

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

4 August 2005

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.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA082;

Programme Update no.1 ,

Period covered: January to June, 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 1,280,000 (USD 993,275 or EUR 827,475);

Appeal coverage: (*Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website*)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

North Africa Regional Programmes Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA082.pdf

Algeria Earthquake Emergency Appeal. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/1403revised.pdf

Al Hoceima Emergency Appeal. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0604.pdf

Egypt: Terrorist attacks in Cairo. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME044.pdf

Programme summary:

Health and Care

- Large Measles Vaccination Campaign in Tunisia in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ministry of Health and American Red Cross (March-June)
- Presentation of the Community Based First Aid Manual in Arabic, First Training of Trainers in North Africa; Consolidation of the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Network (April)
- Establishment of new Egyptian Red Crescent First Aid Centers (January-June)
- Planning meeting for HIV/AIDS trans-border programmes (Tunisian, Algerian, Libyan Red Crescent) in partnership with Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), supported by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Contribution (May)
- Finalization of the Arabic version of the Federation Community Based Psychological Support Programme (PSP) Manual and discussion re development of future modules

Disaster Management

- Disaster Management Capacity of National Society staff has increased through a series of in country workshops (National Intervention Team in Algeria, Logistic workshops in Morocco and Algeria, Disaster Management (DM) workshop and simulation in Tunisia)
- Mapping and Programming: the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) process has progressed very well in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and led to the development of DM material and tools for the communities
- Profiles of the Red Crescent were raised at community level through a better involvement of the beneficiaries, the local authorities and other key stakeholders.

Humanitarian Values

- Global Action to reduce discrimination and violence within the community, Workshop in Morocco-April
- Forum for advocacy: celebration of the Health, Tuberculosis, Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, Blood Donor Day in partnerships with key actors
- Preparation of two regional campaigns on RC volunteers, anti-stigma campaign to be launched in December 2005
- National Society Website (Egyptian RC has launched its own web-site, Tunisia and Moroccan Red Crescent are finalizing their own sites, Algerian RC is in the process to re-structure and reinforce the existing and well managed web-site)

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

- Follow up of the Manama Implementation (April)
- Follow up of the Algiers Plan of Action (1st & 2nd Pan-African Coordination Team (PACT) Meeting)
- North Africa Leaders Meeting (June)
- MENA Conference Preparatory Meeting (June)
- MENA Strategic Framework 2006-2010 (June)
- Preparation of Federation and RC participation to the World Summit on the Information Society, project linked to the Info-Poverty Conference

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Health and care

Goal: The national societies in North Africa contribute to improving the health and care for the vulnerable in the community, addressing health promotion, disease prevention, psychological support, public health priorities, community based first aid and relief health.

Objective: The national societies have built a sufficient capacity to enable vulnerable groups to reduce susceptibility to diseases, accidents/injuries, to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crisis.

HIV/AIDS & Other Infectious diseases

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

- **The national societies have scaled up their involvement in HIV-AIDS and youth peer education**
The focus on HIV/AIDS continues to gain momentum. Most of the National Societies have a core of trained staff/volunteers who work as trainers and youth peer educators to enhance public awareness. Cross-border exchange of experience is now starting between three out of the five societies. An HIV/AIDS module is now integrated into the community based first aid (CBFA) curriculum
 - Algerian RC and Moroccan RC are actively implementing the projects supported by the Global fund. In Morocco, on the request of the President of the Moroccan RC Health Commission, the Regional Office will complement the programme initiated in few provinces with the Global Fund projects and support the reinforcement of the Health structure in the field. Focus was placed on a better use of the human resource, increasing the role of volunteers and especially women and youth in the HIV/AIDS programme. Peer education programmes are supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Finnish Red Cross contribution.
 - Tunisian RC is focusing its programmes on schools and universities, through discussions and youth meeting First Aid activities, awareness. The new HIV/AIDS module included in the CBFA module is actively used in the First Aid course.
- **Networking and exchange of experiences in prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) have been reinforced through a dynamic, well functioning regional network and increased collaboration between the national societies in the region**
 - First Global Health Forum organized by the Federation Secretariat: Health Commission Presidents from Algerian and Moroccan RC were invited to participate to share their experiences and work with the Global Fund (GFTAM)
 - The regular mid-year North Africa Health Planning meeting was planned in June but had to be postponed to September due to heavy agenda in the region. However, several meetings, conferences had provided opportunities for National Societies' technical staff to discuss, share and plan future cooperation (CBFA meeting, Global Health forum, Federation/UNAIDS project, North Africa Leaders meeting, etc.)
 - In 2004, a MENA HIV/AIDS network was established to strengthen exchange of skills and experiences to maximise the learning from good practices. The network is not yet fully active due to lack of equipment within national societies, lack of access to internet and sometime lack of structures to host this network.
 - All five National Societies are very active within their national HIV/AIDS coordination meeting and within the UNAIDS working group. This coordination has proved its relevance and impact through a better understanding of the key actor's role and the development of local, coordinated and more focused approach.
- **Sustained campaigning against discrimination and stigmatization of HIV/AIDS affected people has been supported by three to five societies in the region**
 - The Regional Office is supporting National Societies' (NSs) advocacy, development of appropriate material in French and in Arabic to support the awareness effort made at local committee level. Brochures, leaflets, posters are being produced to increase North Africa national societies' visibility at community level and to provide clear and key messages on the societies in this national programme. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an

emphasis is placed on Advocacy, on the development of NS Communication strategy, on a reinforcement of the work with the Media (including the journalist as RC partners).

- Campaign 2005. Algerian RC, like the last previous years, continues to prepare their annual public awareness and information campaign following the Federation/UNAIDS themes. Booklets and flyers are prepared. Moroccan RC is preparing an Anti-Stigma campaign to be launched on December 1st. Within this period, leaflet, flyers, posters are being prepared. Workshop for Regional HIV/AIDS coordinators was organized. A workshop “HIV/AIDS and Youth” is planned for July, aiming at mobilizing, empowering youth volunteers in peer education programmes in the pilot region. The main objective is to develop solid regional structures to support HIV/AIDS programs. A similar workshop is planned for “HIV/AIDS and Women”. Regional teams will be composed of a regional coordinator, 3 youth volunteers and 3 women working at community level. Egyptian RC is preparing a TV spot and is very extensively using its Youth clubs and RC structures (community projects) to address HIV/AIDS key messages. Important work is also developed through the 6 Egyptian RC Blood Banks
- Together with the NSs, the Regional Office is working on a regional campaign focusing on humanitarian values highlighting the specificity, the added value of the Red Crescent in their proximity work at community level.

➤ **Tunisian RC Measles Campaigns**

Tunisian Red Crescent, being a member of the National Committee for the organization of the Measles-Rubella campaign, has been closely associated to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) plan and effort, especially in the social mobilization part. In December 2003, the Tunisian Government decided to plan and conduct a Rubella immunization mass campaign targeting girls 13-18 years old (in school: 556,000 and out of schools: 165,000). Tunisia being in a pre-elimination phase for Measles, it was decided to use the combined Measles-Rubella vaccine instead of the Rubella Monovalent vaccine. American Red Cross has been within the frame of the Measles Initiative Partnership, co-funding this campaign through UNICEF Office in Tunis and has earmarked specific funding for Tunisian RC involvement in the campaign (USD 26,500). The campaign was launched in Basic Health Centres during the Spring school holidays for out of school girls and has continued in schools from April 2005 onwards with school girls. The Tunisian RC had mobilized 200 volunteer from its local and regional structure, to sensitize targeted communities and groups to better prepare them for the campaign and to accompany, integrate MoH teams in the field. Posters and flyers were produced and were made available to the teachers, health workers and Tunisian RC volunteers. As part of the follow up and monitoring process, an evaluation was made and has revealed some weak points in the system. On basis of the feedback received, the experiences and lessons drawn, a meeting was organized by the Regional Office with the main partners (Ministry of Health and UNICEF) to review the existing plan and discuss about re-adjustment to the plan. From the conclusions, it was made clear that the campaign had to be extended in order to be completed, that there was a concrete need for additional public awareness campaign at community level, information workshops, and refresher courses for medical practitioners and training for staff. A series of workshops were organized by the MoH (3) and by the Tunisian Red Crescent (3) in the largest cities of the countries.

