

PROGRAMME 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

NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

23 October 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.71/2001

Appeal Target CHF 1,103,396

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January - June 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 42%

Outstanding needs: CHF 639,997

Update: Donor support has been good but there is still a need for strong funding backing from donors. The priority in the second part of the year 2001 is to have the Tunis office core costs secured so that implementation of programme activities - for which many resources have been received - can take place.

Operational Developments:

The North Africa sub-region covers Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Whilst prone to disaster such as drought and earthquakes, there has fortunately been no major emergencies during the past months. Also on the political front the outlook was rather positive at the beginning of 2001, but the apparent calm was disrupted, especially in Algeria. Re-emerging violence has caused the death toll to rise again, and - as a new development - the uprising in the Berber areas of Algeria has led to large demonstrations and over 60 deaths in confrontations with the police during April-May.

Disaster Response

During the first half of 2001 there were no on-going disaster operations in North Africa that would require outside assistance. Should this become the case, the Federation office in Tunis is prepared to respond, in close cooperation with the Secretariat's disaster management coordination division and the Regional Delegation in Amman.

Disaster Preparedness

Disaster Preparedness (DP) has been defined as one of the key priorities in North Africa by the National Societies. Due to lack of both funding and availability of expertise the programme was slow in starting. As a follow-up on a 2000 planning mission, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society agreed to pursue the VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) approach by piloting it in one community in the Upper Nile area and to extend first aid training to include issues in public and environmental health, water, sanitation and shelter. Concurrently with the VCA pilot process a guidebook to support this programme was to be developed. The Egyptian Red Crescent is regarded as a pilot case in this programme which is planned to be extended to other National Societies (NS) in North Africa. The implementation of these plans had to be moved to the second half of 2001, when a disaster preparedness officer will be in place at the Amman Regional Delegation. Funding for DP in North Africa became available from the Finnish and the Swedish Red Cross in April and May respectively.

A disaster preparedness planning seminar was organised by the Libyan Red Crescent with support from the Federation Tunis office in early June. The seminar focused on practical methods of setting up a DP plan, but also introduced the use of VCA and involvement of local communities. Cooperation with authorities and in particular with Civil Defence - which also took part in the seminar - was high on the agenda. Furthermore, the Libyan Red Crescent has agreed to provide a (SoL) Staff on Loan to the Tunis office to work during September-November 2001 with the North African Societies on developing an integrated DP/Health and HIV/AIDS awareness approach, including the use of the VCA tool.

Humanitarian Values

Several projects were included in the Appeal 2001, including a communication campaign, a documentary promoting volunteering, and a youth encounter - but due to lack of funding were not implemented. Planning for a new project was started - focussing on a campaign to influence behavioural changes related to HIV/AIDS, in support of a prevention programme geared towards youth.

Health and Care

The Appeal 2001 had three objectives in this area, namely (1) to encourage NS to work on community level and take up preventive activities, (2) to start work with NS regarding HIV/AIDS, and (3) to support the Algerian Red Crescent in expanding its occupational centres for women.

Concerning the first objective, the activities have not yet been implemented due to lack of funding. Follow-up to the North African First Aid workshop, organised in July 2000 by the Federation Tunis office with support from the Netherlands Red Cross, is important as the participants agreed on the importance of harmonising approaches in health programmes and aligning them with *Strategy 2010*, the Federation's main policy document.

As regards HIV/AIDS, the Amman Regional Delegation coordinated work to translate into Arabic and to culturally adapt the Federation Youth Instructors' Manual on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease. From North Africa the Libyan Red Crescent took part. At the end of June the Tunis office organised a North African consultation meeting to share the results of this work and to plan for a common strategy in combatting HIV/AIDS. This important consultation was made possible thanks to global HIV/AIDS funds. The matter will be followed up in the second half of the year through visits to each of the five North African NS by the SoL based in Tunis.

The Algerian Red Crescent has been supported in setting up and expanding two occupational training centres for women, one in Blida and one in Algiers, thanks to funding from the Netherlands Red Cross. The women who receive the training, and often also psychological and medical attention, have in most cases been directly or indirectly affected by the violent events and have often been left alone to care for a family or they have been rejected by the community due to cultural reasons. The training allows these

women to find employment and to take care of themselves and to start a new life. The equipment was purchased during the reporting period, and the centres will start functioning in mid September.

