

# 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

11 September 2006

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 185 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA082; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 1,280,000 (USD 1,027,625 or EUR 809,875); Appeal coverage: 88.5 % (*Please click here to go directly to the contributions list available on the website*)

Related Annual Appeal: North Africa Regional Programmes Annual Appeal 2005. For details, please go to the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA082.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA082.pdf)

#### Programme summary

- Morocco: Migrants – Ceuta and Mellilla crisis (September-October)
- Egypt: Sharm El Sheikh explosions (July)
- Morocco: Floods in Eastern Provinces – Tuisset/Boubker (September)
- Avian Flue (Sharing of Federation and ICRC awareness documentation)

#### Health and care

- Global Health Forum (participation of Morocco and Algeria)
- Community Based First Aid Workshops (regional networking, country trainings and activities)
- HIV-AIDS (network, country's training and peer education programs, partnerships)
- Psychological Support (Consensus Meeting, French RC, ICRC, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, PSP European Reference Centre)

#### Disaster Management

- Sphere Training of Trainers in Algeria, Morocco (2 TOT and Follow up workshops (3) at branch level organized in Morocco in December for the branches of Laayoune, Nador and Oujdah)
- Celebration of the World Disaster Reduction Day (October)
- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment process in Morocco (presentation, case study, drama played by MRCS volunteers)

#### Humanitarian Values

- Global Action to reduce discrimination and violence within the community, Workshop in Algeria, (13-14 December), HIV-AIDS Campaigns (Morocco, Algeria)
- Mediterranean Permanent Office Principles and Values workshop (October)
- Celebration of Red Cross/Red Crescent days:
  1. First Aid in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia (September)
  2. Risk Reduction Day (Morocco, Presentation of the VCA process of Casablanca RC Branch projects in presence of UNDP, SDC, Ministry of Environment, Water, Land Management)

3. HIV-AIDS Day (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria)
4. Volunteers Day in partnership with key actors (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) – December
5. Migrants day: Conference on Migration and Religion organized by IOM and Ministry of Moroccan Residents Abroad

#### **Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships**

- MENA Conference Preparatory Meeting (September, December)
- PACT Meeting (September, Tunis)
- FoF Meeting (September, Tunis)
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, November, Tunis)
- WDR Launch in Algeria (October) and in Tunisia (with Ericsson, November, Tunis)
- Preparation of the XXIII General Assembly (Seoul, November)
- Arab Secretariat/Federation/ICRC – regional workshop in Mauritania (December)

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## **Operational developments**

### **➤ Disaster Response**

#### **Egypt**

On July 23, 2005 a series of bomb attacks hit the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El Sheikh, located on the Southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Around 88 people were killed and 124 were wounded by blasts, making the attacks the deadliest terrorist action in the country's history. Majority of dead and wounded casualties were Egyptians. In addition, there were injured and killed foreign visitors from the Czech Republic, France, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, United Kingdom and United States. Within two hours of the explosion, Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) teams (30 youth volunteers, 5 staff members headed by the Chairman of the ERCS Board of South Sinai Branch) were mobilized and participated in the Search and Rescue activities, in close collaboration with the authorities, removing debris, helping survivors, providing them psychological support, and moving bodies. The ERCS Secretary General flew immediately to the site, visited the victims and met with the Governors and various governmental authorities to discuss plan of action for emergency and rehabilitation phase. A joint governmental and Red Crescent Team was organized to assess the situation and to identify the needs for assistance. The Regional Office immediately offered its assistance and kept regular contact with the ERCS Secretary General

and its team as well as with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Head of Delegation based in Cairo. CHF 75,000 was released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Egyptian RC in the assistance of the affected families. Funds were spent to cover the relief assistance provided on the site to the victims and their families, to procure a vehicle for the branch and some relief items (tents, blankets, plastic sheets). The remaining amount (CHF 13,500) was distributed following a survey undertaken by the ERCS as cash support for the families who lost their family providers or to handicapped people. Most of these families were originators from poor communities in Egypt, receiving support from their relatives working in Sharm el Sheikh. In some cases and particularly for the families living in rural areas, it was decided instead of providing cash assistance to procure a buffalo. Full report is available upon request at the Regional Office for North Africa.

### **Morocco**

On September 27, torrential rains which occurred in Tuisset-Boubker, Jerada Province, in the eastern region of Morocco (120 Km from Oujdah), resulted in the damage to traditional houses in the district of Douar Toba. Thirty families, with a total of 171 persons were affected, as their homes were flooded. Fortunately, no deaths resulted from this event. Immediately after the disaster, the local authorities, the Civil Protection and the Moroccan Red Crescent Society (MRCS) combined their efforts in aid of the affected persons. MRCS relief workers were mobilized from the neighboring regions, food supplies and warm clothing was sent from the MRCS Oujda committee to prevent the extreme cold associated with the autumn season. Upon learning of the emergency, the National Headquarters immediately dispatched some 200 blankets from its central warehouse in Skhirat by train, at the request of the coordination committee of Oujda, which was responsible for the needs and damage assessment activities. This committee arose out of the activities which began as part as the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) process which has started in the northern region since May 2005. Persons affected were accommodated in schools. Tents were also erected in the school yard, to ensure shelter for everyone. The Regional Office was in close contact with the MRCS Team, sharing information and providing advices. No DREF allocation was requested by the national society (NS).

#### **➤ Avian Flu**

As a preventive measure and in coordination with the Middle East Regional Health Delegate, Federation documents, guidelines and tools were sent to NS leaders and discussed in the Health meeting, raising the importance of the alert stage and the necessary precautionary measures to be taken with the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and local authorities in their respective countries.