Being the first large operation in which the RC volunteers were involved and RC structures were used, the impact of the campaign for the Tunisian RC was significant. It has highlighted its role as a reliable partner to the Government, Organizational Agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the operation. It has also reinforced its partnership with American Red Cross and has placed the accent on the role of the volunteers in the social mobilization and Health promotion. It also demonstrates the contribution of the National Society to the Millennium Development Goals. At last but not least, this close work of Tunisian RC with the communities has reinforced the visibility of the Tunisian RC within the civil society. Full report on the campaign is available upon request at the Regional Office.

➤ **Egyptian RC Polio Campaign**

The Egyptian RC, like previous years, has participated to the national Polio vaccination campaign. 310 Egyptian RC youth volunteers were active in February-March, providing information to the communities, hosting the Ministry of Health teams for vaccinations (within the RC structures) and preparing the next phase in May for the second vaccination shot.

Community Based First Aid / Relief Health



The first CBFA network meeting for North Africa National Societies took place in Cairo in April. The purpose of the meeting was to present the new Arabic manual, to train the North African CBFA trainers, and to create a pool of CBFA experts

- **New community based first aid curricula have been increasingly adopted, used by the concerned national societies and integrated into a disaster preparedness programme**
 - First CBFA network meeting for North Africa National Societies took place in Cairo in April. The purpose of the meeting was to present the new Arabic manual, to train the North African CBFA trainers, and to create a pool of CBFA experts. New regional CBFA certificate was delivered to the participants. Printed materials and CD (500 versions of the Arabic manual) were sent to each National Society as training material for their in country workshops.
 - A plan of action was elaborated for the follow up phase at country level. Egyptian RC, Moroccan RC and Tunisian RC are very committed and willing to disseminate within their societies this new tool. Country Plans and budget were shared with the regional office. Additional funding is sought for these activities. Clear links were made with the Disaster Management activities (*Please refer to the Disaster Management section*). Some of the societies are planning to organize the launch of this manual on the international First Aid Day, taking the opportunity to present it to the other key actors involved with First Aid.
- **Effective collaboration and experience sharing between national societies have been established through active networking and implementation of cross-border cooperation projects**
 - In April, the Regional Office was approached by the Tunisia UNAIDS Country Office representative to discuss a partnership with the Federation and the Red Crescent in the region for the implementation of a regional HIV/AIDS project. The objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability, spread and impact of STDs and HIV/AIDS among mobile population, with a particular focus on cross border mobility with neighbouring countries. This sub-regional UNAIDS initiative on “HIV/AIDS and STDs of Countries bordering Sahara - Vulnerability in the context of mobile populations” - is supported by OPEC in countries which are not oil producers. The Regional Office, because of its sub-regional basis, was asked to ensure and facilitate harmonization of actions and coordination with the neighbouring countries. Following the meeting with UNAIDS, the Regional Office convened a meeting with the three concerned Red Crescent Societies to discuss the role and common approach to the project. Unfortunately, the Representative of Libyan RC could not attend. The work was started with Algerian RC, which has expressed a great interest. The next meeting with the partners is planned in September for the elaboration of a Plan of Action for 2006 and the development of micro projects in the provinces concerned to prepare the implementation.

The project intends:

- To establish a coordination mechanism with neighbouring countries and developing efficient partnerships with local actors;
- To provide HIV/AIDS prevention, care and impact alleviation among the concerned populations. It will include (a) mapping of the inter-country axes of communication across the borders and selecting priority sites of interventions; (b) undertaking rapid assessment of HIV/AIDS situation and response in the selected sites prioritized for intervention, identifying programmatic gaps and potential partners in local communities; and (c) developing and implementing appropriate interventions, including elaboration of educational and information materials, outreach services, access to care, etc.
- To train local actors in prevention, care and impact mitigation among the mobile populations and local communities
- To strengthen the capacities of actors at national, regional, local and community-level to implement the interventions will be the main focus of this component. Training may be extended to various service providers in the communities, including health and social workers as well as officials at border areas, etc. Training will focus, among others, in undertaking community-based prevention activities and reaching vulnerable groups.
- To monitor and evaluate the activities undertaken and assessment of the impact on the health status of this population.

Expected output

- Reduced transmission of STDs and HIV/AIDS among migrants and mobile populations along the main axes of communication to improve their health status;
- Greater accessibility to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services among mobile populations and local populations;
- Coordinated support among national and international partners to the HIV/AIDS response in the context of cross-border movements.

➤ **Celebration of the First Aid Day/ active celebration in all countries**

Preparation of the day is on-going.

➤ **Risk reduction public campaigns including Road Safety are conducted as part of regular activities**

Road safety is a major challenge in North Africa. Governments have identified it as a priority and are reinforcing considerably their preventive and repressive programs. The national associations have expressed in several countries their interest in cooperating more closely with the Red Crescent associating the RC network of volunteers to their campaign in order to better reach the communities. Partnership agreements were signed in Tunisia and Morocco. The civil society is equally concerned and is increasingly organizing itself, participating or initiating initiatives taking very positively the ownership of the programmes.

- Tunisia: During the summer, 180 volunteers are involved in the programme, covering 40 Road Safety Posts in close collaboration with the Civil Defence and the Tunisian RC doctors, nurses. Tunisian RC is also active in prevention and awareness programmes targeting kinder garden, school children (500 children), students and universities. Tunisian RC teams are also facilitating First Aid courses for truck drivers, driving schools staff. On a weekly basis, RC volunteers are invited on the Youth local radio and Tunisian RC officers are facilitating debates on TV magazine.
- Morocco: The MRCS pilot project initiated in 4 cities with the Civil Defence and the national Road Safety Association was so successful that it was decided to enlarge the program to 8 cities (coastal and touristy cities). Discussions are ongoing on developing new projects. Traditional summer campaigns have started in June and health posts are operational on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts.
- Algeria: Algerian RC has recently been in contact with the national office for Road Safety to discuss further cooperation.
- Preparation of a public Road Safety campaign: The Regional Office is working with the Egyptian, Tunisian and the Algerian RC on an Arabic Road Safety Campaign, using as reference the three campaigns developed by the European Union RC societies. The adaptation to the local environment and context will be made by country specialists. The Office is looking at local sponsor to finance this regional initiative.

➤ **Emergency Health, water sanitation capacities of the national societies are increased**

Emergency Health is emerging increasingly as a priority defined by the North African Societies not only exposed to natural disasters, but also to terrorism and violence. Plans and activities were made for the second half of the year.