Institutional and Resource Development

Capacity building or institutional/organisational and resource development, is one of the key areas of North African Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS). The main objectives of this programme are the following:

- To compile basic data on the National Societies and countries, including organisation, resources, key service programmes as well as socio-economic data on needs;
- To assist each National Society in producing goals, strategies and action plans for its institutional and resource development as well as for its service programmes;
- To start a financial resource development programme in the region, with pilot projects in two National Societies.
- To organise leadership training on the regional level, and pilot a human resource development programme in one National Society.
- To help National Societies build capacities at the branch level by strengthening branch infrastructure and training of volunteers and staff .

Initial funding was received from the Federation Capacity Building Fund at the end of 2000, and in April 2001 from the Finnish Red Cross.

Basic data compilation is on-going during visits to National Societies, but a systematic data base is yet to be set up. Solutions are being looked into. Regarding organisational development (OD) four NS - Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia - have completed their self-assessment questionnaires. These will be followed up by the Tunis office with the Societies concerned. Algerian RC received the questionnaire in April. A first strategic planning was set to take place in July at the Tunisian RC.

A Leadership Course for six North African countries (including Mauretania, covered geographically by the ICRC), was organised in February 2001 by the Federation Tunis office in cooperation with the ICRC regional delegation for the Maghreb. This course - which is a regional version of the former HDI courses - targets newly elected or appointed leaders and introduces key strategies and policies of the Movement as well as capacity building tools. Three participants from each NS were invited - most were members of National Boards or Presidents of regional committees, as well as two Secretary Generals. Facilitators came from the Federation office in Tunis and Geneva, the ICRC in Tunis, and the Tunisian Red Crescent. The course was received with much enthusiasm, as it was the first such training opportunity for most participants.

A new element in the field of OD is active promotion of Federation gender policy. The Tunis Representative coordinated preparatory work (workshop in Amman in April) on gender issues for the MENA Conference that was held in Teheran at the end of May, and will act as a support structure for the new MENA Gender Network, the focal point of which is the Iranian RC.

National Society capacity building requires time and cultural sensitivity and confidence building is necessary before an OD-process can get going. However, important constraints have also been the limitation in time - due to many meetings and conferences involving both NS leaders and delegates - as well as limited human and financial resources. As the Tunis office consists of one delegate only, additional human resources are necessary to carry out all planned activities. The lack of sufficient core funding (for local staff, running costs) has also been a hindrance to programme implementation. The solution proposed is to use regionally recruited consultants, Geneva colleagues and resource persons from other NS - and to charge core costs against programmes.

Coordination and Management

The coordination and management of Federation supported activities in North Africa is the task of the Tunis office, which was established in the beginning of 2000 and works closely with the Amman RD. This is a small delegation consisting of one expatriate delegate, Federation Representative, and one local staff. The main objectives of the office are the following:

- To serve as a contact point between the North African NS and the Federation Secretariat in Geneva;
- To function as support infrastructure for implementation of Federation regional assistance strategy in North Africa;
- To facilitate exchange of experiences and cooperation between National Societies in the region;
- To promote contacts and partnerships with sister Societies in other regions;
- To represent the Federation externally with international and national organisations and authorities as well as the with ICRC.

The contact point function translates into forwarding Geneva information to NS and vice versa, as well as verifying that messages have been received (in the right language) and well understood. This function has enabled the building of good contacts with the NS. The sharing of experience function of the Tunis office is an important one and has been further strengthened through the organisation of the North African Leadership Course. The Gender Network will be an additional element in promoting exchange. The promotion of partnerships needs further work, as does the representation function.

The main constraints in implementing planned activities have already been described above. In summary: lack of sufficient human and financial resources. The financial resources refer mainly to core costs or office running costs. The delegate is covered, but the in-country costs not. Due to this situation the office has been operating under continued uncertainty.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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North Africa: Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.71/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			20.10.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'103'396		42.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		148'846	EUR	228'985	10.04.01	ID/RD, DEP & DELEGATE COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC		132'000	NLG	91'705	08.06.2001	VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	82'750	07.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COORDINATION & MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				403'440	CHF	36.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				59'959	CHF	5.4%