#### **➤ Migrants crisis**

Due to their geographic location, the countries of North Africa have been used as transit points for individuals who were fleeing civil conflicts, wars, or poverty (or any combination of these factors), and were destined for countries in mainland Europe, where migrants hope to find a better life. Oftentimes, the journey could be long and dangerous, with some either dying along the way, or being caught and imprisoned by authorities who have found themselves overwhelmed by this situation, and are not yet to devise on an adequate solution.

In spite of their limited capacity, Red Crescent branches which are located in areas near the transit points (northern Morocco, eastern Algeria) are often called upon by the local authorities, to provide assistance to the detainees. Reports from one Committee in Northern Morocco reveal that volunteers are called on to provide clothing, relief/comfort items to an average of 140 Persons each month.

This situation was exacerbated in summer 2005, with the problem around the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta. Spain is located only 14 Km from the Moroccan coasts and the Spanish enclaves literally represent "Europe in Africa". Despite intensified boarder's controls, tens of thousands of Moroccan, and increasingly other sub-saharan Africans, manage to enter Europe each year. This makes Spain the main entrance to an internally borderless Europe to African immigrants. Although the number of interceptions has dramatically increased in recent years, it is estimated that the majority of migrants reach Spain or Italy due to the professionalisation of smuggling techniques and a diversification and expansion of migration strategies. Also, sub-Saharan immigrants who are deported to Algeria tend to return within a few days.

The Regional Office followed very closely the crisis in Melilla and Ceuta, after the death of several migrants. The local Moroccan Red Crescent Committees received support from national headquarters to deal with the authorities

with the increased number of migrants. MRCS Teams and volunteers were involved in the Transit Centre, in the distribution of food, relief, sanitary items as well as in the organization of transport to the Airport (repatriation process in their country of origin organized by the Moroccan Government together with the embassies of the respective countries). The Regional Office was in close contact with the NS but also with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Office for Migration (IOM) and the European Union (EU) Office. Close consultations were held with ICRC, French and Spanish Red Cross who are concerned by the situation and have expressed their interest to support the MRCS in this area. A joint assessment mission was planned for early October, but was postponed as the NS considered the timing to be unsuitable due to the political sensitivities which were at play during that period. It is evident that the NS was very hesitant, if not reluctant to develop any kind of assistance other than the one requested by the authorities. Nonetheless, there still exists the need to gain a better understanding of the situation, in order to implement sufficient preparedness and response mechanisms, so that the dignity of these persons can be protected. A questionnaire was administered to the National Societies in late 2005 as part of this process. It is also crucial that a coordinated Movement Approach is developed and that the Regional Delegation for West Africa has to be closely associated.

➤ **Internal crisis faced by Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS)**

The National Society is still facing some internal turmoil. An Interim Board Committee (CPD) has been established in January on the decision of the Ministry of Solidarity. Its main tasks are to prepare and convene the General Assembly. The mandate of the CPD was initially limited to three months but had to be extended till the end of the year. An action in court, contesting the validity of the ministerial decision (dissolving the ARCS Governance team and therefore contesting the validity of the temporary CPD) was undertaken by the previous ARCS President in April. Mid-June, a first decision on the "form" was delivered by the National State Council (Conseil d'Etat), suspending all CPD decisions and activities until the final decision of the Council on the content. This decision impacted very much the ARCS programs to be implemented and no General Assembly could be convened considering the circumstances and uncertainties of the situation. Most of the programs were put on hold till the final court decision. Unfortunately, the final decision was not made in 2005.

➤ **Preparation of the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Conference**

The fourth meeting of the Organizational Committee for the 5<sup>th</sup> Red Cross/Red Crescent MENA Conference was held in September. The meeting reviewed the steps taken in preparation for the conference scheduled to meet in 2006, such as programs, budget, themes and workshops. To support the Moroccan RC, a Conference Coordinator was appointed locally in June by the Regional Office to follow up on the practical organization of Conference, to assess the logistical needs, the required capacities and the resources at national society level, to coach and support the MRCS teams as well as to fundraise locally for the Conference. The role of the Coordinator was complementary to the Staff on Loan assigned at the Secretariat to deal with the documentation of the Conference. Another meeting took place in Marrakech on December 19<sup>th</sup> together with the Head of MENA department, the Regional Office Team, and MRCS officials to discuss the final decisions on the Conference arrangements.

## **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**

**The national societies have scaled up their involvement in the HIV-AIDS and youth peer education**

Egyptian RC organized a 4 days workshop gathering 23 participants (13 Social workers, working with delinquent youth and involved with social consultations, 2 social workers working with drug addicts and 8 ERCS youth). The workshop was facilitated by the HIV-AIDS Focal point (AIDS MENA Network) and was supported by some Professors from the Faculty of Nursing, Azhar University, and the Coordinator of the National program of AIDS

control (Ministry of Health). Main topics discussed were the prevalence, modes of infection, treatment, anti-stigmatization and dealing with AIDS positive persons. 2 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were also invited to facilitate a specific session. Another session was focusing on the religious dimensions and its impact. On the monitoring side, a questionnaire was conducted to assess the knowledge of the participants before and after the workshop. Notable difference was recorded. The ERCS youth clubs are also very active working on awareness (development of drama, of role play, of promotional material), advocacy, anti-stigma and on prevention. Regular programs on HIV-AIDS awareness and prevention are continuing through community health and educational projects (Zeinhom, Nahda branches), blood banks, youth clubs, w omen projects.