- Algerian RC: Sphere training (Training of Trainers), Emergency Response Unit Training (Water-French RC will facilitate the training & Health –session facilitated by Spanish RC)
- Moroccan RC: Sphere training (training of trainers), two Relief Health Training are planned in September. The Moroccan RC President of the Health Commission has been closely involved with the Ministry of Health in developing a Training Framework for Relief Health. A working group was created to work, review and develop a curriculum for the training of trainers. The modules are now ready. A project plan of action was established and three Moroccan RC program officers were selected to conduct specific modules of the programme.
- Egyptian RC, having faced several emergency crises (Population Movement on Gaza border, terrorist attacks in Cairo) is also reinforcing its Emergency Health Capacity.

Psycho-Social Support Programme (PSP)

➤ **Advanced PSP curriculum is worked out in two of the five countries and Training of Trainers is organized. Training material is made available in French and Arabic**

- Egyptian RC has been supporting the finalization of the PSP Training Manual through the secondment of one of its staff to the Regional Office for Middle East. The National Societies has expressed their interest to better integrated PSP in Disaster Management activities, in Health activities (accompanying children affected by blood diseases and their families in the hospital). A PSP training targeting nurses is planned in the second half of the year. The society has established some PSP intervention team and is deploying them when crisis occur.
- Algeria: The programme linked to the psycho-social support provided to women and children affected by violence, continues to be implemented with ICRC. As the situation and the security are improving in Algeria, it is envisaged to capitalize on this strong network of psychologists, health workers and to establish some links to the Disaster Management activities integrating PSP as a component of it. A stress management manual was developed in 2004 for the rescuers and PSP module is now used in the First Aid and Road Safety activities.
- Morocco: Moroccan RC has developed its strategy and is planning to integrate PSP into its main Community Based activities (Health, Relief, Social Welfare, Emergencies, Road Safety, etc.). The programme is targeting Moroccan RC staff and volunteers as well as the vulnerable people affected by a crisis, a disaster or by a disease (HIV/AIDS). *(Document is available upon request at the regional office for North Africa)*

➤ **Active networking in place and assistance to the communities is provided to better prepare populations to cope with stress and reduce risks (integration of PSP activities within disaster preparedness activities, health components)**

- February: Finalisation of the Arabic version of the psycho social support manual - active participation of Morocco and Egyptian RC to adapt the manual to the cultural aspects of the region. The working group (Qatar, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Morocco, Egypt and United Arab Emirates) has concluded on some general recommendations, outlining on a better promotion of PSP through the youth camps, on the importance of national societies coordination and knowledge/experience sharing. Suggestions were made for future modules (Crisis management: PSP in disasters; PSP in ongoing crisis; PSP needs assessment, impact assessment and topics for vulnerable groups (adolescents, drug addicted, pregnant ladies, prisoners, burnout volunteers).
- Financial contribution from the Regional Office to the French translation of the PSP Manual by the Danish PSP Reference Centre. The French version will be sent to the Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian RC.
- DM integrated approach, VCA, Road Safety, First Aid, HIV/AIDS programme *(Please refer to the DM section)*

Community based social projects

- **The Red Crescent in Algeria, in Egypt, in Morocco have reinforced their existing programme, initiated new ones, thus reaching an increased number of vulnerable people through their integrated community services**
 - Algerian RC:
 - Opening of 4 new community centres and 11 training centres in the Wilayas affected by the earthquake, vocational training will be provided from September on Broidery, sewing, computers; reinforcing the existing activities at community level, offering to the people possibility to develop their capacities and generate income.
 - Opening of a first Algerian RC Health Centre in Constantine: the Centre offers medical services to the poorest families, providing psychological support to children affected by violence. The PSP cell is also available for women, handicapped and sick people. The Centre is also equipped with a small pharmacy. It is planned to develop it as a HIV/AIDS free and anonymous Screening centre.
 - Summer camps and preparation of school programmes: every summer, the Algerian RC organises on coastal cities summer camps and “Beach for all” for children coming from poor families all over Algeria. This year, the Regional Office, together with French RC, has continued to support the program mainly for children who were affected by the 2003 earthquakes. These children are also benefiting from a special support for school programs (books, clothes, etc.)
 - Health assistance in Airports: For the pilgrimage campaign, the Algerian RC volunteers, in coordination with the authorities (Ministry of Religious Affairs), are assisting the pilgrims in the several airports of the country, at departure and return time.
 - During the winter 2005, the Algerian RC has been assisting 2,478 families affected in 35 provinces by the climatic changes. The assistance was provided through a crisis cell in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior (Civil Defence), and MoH services. 1226 homeless people were taken in charge by Algerian RC, as well as 855 persons rescued on the roads. 35 tonnes of food parcels were distributed as well as clothes and shoes.
 - Egyptian RC:
 - Zeinohm Projects (relocation of poor families from the slum areas). With the completion of phase 2/A, Egyptian RC has re-located 522 families into 44 new buildings. In September, it is planned to complete phase 2/B with the construction of 29 additional buildings.
 - Within the frame of the Partnership with UNICEF, Egyptian RC is developing programmes for vulnerable children in the cities of Ennahdha and Halouène focusing on:
 - Fight against female circumcision through awareness programs for families, psycho-social support and health promotion programs. 4,000 families were sensitized, hoping to influence on behaviour and traditional custom
 - Prevention programmes targeting children at risk, taking charges of the health, social, educative and economic aspect. So far, 965 children were treated
 - Egyptian RC is also intervening to protect children at work, delivering health, social and educative assistance, as well as looking for better working conditions for these children. 550 cases were registered
 - Implementation of projects in Partnership with key actors in the civil society
 - Project for Blind people, advisory work of the Egyptian RC teams to the families to orientate them to adequate health, specialized and social services, development of small projects meant to support their social re-integration in the society. The Egyptian RC volunteers are participating to community awareness campaigns.
 - Involvement of the Egyptian RC in community environmental project in cooperation with Sawyers social services. The project aims at providing work to young people but also to sensitize the communities on environmental issues.

- Moroccan RC:
 - Continues to support women and young people through their vocational centres both in urban and rural areas. This programme is now reinforced with the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Education on the 8th of May.
- **Profile and public image of Red Crescent are raised and improved among local communities**
 - Through the development of new partnerships, the growth of RC programs, following an increased visibility during disasters crisis, the North African National Societies have raised their profile and became closer to the large number of communities at risk.
 - The participation of communities initiated through the VCA programme had an evident impact on the image of the RC among the community (*please refer to DM section*).
 - The North African Red Crescent Societies, with the support of the Regional Office, are also developing better tools and mechanisms to communicate, clarify their role to their partners, slowly building on Information units and developing communication strategy. The partnership with local media is better understood and developed, contributing to raise the profile of the local committee.
 - The celebration of national, regional and international days is used as opportunities for the Red Crescent to advocate on behalf of the Movement for the vulnerable communities.

