.

The other scheduled workshops (Project management, Branch Development) will be carefully planned as not to clash with the busy period of the national society and the upcoming general assembly. However, the implementation of the planned capacity building program may require some extension after the appeal period. It is envisaged that funding for the remaining workshops will be transferred to the Regional budget and kept earmarked for Algeria in 2006, if necessary. The regional office in Tunis will be in a position to work together with the national society on the planning and organisation of the workshops and meetings.

## **7.2. Staffing**

During the reporting period, the national society hired three (3) additional staff, which will be financed through the emergency appeal of the Federation. This brings the total of funded position to five (5).

The Federation currently funds the position of the logistics officer and one driver attached to the Federation office. An office assistant was hired for a period of 6 months but was transferred to the communication department of the NS, due to the low activities in the Federation operation. Further, a new Finance director has been hired to assist the national society with the financial aspects of the Federation and bilateral operations. In March, the Algerian Red Crescent hired a counterpart to the regional DM coordinator. The national DM coordinator will work closely together with the Federation programme coordinator and the regional DM coordinator on the capacity building and ongoing programmes related to the disaster preparedness/disaster response operation.

The recruitment of a telecom coordinator was made in June. The Regional Office has been discussing with the president and its team the possibility to support a NS Program coordinator position after the departure of the Federation Program Coordinator as well as a Capacity Building Coordinator in 2005 and 2006. Job Descriptions and Terms of References are under discussion and decisions are to be made soon

## **8. Administration cost (ongoing)**

A budget provision for administration costs in the headquarters of the Algerian Red Crescent has been allocated to certain projects to improve the communication and working conditions in the national headquarters in Algeria. The ARCS headquarters has used the funds to equip the office with an ADSL line, allowing a number of vital users to be permanently connected to the internet and e-mail. New equipment, like fax machines and a copier, were renewed for the secretariat, while the generator was replaced. With the balance money on this budget line, essential staff are following language classes (English/French course), in order to be able to read and converse in the increasingly Anglophone world.

## **C. Bilateral programs**

### **French Red Cross**

Further to the Boumerdes earthquake in May 2003, the French Red Cross and the Algerian Red Crescent have continued the development of their bilateral cooperation in different fields of activities' especially through an Emergency Response programme and support to Women Training Centres.

Emergency Response:

Algeria is one of the most affected countries by natural disasters and earthquakes in the North African region. In the framework of its bilateral cooperation, the French Red Cross is supporting the Algerian Red Crescent on the training of its volunteers and the organization of its Emergency Response. A four year programme in Emergency Response aims to develop the capacity of the Algerian Red Crescent through a network of an Emergency team fully equipped with First Aid equipment in each region of the country. Over the four years period, a total of 54 Emergency teams (270 first aid workers, 54 team leaders, 18 Trainers, and 48 Emergency Coordinators and one Water Response Unit) are scheduled to be trained in Emergency Response and will be equipped with 56 Emergency intervention kits.

During the period of October 2004 and March 2005, the implementation of the programme has been heavily delayed. Only one four days seminar was organized at the end of February 2005 for the preparation and the design of the Emergency Team Leaders training programme.

Women Training Centres:

**The women training centres are important in bringing psychological support to vulnerable women affected by terrorism**

During the nineties, Algerian women have been particularly affected by terrorism and only few structures were able to bring a psychological support to this vulnerable population. Between 1999 and 2001, the French Red Cross has supported and funded 5 Women Centres and one computer centre.

In September 2004, the French Red Cross and the Algerian Red Crescent agreed to reinforce 4 Women Centres and create 5 new ones in areas affected by terrorism. In addition to the delivery of equipment (sewing machines, tapestry and hairdressing equipment), the programme aims to develop a training programme in the field of sewing/embroidery, tapestry and hairdressing with a special focus on psychological support. This psychological support is implemented by the Algerian Red Crescent and funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The French Red Cross supports the Women Training Centre project in 5 Regions of Algeria; Skikda, Ain Defla, Medea, Tissemsilt and El Oued. During the period of October 2004 and March 2005, the French Red Cross proceeded with the procurement and the delivery of the equipment to the selected Women Training Centre as follows:

Region (Wilaya)	Location	Activities	Number of Equipment	Comments
Skikda	Skikda Bouchetata	Hair Dressing	10 Hair Dressing kits	New Women Centre
	Skikda Bouchetata	Sewing/Embroidery	22 Sewing kits	Reinforcement
Ain Defla	Ain Defla Milliana	Hair Dressing	5 Hair Dressing kits	Reinforcement
		Sewing/Embroidery	22 Sewing kits	
	Ain Defla Tiberkanine	Sewing/Embroidery	22 Sewing kits	Reinforcement
Medea	Medea Centre	Sewing/Embroidery Hair Dressing	44 Sewing kits 5 Hair Dressing kits	New Women Centre Reinforcement
	Medea Ain Boucif	Tapestry	20 Tapestry kits	New Women Centre
Tissemsilt	Tissemsilt Bordj Bounaa	Hair Dressing	10 Hair Dressing kits	New Women Centre
		Sewing/Embroidery Tapestry	44 Sewing kits 10 Tapestry kits	
El Oued	El Oued Centre	Sewing/Embroidery	22 Sewing kits	New Women Centre

The monitoring of the activities in the centres is in progress and field visits started in December 2004 with the Centres of Ain Defla Milliana and Ain Defla Tiberkanine.