In the second half of 2005, Moroccan RC started to target new groups. Contacts were taken with owners of factories in the poor urban communities and to offer some awareness programs for the women. The President of the Health Commission decided to place more emphasis on the Youth, fully integrating them in the HIV-AIDS programs, increasing peer educations programs. A three day workshop named "HIV-AIDS and Youth" was organized in the end of November, aiming at mobilizing and empowering youth volunteers in peer education programs (Youth to Youth programs aiming at increasing knowledge and changing attitudes, beliefs and behaviours within the National Society and within the communities in 5 pilot regions (Khemisset, Tanger, Casablanca, Sefrou). A similar workshop "HIV-AIDS/Women" was also organized with MRCS women staff working in 8 different regions (Tanger, Casablanca, Larache, Laayoune, Oujda, Rabat, Fes, Meknes). This workshop was supported by Coca Cola Morocco. This new partnership with Coca Cola was also translated by some activities jointly organized with the Casablanca Branch. The parallel objective was to develop solid regional structures to support HIV-AIDS programs and to complement the MRCS program supported by the Global Fund (GFTAM). Regional teams will be composed of a regional coordinator, 3 youth volunteers and 3 women working at community level.

Algerian RC and Moroccan RC have finalized their first two year programs with the Global Fund for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (GFTAM). Their successful implementation had an impact on the allocation of a second and increased grant to the two Red Crescent Societies. Tunisian Red Crescent Society (TRCS) is associated to the preparation of an application in coordination with other key actors. Moroccan RC is preparing an application for Tuberculosis program to be submitted to the GFTAM.

**Networking and exchange of experiences in prevention of HIV-AIDS are reinforced through a functioning network and increased collaboration between the national societies in the region**

MENA HIV-AIDS Network took place in September 2005 and shared experiences and best practices.

Federation regional HIV-AIDS workshop was organized by the Regional Office in October in Tabarka (Tunisia), gathering the Algerian and Tunisian key players in the field of HIV-AIDS. The objective of the workshop was to reduce vulnerability, spread and impact of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS among mobile populations, with a particular focus on cross border mobility with neighbouring countries. The Regional Office facilitated the harmonization of actions and coordination with the neighbouring countries. The workshop was attended by the Tunisian and Algerian RC staff, representatives from the 4 RC branches on each border of Algeria/Tunisia, the representatives of several ministries (Health, Education, Family planning, Youth, etc.), the representatives of the Scouts Algerian and Tunisian Associations, several Algerian and Tunisian NGOs (including an Algerian NGO working with PLWHA, which is unique in the region and women associations), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) representatives, the Federation Head of Delegation, and the Head of the Permanent office for the Mediterranean RC/RC National Societies. A presentation and a mapping of each partner's activities were made. An assessment of possible actions was made taking into consideration the capacities and the resources of each partner. From this assessment, proposals were made, plan of actions for 2006 were drafted to be discussed within respective institutions and to be submitted to UNAIDS Office. As an immediate commitment, funding was earmarked for the development of micro projects in the provinces concerned. One of the first step was the preparation and the celebration of the World AIDS Day in Sakiet (symbolic and historic location in Tunisia at the border of Algeria), and through the development of a public campaign. The Regional Office supported this action, Tunisian RC organized together with the national HIV-AIDS NGOs and the Family planning a regional event (exhibition, debates at the universities, in schools, in public places, demonstration of First Aid, psychological support activities, dissemination of information, booklet, videos, role play, posters, pins, tee shirts). Some MENA Youth representatives (Palestine, Lebanon, Syrian and Algerian

RC), present in Tunis at the same time for a MENA Youth Network, joined the celebration, while the rest of the group was celebrating the event in Tunis.

A workshop was also planned at the Libyan border, together with Libyan Red Crescent. Unfortunately, there was no response to the proposal made to the Libyan RC

### **Sustained campaigning against discrimination and stigmatization of HIV-AIDS affected people are supported by three to the five societies in the region**

The Regional Office is supporting NSs in 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. Algerian RC, like the last years, launched their annual public awareness and information campaign following the Federation/UNAIDS themes. The communication unit of the Society is very effective in supporting several campaigns through the production of posters, leaflet and promotional material, increasing the visibility of the Algerian RC

Tunisian RC celebrated the World AIDS Day together with the Network of National NGOs working on HIV-AIDS. A "scientific day" was jointly organized on November 30<sup>th</sup> with UNAIDS, inaugurated by the Ministry of Health. Plenary sessions were focusing on knowledge and experience sharing, on the presentation of a study on the Tunisian behaviour and the main axis of the National Strategic Plan. Three working groups were organized to debate on HIV-AIDS/Media, Human Rights and PLWHA, HIV-AIDS/Civil Society. Additional to this day, a series of events such as TV and radio debates were organized with the main NGOs. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, a specific session was organized with the students at the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis, to debate on the role of the Youth in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs. Many activities were organized as well in several TRCS branches.

Moroccan RC has been launching a national Anti Stigma campaign on December 1<sup>st</sup>. HIV/AIDS Leaflet and a series of 4 posters were prepared and sent to the branches together with posters and pins. Key messages were prepared adapting the Federation campaigns to the local context. Activities were planned during the several HIV-AIDS workshops organized in November. Active celebration was noted in several provinces (Tanger, Casablanca, Rabat, Laayoune, Beni Mellal, Al Hoceima, etc.) providing the opportunity for TRCS to raise its advocacy role. In headquarters, a press release was prepared and published in the press. The MRCS Headquarters staff was invited to the workshop organized by UNAIDS with all HIV-AIDS key players in Morocco.

Egyptian RC has actively celebrated the World AIDS Day through meetings held in the ERCS branches (debates on prevention and anti-stigmatization). Competitions were conducted between the youth of the branches for preparing plays, presentations, articles, etc. ERCS Youth clubs were invited for sharing and presenting in a competition some dramas (composed, directed and played by youth volunteers) highlighting keys messages about AIDS and enforcing anti-stigmatization. A Referring Committee of 5 members was created to select and award the winner. Other ERCS structures (community projects, blood banks) were also mobilized to address HIV-AIDS messages.