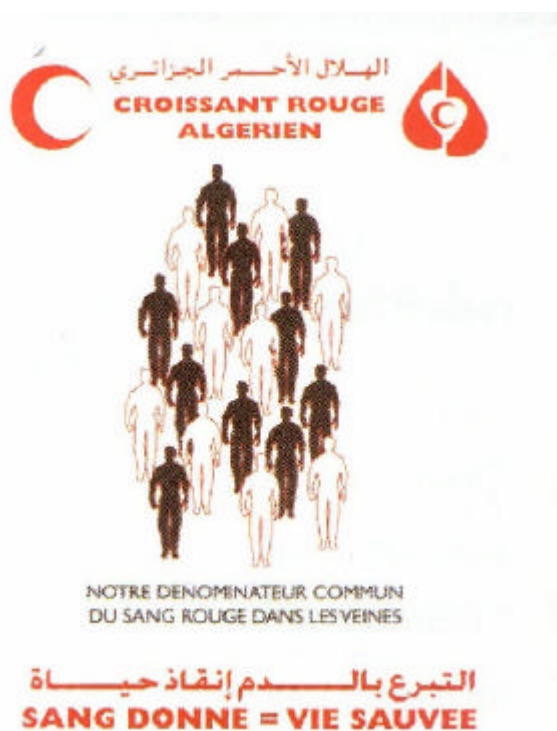
➤ **Others:**

❖ **Participation of Egyptian RC to a national campaign against tobacco addiction in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.**

The campaign was launched on 28 March and will end on 31 December 2005. 108 Egyptian RC youth volunteers are involved in this campaign, playing an active role in increasing public awareness. Through peer education activities, 400,000 children (Age: 7-12 years old) of Cairo primary schools are targeted.

❖ **Celebration of the World Blood Donor Day (June 14, 2005)**

Algerian, Tunisian and Egyptian RC have once more demonstrated their solidarity and contribution to economic development and overall welfare and security of the societies at large. This action is clearly linked to the other priority programmes supported by these societies (health promotion, reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases).



The Algerian RC is supporting the non-remunerated blood donation campaigns through the production of posters, leaflets and promotional materials increasing the visibility of the National Society

- Algeria: the Algerian RC is regularly organizing large blood donation campaigns in the country to promote the non-remunerated donations. The communication unit of the Society is supporting the campaigns through the production of posters, leaflets and promotional materials increasing the visibility of the Algerian RC
- Egyptian RC has been focusing this year on targeting new donors from youth, increasing the public awareness locally about blood donation and how to lead a healthy lifestyle and protect from blood diseases. Egyptian RC youth volunteers were mobilized in several branches, as well as the RC Blood Bank staff. Open days were organized in the Blood Bank to the public. A ceremony for awarding blood donors to organizations supporting the blood donation campaigns was organized. A "Thank you song" was composed for blood donors and to encourage others. A TV spot, radio pot were produced as well as posters, fliers distributed in open public

spaces, youth and women associations. The regional Office has complemented this operation largely funded by Egyptian RC.

- Tunisia: Tunisian RC has mobilized its volunteers to participate in public events in several cities. A Press release was communicated to the media (Newspaper, radio interviews and TV). A workshop was organized with the main partners involved in Blood collection: Ministry of Health, NGOs to discuss national policies and strategies. Open days were organized to sensitize the public and to prepare the large Blood collection campaign organized on 24 June in one of the largest shopping malls of Tunis. The Regional Office contributed to the organisation of the workshop with the Partners and the production of material in French and Arabic.

Disaster Management

Goal: The National Societies in North Africa have contributed to reducing the vulnerability, and increasing the capacity of populations living in high risk areas

Objective: The North African Red Crescent Societies have strengthened their position as key humanitarian actors in disaster management to prevent and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable communities

Progress/Achievements

➤ Human resources:

Disaster management structures have been established in Tunisia and Egypt to implement plans of action and coordinate DM activities

Both National Societies opted to continue with the structures which were previously in place, where Tunisia nominated a disaster management focal point in 2004, and Egypt has a disaster response director who has been managing the disaster management programme for several years. Both persons have been actively involved in organising training (Tunisia) and related activities, as well as response operations (Egypt) during the period under review. While in the case of Egypt, the DM workshop which was scheduled for March was postponed until later in the year.

Disaster Management capacity of national society staff and volunteers has increased, and at least two national intervention teams developed (Tunisia and Algeria);

A National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop was held in Algeria in April. This led to the training of twenty five persons, and the identification of the modalities for supporting the team during its future operations. Specialised trainings (in Sphere, Telecommunications, Logistics, etc) have also been planned as a follow up to this workshop. Since the training, a duty list has been established where each month a committee (with back-up from the national headquarters) is responsible for organising the response to any emergencies, as well as to alert other committees if additional support is needed. The committee on duty is also charged with the responsibility to organise simulation exercise to test its response procedures. During the month of May, the Committee which was on duty (Tialet) responded to an explosion at a petrol station, and organised an exercise which simulated the collapsing of a building. The members of the NIT have also been assigned additional tasks, in order to further develop the disaster management mechanism of the National Society.

➤ Policies and planning:

Contingency plans have been formulated in Tunisia and Algeria and harmonized with their respective national disaster preparedness plans

No further work was done on the plan which was developed in 2004. In the case of Algeria, this process will begin shortly, with a working group comprising members of the NIT and the newly appointed Disaster Management Coordinator. The process will also be aided by the template which is being finalised by some members of the group of DM Delegates (of which the Regional DM coordinator is a member), as part of a global effort to streamline and improve contingency planning, led by the Operations Support Department in Geneva.

Tunisian, Moroccan and Egyptian RC have clarified their role with regard to their Government disaster plan

In April, a meeting was held with all the Tunisian agencies and ministries whose terms of reference relate to disaster management, in order to continue the dialogue regarding the role of the Tunisian Red Crescent in the national disaster plan, using the integrated community disaster management project as a base. The outcome was positive, but it is too early to determine the impact of these discussions on the role of the National Society in future emergencies. Other opportunities were also used to continue the discussion, including the International Service of Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) workshop which was hosted by the Tunisia Antenna Office (managed by the Director General of Civil Protection) in late April.

The Moroccan RC, whilst not receiving a formal definition of its role, continues to enjoy the results of its successful response to the Al Hoceima earthquake operations, and subsequent activities. Supported by the Regional Office and the various sister National Societies which are funding rehabilitation projects, the National Society finds itself in a very favourable position with the authorities at national and local levels. The community project which the MRCS is implementing with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) has also been an effective advocacy tool, as it adds another dimension to the work of the National Society, whilst increasing awareness of the authorities and the local population about the capacity and capability of the National Society.

In the case of the Egyptian RC, there were no new developments. It is hoped that the disaster management training and subsequent activities will provide the basis for this discussion.

➤ Mapping and programming:

National Societies have increased their mastery of VCA tools, and studies have been conducted in Algeria and Libya

VCA training workshops were conducted in Algeria and in February, and for the northern regions of Morocco in May. A staff from the Moroccan Red Crescent co-facilitated the Algerian workshop, where twenty persons were trained. Following on from the training, the six Wilayas (Oran, Skikda, Chlef, Alger, Ouargla and Annaba) which participated in the training will be carrying out VCA studies. At the same time of the workshop, a study commissioned by the Ministry of the Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) identified these Wilayas as the most risk-prone, and announced that risk assessment would be undertaken during the year. This was very timely, as it offered the opportunity for the VCA activities of the Red Crescent to be undertaken as part of a bigger initiative. The Morocco training saw the participation of twenty five volunteers from the regional committees, including Al Hoceima. Work is now underway to finalise plans of action to implement VCA studies in the coming months. Work on VCA studies also continued in Tunisia during the first half of the year. These workshops bring the number of persons who have been trained since last year to 145.

➤ Tools and systems:

Logistical and relief systems of the Libyan, Moroccan, Algerian and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies have been improved

Logistics training were conducted in Morocco and Algeria during this reporting period, bringing the number of persons who have been trained since last year to 68; some of whom received advanced training, and will be able to conduct further trainings (both within their countries, and in the region), as well as organise this aspect of future response operations as the need arises.

