

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

LEBANON

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA078; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 497,989 (USD 377,865 or EUR 318,140); Appeal coverage: 87.8 % (*Please click here to go directly to the contributions list available on the website*)

Related Annual Appeal: Lebanon Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please go to the website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA078.pdf

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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Operational developments

Following the assassination of the former Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri (February 2005) and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon (April 2005), Lebanon has witnessed a critical situation at different levels; economic, security, and political. A series of explosions hit Lebanon from March and continued throughout the year, targeting anti-Syrian politicians and journalists. On 12 December, a member of the Parliament and editor of the daily newspaper An-Nahar, Gebran Tuani, was assassinated. The assassination of Tuani led the government to demand the international community to increase the responsibilities of the United Nations (UN) investigation panel established after the Hariri assassination and to investigate all the assassinations starting from the failed attempt of the assassination of the member of the Parliament, Marwan Hamade, in late 2004. This request led to the Shiite ministers (both of Hezbollah and Amal: the two Shiite parties in Lebanon) to freeze their participation in the government, and increased the tension between the different parties. The continued political stand-off has negatively affected the Lebanese Red Cross' ability to implement its activities. More than 80% of its income is derived from the government, which has withheld funds for various reasons until October 2005.

Health and care

Overall Goal: To provide improved community based health services by strengthening preventive health and care programmes and capacities with a focus on disease prevention and health promotion.

Programme Objective 1:

Support Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRCS) in developing a strategy for strengthening their preventive health and care programmes, reshape clinical services, review structures and training of staff and volunteers in line with the conclusions and recommendations of the health assessment.

Expected results :

- The quality of care in clinical and user services has improved;
- The activities have been prioritized and carried out on a basis of assessed needs among the most vulnerable population;
- Improved coordination and cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental health service providers achieved in line with LRCS goals;
- A role for clinics and mobile clinics is defined to factor in the results of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA);
- PSP/Stress Management is integrated into relevant training and awareness programs;
- The newly modified Community Based First Aid (CBFA) curriculum is piloted in selected regions.

Achievements:

- A new focal point for the Psychological Support Programme (PSP) was appointed, attended the project planning process (PPP), and prepared with the PSP team in Lebanon a Plan of Action for 2006.
- Psychological support sessions continued to be carried out internally in some programmes of the LRC and meetings with the departments' directors have been carried out in order to integrate the PSP in the different programmes of the LRC.
- Preparations and planning for the PSP Training of Trainers has been accomplished and is yet to be done in the first quarter of 2006.

Impact:

- The process of implementation of the new responsibilities and activities of the medico-social department, resulting from the health assessment accomplished in 2004, are yet to be discussed with the Regional Health delegate in the first quarter of 2006.
- PSP started to be integrated in some of the LRC programmes: First Aid teams, Youth programmes (prisons, traffic safety...), and aims for more integration in the future so that the PSP reaches LRC members (staff & volunteers) and also the different target groups that the LRC is working with.
- The work of the PSP team was well appreciated on the national and regional level. Members of this team were asked to join as facilitators in training of trainers (ToT) workshops in the region.

Constraints:

- In addition to the financial restraints, the political situation in Lebanon affected the work of the LRC and had caused delays in many programmes particularly the organisation of the ToT to enlarge the PSP team to be able to integrate the programme in all the National Society's programmes.
- The CBFA programme is not perceived a priority for the LRC and has been postponed for future action.

Programme Objective 2:

Primary health care and social services throughout the country are consolidated and expanded with a shift in emphasis from curative interventions to community based health education and prevention activities coupled with further integration of youth volunteers into health and social services.

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Expected results:

- A HIV/AIDS coordination group has been established at the national level;
- HIV/AIDS trainers were educated for raising awareness at community level;
- Integrated awareness campaigns for sexually transmitted diseases (STI), HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases have been organized;
- Successful mobilization, training and retention of volunteers to support health awareness programmes have been structurally addressed.

Achievements :

- A training of councillors on sexuality, adolescence, STIs, HIV-AIDS, and other issues relevant to youth was organised in August-September 2005. A total number of 20 youth volunteers followed this training. These volunteers will be entitled to respond to youth phone calls once the Hot Line is launched and after following a practical training period.
- The HIV/AIDS youth programme has been decentralized and this has improved the effectiveness of the programme and increased the number of beneficiaries. Currently, more and more youth local branches are planning HIV/AIDS activities at the local level.
- The youth group at national and local level trained on HIV/AIDS launched several activities, all year long, to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS and to promote behavioural change among youth through Peer Education.
- To improve the accessibility of People Living with HIV-AIDS (PLWHA) to medication, the LRC youth programme joined other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in a joint campaign asking the Ministry of Health to ensure the availability and accessibility of all PLWHA to medication.
- In addition to this, an HIV-AIDS campaign was launched on the 1st of December. Youth volunteers from the LRC organised special events in the American University of Beirut (i.e. run for AIDS, shows)

Impact:

- The LRC HIV-AIDS programme continues in breaking the silence in Lebanon and has earned an important image in the community which is making its access to Youth easier. The increasing need of youth to advice pushed the LRC to put a plan to develop a free counselling Hot Line from youth to youth in order to provide youth with correct information and appropriate support when needed.
- The LRC HIV-AIDS youth programme has earned a regional trust and facilitated the ToT for the National Societies in the Middle East.