Together with the NS, the Regional Office has developed a regional campaign focusing on humanitarian values, and on volunteers highlighting the specificity, the added value of the Red Crescent in their proximity work at community level, but also recognizing the work of volunteers. The material (a series of posters, portraits) was used by the three francophone countries.

### **Community Based First Aid/Relief Health**

#### **New community based first aid (CBFA) curricula have been increasingly adopted, used by the concerned national societies and integrated into a disaster preparedness programme.**

Egyptian, Libyan, Moroccan and Tunisian RC CBFA Coordinators attended the Network meeting organized in Abu Dhabi between 20-22 November. The main focus was to put the CBFA into practice as a tool used for health promotion and prevention. Two new modules - War and Mine injury, and Water Safety - were presented and it was agreed to set three new optional modules to be added to the training manual and to be used according to the local communities' needs:

1. Maternity and childhood
2. HIV- AIDS (Tunisian RC is one of the members of the group)
3. Public in Health Emergencies (Egyptian, Libya and Moroccan RC are members of this group)

Among the recommendations made, it was outlined to draw more attention to the accidents and road safety topic, to work on unifying the FA techniques, to emphasize the importance of participatory approach, sharing skills between NS and raise the importance of the volunteer's in the CBFA Program

Egyptian RC organized a CBFA Training of Trainers between 23-26 December, targeting three branches (Alexandria, Port Saïd and Dakahlia) and Headquarters staff. The profile of participants were Basic First Aid instructors. The workshop was also used as an opportunity to brief the participants on the RC/RC Movement and on the additional Disaster Management modules (introduction to field survey and data collection, water safety and land mines, shelter management). Focus was mainly put on psychological support at time of disasters, public health and the revision/updating of the existing FA curriculum.

Following the plan of Action elaborated during the first Network Meeting for the follow up phase at country level, Moroccan RC, between 22-26 December, organised a three days Training of Trainers workshop. 16 MRCS trainers received a regional certification. Some representatives of the Civil Defence, as well as from the Ministry of Health attended the workshop as observers. The workshop focused on the community based approach of First Aid as well as on the three new modules (HIV- AIDS, Road Safety, Psycho-Social Support). On the last days, other key actors in the field of First Aid (NGOs, associations) were invited to a synthetic presentation of the manual and to a debate.

Tunisian RC has presented their country plans and budget. Additional funding is sought for these activities. The TRCS was planning to organize a CBFA Training of Trainers in December but had to postpone it to 2006. Meanwhile, they used the opportunity of a youth meeting to present the newly revised CBFA manual, outline the role the Youth will have to play focusing on prevention, preparedness and capacity building to respond to emergencies and common health problems.

#### **Effective collaboration and experience sharing between national societies have been established through active networking and implementation of cross-border cooperation projects**

The MENA CBFA Network met for the 4th time in November 2005.

Several training courses were facilitated by selected NS staff. A Moroccan RC personnel was sent to Qatar to facilitate a CBFA sub-regional workshop in the Gulf. An Algerian RC trainer facilitated the Sphere training in Morocco. There were similar experiences in the field of Disaster Management and Information/Communication too.

#### **Celebration of the First Aid Day**

The First Aid Day is traditionally very actively celebrated in North Africa, both at the Headquarters and Branch level. Since the last few years, the Regional Office encourages a better planning and organization at the national and regional level, aiming at reinforcing the image of the National Societies in these core areas and delivering a stronger message and commitment at community level. This work is coordinated with the French Red Cross, who is supporting Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian RC on First Aid programs.

The CBFA Manual was used and presented during the celebration of the First Aid Day in September.

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

Road safety is a major challenge in North Africa. Governments are reinforcing their collaboration and coordination with the different partners and actors involved in the Road Safety in the field of prevention. The RC network of volunteers is perceived as the best channel to reach the communities. The Road Safety Module developed in the newly revised CBFA Manual is largely used for this programme, closely linking Road Safety to First Aid Programs. Partnership agreements were signed in Tunisia and Morocco. Road Safety national and regional campaigns are regularly celebrated by the Red Crescent Societies in the region. The Red Crescent Societies are so far well cooperating with their Ministries, local authorities and national associations but are missing their own visibility and needs to develop additional tools and promotional material.

In Tunisia, summer activities were expanded with the Civil Defence Teams and Emergency Health Unit (Road Safety Posts on main coastal cities, on highways), targeting the youth but also Migrants back in Tunisia for holidays and the large flux of tourists from Algeria and Libya. During the last quarter of 2005, awareness and educational programmes targeting kinder garden, school children, students and universities were organized. An agreement was signed by Tunisian RC and the French School for the 2005-2006 scholar year. TRCS volunteers are providing specific awareness sessions on Road Safety. TRCS teams are also facilitating First Aid courses for truck drivers, driving schools staff. On basis of previous TRCS interventions and its positive impact on the audience, a partnership with the local Radio and National TV was developed and has provided the opportunity for TRCS volunteers to raise their profile, to regularly discuss, brief and debate on Road Safety issues with different audiences. The Ministries of Transport and Education have expressed some interest to expand their partnership with the TRCS and support their peer education programs, using the youth network.

In Morocco, the MRCS pilot project was successfully conducted in 8 cities (coastal and touristy cities : Rabat, Casablanca, Fes, Tétouan, Marrakech, Tangier, Oujda, Agadir). 118 MRCS youth volunteers were trained by the National Road Safety Council and participated in schools or in large urban areas where pedestrians are targeted. The volunteers were tasked to disseminate the Road Safety information, to distribute leaflets, posters, assist vulnerable or handicapped persons and advocate for the respect of the Road Safety Rules. New partnership is planned in additional cities. As a consequence, MRCS Branches are increasingly involved and active in Road Safety programs.

In Algeria, no progress was made despite strong interest and request from the authorities.