North African National Societies have been made fully aware of available Federation disaster management tools and mechanisms (Emergency appeals, emergency response units (ERU), field assessment coordination team (FACT), reporting, media management)

All of these tools were presented, used and/or explained to the National Societies as the opportunities arose. In Algeria, the participants of the NIT workshop were introduced to these mechanisms and procedures during the training, and this was very well received. Some participants who had prior experience, having been involved in the Boumerdes earthquake response or the earlier Bab el Oued operation, received clarification on the different tools and procedures. The Kelibia Committee of the Tunisian RC was introduced to the Disaster Relief Emergency

Fund (DREF) and related procedures in the aftermath of the tornado which affected the committee late last year, and the assistance which was given to the persons who were affected in the post-emergency phase.

The Algerian, Egyptian and Libyan Red Crescent Societies continue to support international appeals which are launched by the Secretariat. The Algerian RC launched an appeal to raise funds for the countries ravaged by the tsunami, while the Egyptian RC sent in kind donations amounting to 300,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately CHF 63,000) to Indonesia and Sri Lanka in January, in collaboration with the ICRC which handled the packing and transport of the items. Another shipment valued at 900,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately CHF 189,000) was sent between January and February in coordination with the Egyptian government. A cash donation of 100,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately CHF 21,000) was sent to The Maldives in February. In addition to these donations, the National Society sent medical supplies to the tune of 800,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately CHF 168,000) to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Disaster Management material and publications have been made available in Arabic and French to concerned national societies;

The dissemination of disaster management materials in these languages continued during this review period. All the training workshops and related events were used to this end. In addition, Sphere handbooks were procured and distributed to the members of the Algerian RC's NIT during the aforementioned training. Additional handbooks were recently purchased and sent to Morocco and Algeria RC, in preparation for training workshops in the summer. Training packs are also being purchased for use in training of trainers' workshops in both National Societies.

- **Community based disaster reduction projects have been designed to integrate social aspects (first aid, psychological support, educational programmes) and implemented in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt**

The Egyptian RC continued the implementation of its projects in support of vulnerable populations in Cairo and other areas. In the case of Morocco and Algeria, the SDC project which began in 2004 continues to have positive impacts. The Algerian Red Crescent developed a Teachers' Guide, and printed additional brochures to continue its public education activities, with a focus on children. Additionally, a Stress Guide for Rescuers was developed for use by personnel from any organization or institution. All these activities were carried out in collaboration with various ministries and agencies, as well as academia. The National Society also undertakes these activities in collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross, which began work on earthquake awareness as part of its Boumerdes earthquake rehabilitation project.

The Moroccan RC has also made steady progress in this area, as the Beni Mellal and Casablanca Committees carried out VCA activities in vulnerable communities during the past six months. These studies, both of which will be concluded early Summer, will provide the basis upon which sensitisation activities, as well as advocacy with local authorities on behalf of vulnerable groups will be based. Recently, as part of the focus group sessions which were carried out in the VCA study in Beni Mellal and Azilal, Morocco, some 500 women, some of whom are heads of households, received packages of basic food items instead of the usual snacks which they would have received during focus groups sessions. The decision was made to organise this distribution with the funds which were allocated for the refreshments for the focus groups, as it was seen to be more beneficial to help these women to provide a meal for their families. The regional committee also distributed some items of clothing to these persons. The booklet on earthquake awareness (for use in sensitisation activities, particularly among children) which is being developed by the Ministry of the Environment, Water and land Management in collaboration with the Moroccan Red Crescent is nearing completion.

Impact

In general, the activities of the past six months have had a positive impact on the National Societies within the region. In addition to continuing the development of the disaster management capacities of the National Societies and vulnerable communities, the programme activities have led to an increase in the image of the National Societies, away from the traditional perception of givers of relief, to a pro-active entity, which provides a holistic service to its target population. The National Societies have also increased their contacts with their partners at the national level, from government ministries and agencies, to civil society organisations and academia. Partnership with the United Nations system and the private sector were also further cemented. The sharing of experience between and among the National Societies have also seen a marked improvement during this reporting period,

where there was greater openness to using the skills of personnel from neighbouring National Societies to support activities. The work undertaken by the National Societies during the past six months has also continued to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Constraints

In spite of the above, the programme experienced some difficulty, which impacted on the further achievement of the pre-established goals. Some activities were postponed until the next quarter due to other pressing matters to which the National Societies had to attend and the structure in the National Societies, where things are highly centralised, and communication does not always flow in an efficient manner. In the case of Libya, things have not advanced, due to structural problems in the National Society. In some instances, the processes in some National Societies, such as Algeria and Morocco, were not possible, as they are contingent upon the work of the government, which has taken much longer than what was originally anticipated.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Community concern and responsibility for the most vulnerable is better understood through greater respect and improved mutual understanding and better tolerance

Objective: Promotion of the Movement's Principles and Humanitarian Values are part of all Red Crescent programmes and activities and are adequately supported through an effective communication and information strategy

Progress/Achievements

Workshop on Principle and Values in Morocco and planned in Tunisia (Refresher course), Egypt and Algeria

➤ **Communication and Information skills of staff are improved**

- Bi monthly publications are edited by the unit. The unit is also in charge of preparing Press release, interview, Press Conferences as well as designing and producing, in close collaboration with the Programme Officers, all Algerian RC material (leaflet, posters, books, promotional material). Workshop for the national information officer network was successfully organized and funded by the Algerian RC. This "semi" structure has proved to be very efficient at time of disaster, speeding the information collection.
- Moroccan RC has not yet identified an Information/Communication focal point to support the Secretary General in building a Moroccan RC strategy to coordinate the team of regional information officer working in the branches. No planning or common information approach is yet in place despite the willingness of the branches to be better supported and guided in this specific area. A to days Principle and Value workshop was organized in April, focusing on the global action against discrimination within the community. The third day was dedicated to the technical approach dealing with the organization of an Anti Stigma Campaign and with the Media as associating them as partners in the development of the campaign.
- Tunisian RC has nominated an information focal point to support the Secretary General to build an internal but also external communication strategy. The Focal point selected is a RC volunteer, a well known journalist working in the main Tunisian newspaper. An Information workshop was planned in May but had to be postponed at a later stage.
- Regional Meeting: A second meeting of the information officers in MENA in Abu Dhabi (28-30 May). The five NSs have attended the workshop through their focal points or in the case of Morocco through the Secretary General. The objective was to activate and reinforce the MENA network, establishing strong mechanisms to better share information and interact between National Societies. Plans of actions were developed and commitments were taken by the National Societies to strengthen their national network. As a result, Libyan RC, Algerian RC and Egyptian RC have planned national in country workshops for the second half of the year.

- **National Society websites are supported or upgraded in two societies at least**
 - Egyptian RC has launched their new website earlier this year. www.egyptianrc.org
 - Tunisian & Moroccan RC are in the process of finalizing their website
 - The information and Communication Unit of the Algerian RC has undertaken a review of their already effective website and are in the process of reinforcing it.
- **National Societies participate to the Federation common platform - FedNet**
 - FedNet Training was provided in 2004, however no focal point, or FedNet editors were designated yet by the North African NS.
- **Federation is supporting the provision of standardized material for advocacy and supports NS initiatives**
 - Standardized material for celebration of Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) days: the regional office is sharing and discussing the importance of presenting ourselves as Movement and therefore to adopt a common position especially at the time of celebration of RC/RC days when advocating on behalf of the vulnerable. In most cases, National Societies are very much appreciative of the effort of Media Department providing Press release, Federation positions, RC/RC day celebration package and are using this material increasingly, adapting it to their local environment. An exception was this year with the theme of the HIV/AIDS campaign, which was massively rejected in the Muslim context.