The French RC has extended its programs in North Africa, mainly in Morocco and Tunisia. After discussions with the national society and for the same reasons of the Federation, it was decided that the regional coordinator will now take its base in Morocco and follow up the work in Algeria through regular visits.

### Spanish Red Cross

After the success of the pilot campaign on earthquake prevention and response, implemented in schools in Réghaia by Algerian Red Crescent volunteers, the Spanish Red Cross (SRC) is working in partnership with ARCS on a new, more ambitious, disaster preparedness campaign in the wilayas of Algiers, Tizi-Ouzou and Boumerdes. This new project seeks to improve the preparation of the population living in the zones affected by the earthquake of 21 May 2003.

To reach this objective of the programme, the SRC is using the vast network of ARCS volunteers, and works in collaboration with the teachers put at the disposal by the Ministry of National Education.

To achieve this goal, there are two axes:

- There will be a comprehensive training to a particularly open part of the population: the pupils of the primary and secondary schools, aged between six to fourteen years, who have a great faculty to diffuse the message.
- The selected schools are in the twelve most affected communes. In total, 3,351 teachers will receive an additional training plus educational material which will enable them to make the preparatory work to the earthquake preparedness and response in the classes. Using an illustrated book and through small practical exercises and plays, the pupils and the professors will understand the causes of the earthquake, how to prepare for these and how to act during and after an earthquake.

WILAYA	No. of COMMUNES	No. of SCHOOLS	No. of TEACHERS	No. of CLASSES	No. of STUDENTS		
					TOTAL	GIRLS	BOYS
Alger	2	32	820	630	19,961	9,672	10,289
Boumerdes	8	129	2,194	1,582	50,519	24,292	26,227
Tizi Ouzou	2	13	337	248	8,202	3,974	4,228
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>78,682</b>	<b>37,938</b>	<b>40,744</b>

To supplement this briefing and training in the classes, a general simulation will be carried out in a total of 174 schools.



In parallel, there will be a basic sensitising of the general population, through spots on radio and television. The message transmitted will be: *“One cannot avoid another earthquake but one can reduce the damage”*.

This project falls under the disaster preparedness programme which the Algerian Red Crescent develops with the support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies.

## Swiss Red Cross

### 1) Description of SRC activities

In the context of the post emergency following the Boumerdes May 2003 earthquake, the Swiss Red Cross sent a delegate in Alger in the beginning of January 2004 in order to implement several projects aiming to help the victims of this disaster.

a) “Figuier-Boumerdes” sanitation project: The sewage system project of Figuier financed by the Algerian government could not foresee the 2003 earthquake and the subsequent temporary habitations built to relocate the coverless population.

In order to avoid the sewage of these non-permanent habitations to flow directly to the highly frequented neighbouring beaches, the SRC, together with OXFAM UK, financed 2 prefabricated lifting stations which will be integrated in the overall project, protecting the environment as well as the population’s health.

b) Dentist’s consulting room for Reghaia health centre: This project consists in implementing an annex equipped with chair radiography and accessories for dental consultations, in the busy Reghaia health centre. This project is co-funded by the Federation.

c) Pedagogic centre of Rouiba: After demolishing the former Algerian Red Crescent pedagogic centre which had been damaged by the earthquake, the SRC is financing the construction a new centre at the same place.

d) Community centre of Isser: The objective of this project is to build a community centre in Isser, composed of 6 modules: 3 for a children garden, and 3 others for ladies’ training activities. This project will benefit essentially the earthquake victims, and will be handed over to the CRA.

### 2) Projects’ achievements for the period

a) Figuier-Boumerdes sanitation project: Since November, the Hydraulic Directory made a soil study for all 5 lifting stations. They excavated and they installed the 3 prefabricated stations (from which the two financed by SRC /OXFAM). The hydraulic equipment of the stations is ongoing, as well as the completion of the main delivery pipe to the treatment plant.

b) Dentist’s consulting room: The Assemblée Populaire Communale (APC) of Reghaia eventually constructed the platform. SRC ordered the prefabricated annex and the dental equipment. This project was completed in August 2005.

c) Pedagogic centre of Rouiba: After many months of waiting, in the beginning of February, eventually SRC/CRA obtained the construction licence. The construction started in March after getting the green light from the CTC (governmental technical agency). So far, they have achieved the foundation of the building.

d) Community centre of Isser: SRC got the funding for this project in the beginning of February. A project agreement has been signed between SRC and CRA, but there are some difficulties to get officially the terrain foreseen for this project, despite the good collaboration with the APC.

The cooperation with the PNS Bilateral donors and ICRC is increasing in a positive direction, allowing constructive dialogue, a better use of existing resources and building a team spirit in the region. Coordination and planning meeting are regularly organized by the Algerian RC and provides a good platform for discussions and exchanges.

## CONCLUSION

It is hoped that the General Assembly will be conducted as soon as possible, bringing back the needed stability to the Algerian RC and re-establishing an adequate working atmosphere within this strong and structured society. Despite the continuous delays, the projects are progressing well for the last three months and hopefully the earthquake operation will be completed by the end of the year.

This operation has been providing many good opportunities as well as opening for the national society. New areas of cooperation and new partners have been identified. Increased support will continue to be provided by the Regional Office for North Africa in Disaster Management, Health, and Organizational Development (governance training, branch development, youth, gender).

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