The preparation of a public Road Safety campaign led by the Regional Office but developed with the Egyptian, Tunisian and the Algerian RC and adapted to the local environment and context could not yet be developed. The Office continues to seek a local sponsor to finance this regional initiative.

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

In Algerian RC, a Sphere training (Training of Trainers) took place in July.

In Moroccan RC, a Sphere training (Training of Trainers) was organized in September; two Relief Health Trainings took place in September to focus on Water Sanitation and Food Management. Two regional Sphere workshops (North and South Regions of Morocco) were conducted by the newly trained trainers.

#### **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**

Along the past years and following the conduction of PSP Workshops on the general aspects of PSP, several brain storming sessions and meetings took place in Egyptian RC in search of formulation of a Plan to implement the PSP program in an integrated way with the current activities and to meet the highest need priority. Consensus on the need of the patients, the caregivers and health care providers of the blood bank services was reached. The idea to initiate a standardized protocol was operationalized by the decision to conduct two workshops for the teams of the 5 blood bank centres in Egypt, managed by ERCS. The cultural needs were considered a priority and a special role play was designed to test the potential methods.

The French and the Arabic versions of the manual was finalized and disseminated to all NSs.

##### **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)**

In terms of integration of PSP and First Aid activities, a joint meeting with the Health and Disaster Management personnel from Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian RC was organized in Tunis to identify practical ways to implement these activities. The meeting was facilitated by a roaster member of the Federation's Reference Centre for Psychological Support. The Health Delegate and the PSP Coordinator from the Amman Regional Office also supported the facilitation of the workshop. The French Red Cross and the ICRC regional and Algerian Cooperation

Delegates also participated in this meeting. The presence of these two RC Movement partners was important as they are supporting work in the three target National Societies. A consultant who is attached to the American University in Beirut, who used to evaluate the Federation Pilot PSP Program initiated by the Federation in 2002, also participated providing an overview of the evaluation and focusing on the recommendations. His participation proved to be very useful and impacted in a positive way the development of country Plan of Action. As an outcome of the meeting, country Plan of Action were developed by the National Societies, to be carried out in 2006, with the main aim of integrating those two areas. In addition to the follow up which will be done, it was agreed to convene a meeting in September 2006 to evaluate the implementation of the work plans.

As a direct impact of this workshop, the regional DM delegate was invited to share the experiences of the North African project with the participants of European Red Cross, in a workshop funded by European Union (EU) and hosted by the French RC in late October. The workshop was focusing on Disaster Self Protection, examining the risks, sharing the best practices, identifying key common information and life-support kits content, as well as differences and specificities. EU Red Cross National Societies were invited to present and share their local action plans that protect the citizen in a daily event or a disastrous emergency.

The Stress Management Guide that was developed in Algeria continues to be used as a reference document by the National Society Staff and volunteers, as well as by other partners. Work is still being done to translate it into Arabic. A group of volunteers of the Tunisian RC began the development of a Master's Programme in Psychological support.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, more than two hundred persons (most of them volunteers, first aiders and branch coordinators) attended the First Aid National Meeting, held by Algerian Red Crescent in close collaboration with the civil Defence, the Ministry of Health, the Military Health services and other partners. As an outcome of the meeting, three recommendations were made: the updating and the standardisation of the First Aid Training with the integration of the PSP module, the creation of a coordination national structure, and the implementation of a legal framework. Following this meeting, in the end of December, Algerian RC has organized a workshop with its National First Aid Trainers, their PSP trainers and their volunteers involved in operations to design and elaborate a module to sensitize first aiders to psychological support.

#### **“Clean Beach Award”**

In appreciation to keep beaches of Tangiers clean and raise public awareness on environment protection, hygiene and first aid, the Moroccan RC was awarded the “Clean Beach Award” for 2005; Over 3,000 people had benefited from services provided by volunteers and staff of the Tangier branch through direct contacts with people to reduce drowning, keep the environment clean and encourage positive behaviour. The award was handed over to the NS by the Princess Lalla Hasna, President of Mohammed VI Institute for Environmental protection

The Egyptian RC, having faced several type of crisis these last years, decided to expand their PSP training courses for their youth and volunteers involved in Disaster Response and Community-Based First Aid. The existing PSP Teams were reinforced, emotional debriefing were organized for the staff at Headquarters but also at branches level. A country Plan of Action has been developed and will be supported by the Regional Office in 2006-2007 within its Disaster Management Plans.

For the DM integrated approach, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), Road Safety, First Aid, HIV/AIDS programme, please refer to the DM section.

#### **Community based social projects**

##### **The Red Crescents in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco have reinforced their existing programme, initiated new ones and thus reaching an increased number of vulnerable people through their integrated community services**

Thirty thousand children (from 8 to 12 years old) went on holidays with the summer camps organized by Algerian RC this year. These children coming from the poorest communities could benefit from the “Beach for all” program, thanks to the support of the coastal ARCS branches of Alger, Annaba, Bejaïa, Bumerdes, Chlef, Mostaganem, Tipaza and Tizi Ouzou. These children are also benefiting from a special support for school programs (books, clothes, etc.). Specific training, educational and awareness sessions on Risk Reduction (first aid, road safety, seismic, floods and landslides risks, hygiene/sanitation) are organized for the children as well,

in order to sensitize them on the RC/RC Principles and humanitarian values. This program was jointly supported by the Federation, ICRC, the French RC and other local donors.

16,000 school kits were distributed to the children from poor communities within school programmes supported every year by the ARCS. 5,000 School kits were specifically distributed to the sahraoui children. Thanks to generous donors, 5 tons of school items and clothes could also be distributed by the Algerian RC to the schools.