RC World Days		Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Water Day	Regional Country	Tunis	22/03					x
World Tuberculosis Day	Regional Country	Morocco	24/03				x	
World Health Day	Regional Country		07/04	x	x	x	x	x
RC/RC Day ¹	Regional Country		08/05	x	x	x	x	x
World Blood Day	Regional Country	Tunis	21/06	x	x			x

- Development of regional campaigns: the regional Office has initiated on May 8^h a regional campaign recognizing and promoting the role of the Red Crescent volunteers. The first poster was used in Morocco for the RC/RC Day; the second one will be used for the celebration of the World Youth Day in Tunisia. Additional one will be prepared for the First Aid Day, the Risk Reduction Day, and the World Aid Day. On 2 December, an exhibition will be presented for the celebration of the World Volunteer Day. Posters are produced in French and in Arabic. The slogans selected are referring to Humanitarian Values: to the concept of dignity, respect, tolerance, assistance, non-discrimination outlining the Red Crescent specificity, added value versus other partners. The model was shared between the three francophone Red Crescent Societies. Each Society can change the photo but keep the model and the key messages. The Arabic version will now be shared with Libyan and Egyptian RC.

Impact

Profile of North African NSs are raised, visibility increased and public perception is slowly changing following the shift National Societies in North Africa are operating. An important work remains to be done, especially at branch level. This work will be facilitated once the National Societies will have defined and adopted a strategy and approach.

¹ The five Red Crescent were very active in the celebration of May 8, mobilizing their volunteers, their youth in several type of activities (First Aid, promotion of the humanitarian values, workshops on International Humanitarian Law, social welfare programs, promotion of youth and voluntary work). Celebrations were organized at central and branch level. The RC/RC day was perceived as an opportunity to strongly advocate on behalf of the vulnerable in the community. Many partners were closely associated to the celebration as well as Media (Press, Radio, TV). Full report is available upon request at the regional office.

Constraints

Although most of the NS Leaders have recognized the need and the importance of a better communication and opening on the public, RC structures and good planning are not yet in place to ensure an efficient and cost effective work in this specific area.

Organisational Development

Goal: Well functioning national societies in North Africa are contributing to the civil society through an efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision regarding their role

Objective: Capacities, structures and systems are reinforced in the Red Crescent Societies to support effective, focused and responsive programme implementation

Progress/Achievements

- **At least two national societies are reviewing their operational structures and start the process of re-defining roles, function and responsibilities at all levels**
 - **Algerian RC:** Since January, an Interim Board Committee is preparing the General Assembly planned for September 2005. Regional Assemblies are held at local level, reviewing their composition and proceeding to the election of the Regional Board Members as to ensure an adequate representation at a statutory level. The Society is also taking this opportunity to review and amend their existing statutes. The last important revision was made in 1994. Since the last 10 years, the role and responsibilities of the Algerian RC have changed, evolved and recently have been increased, according to the country context but also to the international environment. This coming revision is meant to reflect the willingness from the NS to operate an alignment with the Strategy 2010, to revitalize the role of the Commissions, to clarify the respective role of the Governance and the Management and to provide a solid basis for organizational development, for a change process. A need to review the internal rules and procedures, to re-work the National Society organization chart, to support more effectively the branch was identified since the last two years. The preparation of the Algerian RC Program and Plan of Action, the amendments to the statutes will allow the General Assembly to effectively fulfil its mandate, to define the objectives to be reached for its next mandate and to validate the operating team in charge of the implementation of the programs. Those revised statutes will determine a new accountability structure within the organization and contribute to creating the enabling environment for successful capacity building. The process in the field has been taking longer than expected, however, a good support came from the Members recognizing the importance of the Capacity Building component planned for the Branches.
 - **Tunisian RC:** A Program Support Department was established officially in January 2005, taking into consideration the Development Plan of the Society, the needs of the community, the constraints faced and the internal/external trends within the civil society. Since the last few years, the Tunisian RC has increased the number of its programs and partners augmenting the workload. It became necessary to adapt the structures to carry on the Tunisian RC work according to its partner's standards. A national department was created at Tunisian RC Headquarters to sustain the implementation of the priority programs defined by the Board, providing to the Branches and local committee an adequate and effective support. The Department is responsible to monitor the progresses and evaluate the results against objectives assigned. At the same time, a mapping exercise is conducted. A Database will be established to record in country Tunisian RC activities and to reflect the Human Resources available, and their capacity, their needs. On basis of this analysis, the existing structures are to be reviewed and recommendations made to improve the program management. A Capacity Building Plan is to be worked out to capitalize on the RC network of volunteers and to maximize the use of their competences. The Regional Office is seeking additional funds to support this important process, taking into consideration the Tunisian RC financial situation. Funding made available to the Society is mainly earmarked for programs' costs.



North Africa Leaders meeting was held in Morocco in mid June with the participation of the representatives from the Federation and five North African National Societies. Regional issues and regional declarations were on the top of the agenda.

North Africa Leaders Meeting was held in Morocco on 16-17 June with the participation of the President of the Federation, the Presidents and Secretaries General of the five North African National Societies, the Representative of the Arab RC Secretariat, the MENA Department, and the Regional Office. The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss regional issues, follow up on regional declarations (Manama, Cairo, Algiers), to review existing (Regional and Emergency Appeals) and future planning (2006-2007). A theme focussing on “Organizational Development linked to legal base” was selected for the meeting as to open the floor on North Africa regional issues.

- Since the last few years, most of the Red Crescent are in the process of re-positioning themselves within their civil society. It was therefore important to acknowledge the efforts made by the Federation to support the RC societies through the development of tools and mechanisms in order to be more effective in a changing context.
 - Danish Red Cross was invited to present their Partnership project with sister National Societies in the MENA Region. The overall objective of this Partnership program is to strengthen civil society by enabling National RC societies to increase their participation, transparency in order to allow them to fulfil their mandates by empowering local communities to address vulnerabilities, alleviate human suffering and decrease social tensions. The aim will be to engage with national societies who have ambition to change and develop to increase their impact for the vulnerable of the region. The approach is two-fold: a “bottom-up” approach focussing on mobilization of volunteers and involvement of communities, combined with a “top down” approach increasing legitimacy and accountability through reforms piloted by the leadership.
 - Dr Zabarrah, Secretary General of Yemen Red Crescent, was invited to share his experience with the Danish Partnership Program and presented the change process initiated by his Society, outlining the positive and critical aspects of the process as well as the environment in which the project is being developed.
 - Margarita Moreno, from the Secretariat Legal department, presented the tools and the mechanisms developed by the Secretariat to support the National Societies in this important exercise.
- **Skills of Red Crescent staff and volunteers are reinforced in planning, project management, financial management and reporting**
- The priority of the Regional Office, building on the previous achievements, is the development of the Capacity Building Plan by North African National Societies. The work prepared for 2005 was reviewed and adjusted according to existing resources and capacity of each National Societies. The exercise proved to be useful and outlined the needs for developing a multi year plan.