Constraints :

- The launching of the free youth to youth counselling Hot Line is postponed to a future date because of the effects that might occur on the emergency number of the LRC (140). A thorough study on how to present the Hot Line to the community is needed and special attention should be given to the marketing campaign.
- The internal communication between the different departments is still very weak. This situation needs to be addressed the soonest with the relevant persons in order to increase the effectiveness and reduce the duplication.
- The dependence of the LRC on Federation funds for the HIV-AIDS programme needs to be addressed. With such a reputation, the LRC should start looking for local donors, from the public and private sector, to fund this programme.

Disaster management

Overall Goal: Strengthened internal and external cooperation and coordination mechanisms that enable the LRCS to provide effective disaster response and preparedness.

Programme Objective:

The LRCS position as the key humanitarian actor in disaster management is reinforced through effective disaster response, preparedness and mitigation aimed to preventing and alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities.

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Expected results :

- A thorough review of current ambulance services launched resulting in improved management practices and effectiveness and the eventual phase out of Federation support;
- Upgraded logistical services and systems have been introduced;
- National Intervention Team has been established, its members trained and coordinated by the Disaster Management Unit with mechanisms in place enabling the team to quickly respond;
- The scope and need for a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment has been defined by the end of 2004 and, pending agreement with the governance, the VCA has been launched by mid 2005;
- An Emergency Plan for LRCS including concrete actions for Federation assistance has been elaborated.

Achievements:

- As a result of the ambulance assessment, accomplished in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the LRC prepared a plan of action in order to improve the maintenance procedures and purchasing of the vehicles fleet of the first aid teams. This plan of action is yet to be presented for potential donors to ensure funds to proceed with the implementation.
- The VCA process has been launched in September 2005, and two employees have been recruited and trained to assist the Lebanese Red Cross in this task.
- The National Intervention Team is yet to meet in the first quarter of 2006 in order to form the different task force in the different areas needed during a disaster.

Impact:

- Once the plan of action of the first aid teams is implemented by the LRC, the impact of the ambulance assessment will be measurable.
- The VCA process, which started in October 2005, was delayed due to internal disagreements on the process.
- The impacts of the VCA will be also measurable by the end of the third quarter of 2006, once the VCA is accomplished.

Constraints:

- Total dependency on government funds for First Aid services needs to be addressed in order to avoid similar future financial problems resulting from the dependence on governmental funds.
- The coordination and cooperation between the members of the Disaster Management Unit need to be addressed and clarified to enable efficient and coherent work between the different concerned parties.

Organisational development

Overall Goal: A well functioning and adequately resourced Lebanese Red Cross Society with sufficient governance and management capacity to ensure focused and responsive programmes addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people in Lebanon.

Programme Objective:

Service delivery of the LRCS is increased and improved through strengthening of its foundation and capacity

Expected results :

- The LRCS has provided quality services based on a comprehensive development plan encompassing short, medium and long terms priorities;
- The national society's institutional performance has considerably improved with its statutes amended to ensure adequate participation of its constituencies;
- A well functioning governance has been revitalized through an election process that attracts qualified and committed members of the leadership at the headquarters and in the branches;
- The quality of human resources has improved based on effective recruitment procedures, training and development schemes for volunteers and staff;
- The local branches with decentralized management responsibilities, in their respective localities, have better capacities to provide services;

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- A strategic work plan has been launched after a broad consultation process which had been the basis of a development strategy including a resource mobilisation strategy.

Achievements:

- A Training of Trainers on governance and management was organised in August 2005. A total of 15 trainers, from the different departments, participated in this workshop. They will facilitate the governance and management training, organised by the Internal Affairs Department (IAD), for the general assembly members and that will be organised at a later stage to the members of the branches committees.
- The election of Youth and First Aid representatives in the General Assembly and the Central committee was accomplished in September 2005.
- The elections of the members of the local branches committees, general assembly, central and executive committees are yet to be accomplished in March - April 2006.
- For the first time after 30 years, the ordinary General Assembly of the LRC met on the 6th of December 2005 where they voted on the plan of action of 2006, with focus on continuing the election process, revising the statute, and developing the internal regulations.
- Three training workshops on governance and management, for the general assembly members, took place during October and November.
- The Youth annual congress will be organised in the first quarter of 2006, in order to discuss relevant issues for youth with emphasize on structure, programmes, and youth participation in decision making.

Impact:

- The youth volunteers in the First Aid and Youth departments are more involved in the decision making of the national society and participated in the first General Assembly for the LRC in 30 years.
- The governance and management training took place in October- November 2005 and it was very well perceived from the local branches that asked the IAD to organise similar trainings to all the members and volunteers of the local branches.
- A training workshop for the administrative corps of the Youth department, to support Youth local branches, took place in late May as recommended in the Annual Youth Congress.

Constraints:

- The time that was consumed for the election process left the IAD with very short time to organise the training for the members of the governance, general assembly, and members of local branches committees.
- Internal disagreement on the procedures is still delaying the election process.

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