Through a partnership developed by the Algerian RC with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, ARCS has established in the airports of Algiers, Béchar, Constantine, Ghardaïa, Ouargla and Oran an health and humanitarian assistance centre for elderly, handicapped and illiterate pilgrim, assisting as much as they can at departure and return time. ARCS volunteers and first aiders are supporting pilgrims in filing travel forms, providing them water and snacks in the check in rooms.

During the winter of 2005, 3,687 Algerian RC volunteers have been serving two million hot meals as well as distributing more than a million food baskets in the 250 food centres managed by ARCS on the national territory. It is worth to note the successful fundraising effort made by ARCS. As a result, new partners have joined this important program: Djeezy and Mobilis (Mobile phone operators). A SMS game was organized, and the funds gained were used to organize a Solidarity gala in favour of the poorest children and to offer to 2,500 of them some traditional clothes.

Algerian RC is increasingly involved in the assistance to homeless people. After the month of Ramadan, the ARCS food centres remained open till the end of December, distributing thousands of hot soup to homeless people. The mobile kitchens procured at the time of the Boumerdes earthquake have proven to be very useful for this program.

Moroccan RC continues to run its several social and welfare programs, emphasising and reinforcing their support for women and youth in poor communities.

Egyptian RC is actively developing partnerships to support the communities in need. An interesting project was developed in Fayoum District with the National Council of Mother and Childhood. The project is funded by the World Bank and aims at combating the child labour through 4 objectives:

1. Sensitization of the communities (awareness and advocacy programs);
2. Therapeutic approach (Preventing and reducing hazards for children at work; looking at and discussing within the targeted communities possibilities to increase the family financial situation);
3. Prophylactic approach (Preventing and diminishing the school drop out, analysing in depth the situation of the Child labour "market", identifying possible solutions and proposal)
4. Monitoring, evaluation of the project to regularly assess the project and re-adjust the plans if needed, to draw on lessons learnt.

Egyptian RC is also involved in Fayoum district on an educational project targeting primary schools. In 2002, the Egyptian Red Crescent was requested to conduct a survey on environmental and sanitation conditions in Primary Schools. The survey has led to the development of a two years project funded by a German Bank through the Ministry of Education. The Egyptian Red Crescent was requested to participate to the project as one of the main implementing partners. The main goal of the project is to raise awareness on environmental issues targeting children from poor communities and to involve these communities as much as possible through active participation. Educational material was developed by the Egyptian RC (leaflets, posters, videos). Trainings are provided to the teachers, school workers, children (focusing essentially on the use and the maintenance of sanitation facilities, hygiene conditions and risk linked to water) as well as discussions organized with the parents. This project is closely monitored with the Health and Social Affairs local authorities. The project started during the first quarter of 2005. At the end of the year, some of the schools were in a position to support, thanks to the community's funds, which reflects the impact of the project, the communities' commitment and their active participation. A change in the children behaviour was also recorded.

Other development projects - Al-Nahda Community Centre project, Zeinhom housing projects (relocation of slums areas), integrated development project of River Nile Banks Villages (fishermen's community development projects) - continue to be implemented with key actors of the civil society and several Ministries.

### **Profile and public image of Red Crescents are raised and improved among local communities**

The development of new partnerships, the growth of RC programs, the increased visibility during disasters crisis have positioned the North African National Societies in the civil society and have raised their profile within the communities. As an example, the participation of communities initiated through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) programme had an evident impact on the image of the RC among the community (*please refer to DM section*).

The Regional Office is also using this momentum to support National Societies in developing better tools and mechanisms to communicate, clarify their role to their partners, slowly building on information units and developing communication strategy. The “nature” of partnership with local media is better understood, not yet enough developed due to lack of adequate structure.

Celebration of national, regional and international days are increasing and better organised year after year. Key messages are well developed thanks also to the effort provided by the Federation Communication Unit. These celebrations are more and more used as opportunities for the Red Crescent to advocate.

## **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.**

### **Human resources:**

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

A disaster management workshop targeting staff and volunteers of the Egyptian Red Crescent was conducted in November. The workshop was facilitated by two persons from the Middle East (the Disaster Management Officer in the Regional Office, and a volunteer from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent), and one representative from the Moroccan Red Crescent. This was necessary, as the National Society requested the training to be conducted in Arabic, to ensure that the participants derive maximum benefits therefrom. The training provided a combination of theory and practical applications, so that the concepts which were introduced could be applied in practice. This workshop was quite timely, as the National Society finally recognised the need for formal training of its personnel, taking into consideration the number of emergencies in which they were involved beginning in Summer 2004 with the Rafah border operation, and continuing in 2005 with bombings in Sharm El Sheikh, the Sinai Desert resort, and Cairo, and a plane crash in the Red Sea area. Prior to the end of the training, a plan of action containing follow-up activities was developed, and adopted by the National Society. These will be followed closely and supported by the Regional Office during 2006.

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

A disaster management workshop targeting staff and volunteers of the Egyptian Red Crescent was conducted in November. The second National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop was conducted for the Tunisian Red Crescent in early December. 31 volunteers from 15 regional committees participated in the workshop. On the last day of the workshop, the participants identified areas where they would like to receive further training in order to fully master the different areas of possible intervention. A follow up meeting will be arranged by the end of January, to plan the various activities of the team for 2006, including the development of the monthly duty list. Representatives of the national and regional offices of the Civil Protection, and the National Society’s Media specialist were among the facilitators. A practical exercise focussing on the mounting of tents, and the establishment of an emergency camp was organised jointly with the Civil Protection during the training.