Regional/Country workshops supported by the Regional Office for North Africa in 2005

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Prog.	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Leadership Course	OD	Regional	Amman	15-19/05		X (1)			X (1)
MENA Youth Conference	Regional	Damas	08-13/06		X (2)	X(2)	X(2)	X(2)	
RC/RC Basic Training Course	OD	Regional	Teheran	28/05-01/06		X (1)	X (1)		

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Prog.	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
VCA / SDC	DM	Country	Algeria	13-16/02	X (25)				
VCA / SDC	DM	Country	Morocco	24-27/02				X (25)	
MENA DM Coordinators Planning Meeting	DM	Regional	Amman	05-07/03		X (1)			
SDC Project Meeting	DM	Country	Tunisia	02/04					X (25)
NIT Workshop	DM	Country	Algeria	08-17/04	X (25)				
Logistics training	DM	Country	Morocco	30/04-02/05				X (25)	
VCA workshop	DM	Country	Morocco	12-15/05				X (25)	
SDC Materials Development workshop	DM	Country	Tunisia	23-24/05					X
Logistics workshop	DM	Country	Morocco	27-29/05				X (25)	
Logistics workshop	DM	Country	Morocco	10-12/06				X (25)	

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Prog.	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Anti Stigma/ Discrimination workshop	P&V	Country	Morocco	13-15/04				X (25)	
NS Info Officers Meeting	P&V	Regional	Abu Dhabi	28-30/05	X (1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Prog.	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
MENA PSP working group	Health	Regional	Qatar	05-07/02		X (2)		X	
PSP Training for NIT	Health	Country	Morocco	07-09/03				X (25)	
ToT First Aid Workshop	Health	Country	Egypt	05-08/04		X (25)			
CBFA Senior ToT workshop p	Health	Regional	Egypt	24-29/04	X (2)	X(4)	X (2)	X(2)	X(2)
UNAIDS Meeting	Health	Regional	Tunisia	27/05	X (1)				X (1)

<u>Other Conferences / Trainings</u>		Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Global Health and Care Forum	Health	GVA	11-13/05	X (1)			X (1)	
Public Health in Complex Emergencies training	Health	Thailand	09-21/05		X (1)			

➤ **Youth and Volunteer management are reinforced and better integrated in the program planning and implementation (Disaster Management and Community Health)**

- **Egyptian RC:** Egyptian RC, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth, has been participating to some international exchange programmes. Fifteen young people were selected from the Egyptian RC youth clubs to join other youth delegations for travelling abroad. During the reporting period, Egyptian RC youth section were active in many social and awareness campaigns (Celebration of RC days, Tobacco addiction, Polio campaigns. For details, please refer to the Health Section),
- **Tunisian RC:** Following the Volunteers workshop organized in December 2004 with national key partners, a one-day workshop was organized by one Partner to focus on Volunteer management and the challenges faced in the country. Findings and recommendations were made and will form the basis for future developments and sessions.
- **Moroccan RC:** As a result of the information sharing with the UNDP Morocco Office on the celebration of the Volunteers international day (December 2004: workshop organized jointly with UNDP Tunisia), Moroccan RC has been closely involved with Morocco UNDP Office on a country analysis focusing on the concept of Volunteers, its legal basis in Morocco and a mapping of the organizations involved with volunteers. A report will be completed and presented in July. The next step will be to work together with the main partners on formulating a plan to define better the role and responsibilities of the volunteers but also the role, responsibilities and obligations of the organizations using volunteers.
- **Regional meeting:** In June 2005, 11 Youth Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in MENA came together for a youth meeting (Syria, 8-13/06). The main achievements of the meeting are the establishment of an active regional youth network with an effective and committed coordinating committee (Egyptian RC representative will represent North Africa RCs) and the definition of a Plan of Action following up on the Manama Declaration and recommendations, to strengthen programmes and structures in the region. For the celebration of the international youth day, National Youth coordinators were asked to organize a two days workshop to debrief on the MENA Youth strategy, and finalize their own plan of action and monitoring mechanisms.
- In March, the Regional Office organized a meeting in Tunis with the Secretariat Head of the Archive Department, Moroccan RC Archivist and the Algerian RC Program Officer to discuss the possibility to develop a Human Resource database for North Africa National Societies. Algerian RC has been developing several databases for their programmes (Family links, Psycho Social Support {network of psychologist, social workers, nurses, etc.}). Databases for First Aid volunteers, and people trained are currently under development. Sharing of experience, expertises were useful. It was recommended to envisage a National Society central database which could host several sub-programmes and support pilot branches to start with. A company has been identified in Algeria to develop the product. A proposal will be prepared and shared with the North Africa NSs for their approval and validation.

➤ **Development of strong branches as key to the national societies ability to respond to needs is fostered**

Programme is defined as a priority by the National Societies however little progress was made on the development of country plan of actions. The Regional Office, together with the support of the organisational development (OD) Continental Unit based in Amman has agreed with the NSs on the following plan: Movement induction course for the Branches (Governance, staff and volunteers), Training of NS Trainers on the Governance Training, Advanced Governance Training and development of a Capacity Building package to support Program Management and to reinforce the Branch staff skills and competences. Due to the limited resources and NS structures and the several relief operations mobilizing most of NSs' staff, the program was regularly delayed. It is still planned to start as soon as possible and the objective will remain valid for 2006-2007.

➤ **National societies are benefiting from financial transparency and accountability and Donor's confidence is increased**

National Societies are increasingly trained, coached on Donor's requirements, on Federation financial rules and procedures. Depending on the National Capacity to manage and report financially on Donor's programme, the Federation is proceeding to operational working advances or direct transfers to National Societies. Operational and financial audits are organized for large operations, analysing findings and providing the basis for NS plan of action to improve in weak areas. The exercise has proven to be fruitful. Governments are also aligning their rules and their procedures on the on International standards and requirements, putting indirect pressure on their partners to comply with their rules.

Impact

National Society leaders are increasingly aware of the importance and the needs to revisit their working structures. Reforms are initiated to bring some changes and to fix immediate problems. Efforts are made to find creative solutions to adapt, streamline the structures within the NS capacity and resources; to revise NS statutes linking organisational development to legal bases, to re-work national strategies and plans. Another significant impact is the pressure put by the local Branches on Headquarters to be better supported, to benefit better from the RC/RC Movement support but also better involved in the overall management process. This new approach, resulting from regional or international exposure during training (Leadership Training programme, Program training) is also creating within the society an interesting dynamic, breaking the model of RC branches having a large financial and program autonomy and few operational relations with Headquarters.

Constraints

In this transition period, with the growth of the programs, the new partnerships, structures within National Societies are not adapted yet to cope with the additional workload, to support the increasing demand for change. Poor internal communication with the Branch, unclear distinction of the roles between governance and management lead to some resistance to the change process proposed. The change process needed is a long and costly process that most of the Red Crescent cannot afford. Long term funding to support this process is rarely made available or assorted with difficult donor's conditions. Despite a clear opening to partnership and willingness to go through the process, there is still some fear or concern about donor's interference in their own process. The Danish RC presentation on their MENA initiative to support and accompany NSs committed to undertake a change process, during the North African Leaders meeting, was appreciated. It has provided afterwards the floor for queries and clarification. The regional Office will later this year organize in country visit to assess the possibility of developing further cooperation.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: The Red Crescent Societies in North Africa have effective partnerships and alliances enabling them to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable and mobilize support to respond to their needs through effective delivery of programmes and services

Objective: The national societies of North Africa supported by the Federation have strengthened their capacities through a well structured regional cooperation and diversified and effective partnerships within and outside the region and are recognized as strong and reliable partners.