**Volunteers of the Tunisian Red Crescent working with their Civil Protection counterparts to mount the Advanced Medical Post during the practical exercise**

In the case of the Algerian Red Crescent's NIT, some of its members have since participated in specialised training workshops in Sphere (Training of Trainers), where 14 persons were trained in July. Some members of the NIT who had opted for specialisation in Logistics, participated in the workshop which was carried out during this reporting period. The Telecommunications module will be introduced to the team and other volunteers during 2006, as the module is dependent on the development of the National Society's telecommunications project, which is part of the rehabilitation phase of the earthquake response operation. This aspect of the project has taken longer than originally anticipated, due to the administrative procedures of the local authorities, and the organisational challenges within the National Society itself.

A Training of Trainers workshop in Sphere was also organised for the Moroccan Red Crescent during late August. Among the 19 participants who were trained were members of the NIT and of the national training team of the National Society. Two members of the Royal Gendarmerie and a representative from the Ministry of Health were also among the participants. Since this workshop, the trainers have organised four workshops for staff and volunteers in different regions of the country, leading to more than one hundred persons who have already received the training.

Copies of the newly updated version of the Sphere Handbooks were distributed to the NS.

In coordination with the Regional Communications coordinator in the Middle East Office, a workshop on Information in Disasters was conducted for 30 volunteers of the Algerian Red Crescent in November. The participants were members of the communications network which was developed with the support of the ICRC. During the two days, they were trained on the management of information in disaster and emergency situations, the relationship with the media, and the information management system of the Secretariat in emergencies. Resource persons were also drawn from Civil Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the print and electronic media.

### **Policies and planning**

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

In the case of both National Societies, no further work was done on their respective plans during this reporting period. The Algerian Red Crescent is still awaiting the completion of the process of the revision of the government's disaster response plan, which should include a more detailed role for the National Society. The process has been delayed by other national events, including the planning and holding of a referendum on national reconciliation, following the violence which ensued in the 1990s. In addition, the proposed changes to the National Society's statutes, which would require adoption at the level of the General Assembly have not yet been discussed, due to the non-convening of this body to date. The process should be resumed in both National Societies in 2006, as the recently created NIT of the Tunisian Red Crescent, and that of the Algerian Red Crescent will be working on this as a part of its priority, as they aim to further organise the emergency response mechanism of their National Societies.

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

No further concrete developments have taken place during this reporting period concerning this objective. The discussion re the role of the Tunisian Red Crescent in emergencies resurfaced during the NIT training workshop. The Secretary General informed the group that the National Society was mentioned in the national plan as part of the response structure of the Ministry of Health. In the meantime, it was decided that prior to re-opening discussions with the authorities re a more defined role for the National Society, efforts should focus on better organising and equipping its human resources, so that it can be in a better position to negotiate its inclusion in the national response plan. In the case of Morocco, the National Society continues to be regarded as a partner in emergency response. It was recently involved in a meeting to discuss the implementation of a risk reduction project (funded by UNDP Morocco), in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. One of the objectives of this project is the creation of a platform for the coordination of emergencies; and it is anticipated that the National Society to be included in this process, and by extension, be accorded a clearer role. Concerning the Egyptian Red Crescent, their actions in the recent emergencies which were mentioned earlier, as well as the training which was recently held, are positioning the National Society to be able to approach the authorities from a position of 'strength', so that their request can be taken into consideration. This will be included in the work plan for 2006.

### **Mapping and programming**

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

The Casablanca Committee of the Moroccan Red Crescent has now finalised its VCA exercise, and presented the preliminary results during the event which was organised to observe World Disaster Reduction Day on October 12. The activity which was held under the patronage of the Wali, saw the participation of various partners, as well as the Swiss embassy, the UNDP and the print and electronic media. The final report will be ready shortly, and the committee has begun to organise the next phase of its work with these communities, beginning with a sensitisation campaign, and the implementation of pilot projects which are aimed at increasing the skills of the target groups, and thus increasing their chances to improve their living conditions.



**Moroccans RC volunteers in Beni Mellal involved in the VCA analysis process**

In keeping with the idea to use the resources which are available in the region to support the activities of the project, in October, the Disaster Management Delegate in the Amman Regional Office supported the Beni Mellal Committee of the Moroccan Red Crescent in the analysis of the data which was collected during the VCA exercise. This committee is now finalising the analysis and preparing for the launch of the results in the presence of the local authorities in early 2006.

The VCA exercise in Kenitra (Morocco) continues to progress, and this first phase is nearing completion.

In the case of Algeria, the National Centre for Population Studies and Analyses (CENEAP) held a one-day workshop on data gathering techniques with the wilayas which are implementing the VCA, in early November. Subsequently, the CENEAP accompanied the committees in the gathering of data in pilot areas,

which was then followed by a two-day workshop on data analysis, using the data collected. The CENEAP will be producing a report by the end of the year with the results of this phase of the VCA.

The VCA in Tunisia has progressed in the centre and south. However, the committee in the north continues to be delayed in finalising its work in the flood prone area of Sijoumi.

## Tools and systems

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

The Moroccan and Algerian Red Crescent Societies continued to work on improving their logistics system. The regional warehouse project in Algeria continued to be implemented in the target areas. Discussions were also held with the other committees which are targeted. The recent training in Egypt will also help to improve the relief and logistics system of the National Society.

### **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)**

The Regional Office continued to use all opportunities to promote these tools, and to highlight the advantages to be gained from their use, as the need arises. The participants of the Tunisian Red Crescent's NIT workshop were introduced to these mechanisms and procedures during the training. They also remarked that these tools could be an asset for the National Society to use in its discussions with the authorities for a more defined role in future emergencies. All the participants were interested to have access to the Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS), so that they could benefit from the information and tools which are housed therein.