Progress/Achievements

➤ **Good working relations and coordination with partners national societies and ICRC providing bilateral assistance are reinforced in the region**

Very good relations are maintained with the Bilateral National Societies (French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross) through coordination meetings, regular visits, discussions and correspondence. Plans and programs are shared regularly. Once a year, in July, a meeting is organized by the Regional Office with the main partners and operating national societies to review existing programs, to discuss success and challenges and future plans. Cooperation with ICRC Head of Delegation and Cooperation Delegate in Egypt and in Algeria are excellent. Joint planning and program harmonization based on previous and successful collaboration are under development (DM, Health with PSP, CBFA, Information/Communication and OD with Branch Development). The regional ICRC Delegation for Maghreb

based in Tunis is currently having other program priorities. Cooperation is pleasant but no effective collaboration, no program harmonization for Morocco or Tunisia could be put in place for the time being.

- **Regional cooperation between North African Red Crescents is effective and is reflected through joint projects and activities on shared concerns (HIV/AIDS, Road Safety).**
 - HIV/AIDS cross border project jointly implemented by Algerian, Tunisian and Libyan RC in close collaboration with the main in country partners (Ministry of health, HIV/AIDS associations, Scouts, and community Leaders). For details, please refer to the Health section.
 - International Support from the North African Countries to other national societies. Egyptian, Libyan, Tunisian, Moroccan and Algerian RC have actively supported the Tsunami relief operations. Algerian RC has launched a public fund-raising campaign for the victims of the Tsunami Disaster. The funds were transferred to the Federation in response to the Emergency Appeal launched at the beginning of the year. The Society has also supported the population in Iran affected by the earthquake in Kerman and the population affected in Chad. Algerian RC is being requested by their Government to transport humanitarian assistance for affected population in Niger. During the reporting period, Egyptian RC has been supporting affected people in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Maldives, South Korea, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

- **New partnerships are developed by the national societies and funding for selected projects are secured**
 - International Forum of the Global Knowledge on advancing Information Communication technologies (ICT) solutions for the development through cross sector partnerships, in Cairo-Egypt (May 2005). C. Lamb, Federation Special Adviser (International Representation Department), gave a presentation and launched the concept of e-preparedness. Disaster preparedness is as pervasively affected by IT as any other part of life. Effective disaster preparedness depends on the fastest possible communications systems and methods, and this in turn depends on efficient training, good systems for sharing best practice and, very importantly, the ability to modify systems developed centrally to respond to changed needs in special circumstances or areas.
 - Preparation of the 2nd World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) planned in November 2005. To follow up on the ICT field, the Regional Office is actively engaged in the preparation of the WSIS summit, ensuring - with the support of the Secretariat - an adequate representation of the RC/RC Movement. The Federation sees the WSIS and the work now being done as an absolutely essential component for any work towards e-preparedness and the solution of many of the humanitarian challenges identified in the UN Millennium Declaration.
 - Linked to the preparation of the WSIS summit, the Federation was approached in 2004 by the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication (OCCAM), Manager of the Info Poverty Program (5th Conference organized in May 2005). The Plan of Action adopted by the Geneva phase of the WSIS 2003 underlined the needs to connect all communities of the planet by 2015. Information and Communication Technologies can make a crucial contribution to eradicate poverty and help achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Info-Poverty involves the building of understanding and from that links between IT practitioners, community organisations, academics, governments and the private sector. In Tunisia, the Regional Office, and Tunisian RC are working the Info-Poverty counterparts and other partners (Governments, private sector, NGO's, academics) to support the establishment of an ITC village which will demonstrate the value of IT for the reduction of the vulnerability by the time the WSIS convenes². The RC/RC societies, through their volunteers' network, can provide a great contribution promoting awareness of the critical needs, linking these IT sophisticated systems to the communities which bear the brunt of the crisis or disasters. One of the special characteristics of the ICT age in which we now live is that youth have so readily accepted the challenges it poses. The Federation places a high importance on youth involvement in the utilisation of the benefits of the information and communications technology, and the Youth sections in National Societies are playing a lively part in the introduction of the technology to the benefit of the communities in which they live. The Federation looks forward to further analysis of these challenges in Tunis at the WSIS, and plans to

² Full report on the WSIS Infopoverty Village (Borj Touil) is available upon request at the Regional Office

arrange for its delegation to have a very substantial youth involvement, for all the reasons given above.

- UNICEF/Tunisian RC for the vaccination campaign (refer to Health section)
- UNAIDS, Federation, Tunisian RC, Algerian RC (refer to Health section)
- Morocco: Moroccan RC signing of a Convention with Ministry of Education

➤ **Relevant information to external partners is regularly disseminated through websites, RC/RC publications, programme leaflet, Reports, etc.**

RC Regional Conferences & Meetings		Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Arab Secretariat of RC/RC Societies	Regional	Riyadh	15/03	x	x	x	x	x
Partnership Fundraising with private sector	Sponsored by UN agencies	Egypt	05-06/05		x			
MENA Donors Information Meeting	Donors	Regional	GVA	17-18/03 Information meeting organized by MENA Department with the main Donors for MENA programmes				
NA Leaders Meeting	Regional	Morocco	16-17/06	X(2)	X(2)	X(1)	X(2)	X(2)
Preparatory Commission Meeting for the MENA Conference	Regional	Morocco	17/06	X (2)	X(2)	X(1)	X(2)	X(2)

- The Regional Office supported by the North African National Societies has been compiling monitoring reports on the implementation of the Plans and commitments adopted at the several regional conferences (MENA Regional Conference: Manama Declaration, Pan-African Conference: Algiers Plan of Action)
 - Follow up of the Manama Declaration (April). [Please click here to go directly to the document](#)
 - Follow up of Algiers Declaration (1st & 2nd PACT Meeting). [Please click here to go directly to the document](#)

➤ **Status Agreement in Tunisia:** A meeting was held in May with the new person in charge at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Early July, it was informed that the file was completed and was transferred to the Office of the President for the finalization of the decree. In the meantime, the diplomatic visa was renewed to the Head of Delegation for an additional year.

❖ **Others**

- MENA Conference Preparatory Meeting (June 17, 2005). [Please click here to go directly to the document](#)
- MENA Strategic Framework 2006-2010 (June). [Please click here to go directly to the document](#)

[***Please click here to go to the title page and contact information***](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.(s) selected: 01.82/2005

Delegation code(s) selected: 82

PROGRAMME:	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	13,740	0	0	0	0	13,740
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	13,740	0	0	0	0	13,740
Programme Support	11,700	43,875	5,200	0	22,425	0	83,200
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	11,700	43,875	5,200	0	22,425	0	83,200
Personnel-delegates	0	102,420	0	0	0	0	102,420
Personnel-national staff	2,520	18,360	2,520	0	0	0	23,400
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	2,520	120,780	2,520	0	0	0	125,820
W/shops & Training	125,000	410,044	64,900	0	231,736	0	831,680
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	125,000	410,044	64,900	0	231,736	0	831,680
Travel & related expenses	15,000	20,520	4,000	0	27,500	0	67,020
Information	8,727	43,000	0	0	42,112	0	93,839
Other General costs	17,053	23,041	3,380	0	21,227	0	64,701
GENERAL EXPENSES	40,780	86,561	7,380	0	90,839	0	225,560
TOTAL BUDGET:	180,001	675,000	80,000	0	345,000	0	1,280,000