The North Africa National Societies contributed to the below international assistance:

1. Tsunami Operation/ Egypt, Libya, Algeria
2. Sahel Operation: During this review period, the Algerian RC supported the appeal for the food insecurity situation in Sahel. In coordination with the government, 115 metric tones of rice were sent to Mali and Niger in September. Support was received from the World Food Programme (WFP) to transport the donation to both countries, from the port in Lomé. In addition, three members of the National Society's NIT were put at the disposal of the Dakar Regional Delegation, to support the operation in Mali and Niger for six weeks. Another deployment of two of these volunteers also took place in early December, to support the current phase of the operation in Mali until late January.
3. Pakistan Earthquake: The Egyptian RC air-shipped in kind donation to Pakistan, consisting of 2000 blankets and 20 tents for a value of USD 50,000. The transport arrangement was facilitated by the Government assistance (cargo with other governmental donations). In Algeria, a public Appeal was launched by the Algerian RC to collect funding for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

### **DM 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, for the training of trainers' workshops which were held this summer. Training packs were also purchased for this purpose. The process of dissemination of the Sphere handbooks and other disaster management documents continued during training workshop and sensitisation/public educational activities.

### **Launch of the World Disaster Report in Algeria and Tunisia**

The Regional Office organised two launches of the 2005 edition of the World Disasters report during this period. The first was held in Algeria on November 7, and was part of a half-day reflection on the management of information in emergencies, which included presentations from various ministries and government agencies, as well as the national television channel. The proceedings were officially opened by the Minister of National Solidarity. The second launch took place during the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in Tunis, with an attendance of more than 25,000 delegates, including approximately 40 heads of state. This launch was done in collaboration with Ericsson, and had the representative of Ericsson Response Sweden as one of the presenters.

### **Risk Assessment and Disaster Management Workshop organized jointly by British Gas and the National Engineering School in Tunis**

Following the partnership developed between British Gas Tunisia and Tunisian RC (social projects, awareness campaigns, risk reduction projects), the Federation Delegation and Tunisian RC staff were invited to participate to a Risk Assessment workshop. This workshop is part of a global project sponsored by British Gas (BG) Tunisia which contributes to strengthening the culture of risk. The main objective was to review the methodologies for risk assessment including deterministic and probabilistic approaches, risk mapping and other techniques used for assessing major risk. This forum was also an opportunity to think on the strategy to be developed to reinforce the risk culture among the engineers, the trainers and the communities. The main subjects developed were:

1. Risk assessment and disaster management in urban areas
2. Environmental risks
3. Seismic risk assessment and DM case studies
4. Overviews of seismic hazards and vulnerability studies in Tunis City
5. Recent advances in Seismic hazard assessment and vulnerabilities studies
6. Uncertainties in the Maghreb countries – Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco – and their influence on seismic hazard assessment
7. Preparedness and knowledge acquisitions in high educational institutions
8. “Risks and crisis” (cooperation project in the Mediterranean)

The opportunity was used to continue to cement the partnership between the National Society and British Gas, as well as to discuss possible collaboration with the Engineering school, as part of the VCA work in Tunisia. This was very well received by the school’s professor, and will be followed up in early 2006.

### **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 Red Crescent continued the implementation of its projects in support of vulnerable populations in Cairo and other areas, and this was further increased in the aftermath of the aforementioned emergencies, where psychological support has been of major importance. The Algerian Red Crescent continues to receive many requests for the materials which they have developed, thus necessitating the printing of additional brochures, teachers’ guides, and other materials. These will be finalised before the end of the year. In the meantime, its volunteers continue to carry out public educational activities in schools and communities. The National Society was recently invited to participate in a planning meeting with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of the Interior, and other interested parties, to discuss the use of the sensitisation materials which were developed for use in schools, and with children. The idea is to introduce them into the school curriculum beginning in 2006.

The Casablanca committee of the Moroccan Red Crescent is preparing to begin the next phase of sensitising vulnerable communities, using the recently developed earthquake brochures, as well as the booklets on earthquakes and floods. The Minister of Land Management, Water and the Environment approved a proposal which was made by the Risk Analysis and Monitoring Department, to conclude a tri-partite convention between this Ministry, the Ministry of Education, and the Moroccan Red Crescent, for the inclusion of the booklets on Earthquakes and Floods in the school curriculum. The DVD with the play highlighting key disaster management messages, which was developed by the Casablanca Committee of the Moroccan Red Crescent is nearing completion.

### **Impact**

The activities which were implemented during the past six months led to the fulfilment of the majority of the items which were contained in the work plan for the year. In some instances, these were exceeded, as some activities led to others which were not originally envisaged, but which in the end led to an increase in the image of the National Societies which were involved, and also reinforced their capacities. An example of this is the work with UNDP Tunisia, where, due to the efforts of the regional Office to develop multi-sectoral disaster management working group, the National Society has become an integral part of the process and is set to play an important role in the coming year. The work in Algeria and Morocco in the rehabilitation phase of the earthquake operations was done with the support and in collaboration with various sister National Societies (i.e. Spanish, French, Dutch, Flemish). The community disaster management project which is being implemented with the support of the Swiss Agency for

Development Cooperation provides substantial evidence in this regard. Another example is the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent, where the support from the Regional Office during the various emergencies and thereafter, helped to further develop the image of that National Society. The Regional Office has also succeeded in increasing the interaction and sharing of resources among and between the National Societies in the sub-region, as well as in the wider Middle East region.

### **Constraints**

The issue of the centralised structure in the National Societies, which impede the flow of information, continued to delay the rate of progress in attaining the set objectives. However, there were efforts made by these National Societies to improve the situation, even if it is a matter which has to be tackled at the highest level in order for this to be totally resolved/improved. Very little progress was achieved in Libya during the year, due to a possible lack of interest by the National Society.

## **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.**

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

In Algerian RC, the communication unit was very instrumental and helpful to organize the launch of the World Disaster Report. Together with the ICRC Delegation, the information and communication network continues to be strengthened and reinforced through the provision of an appropriate capacity building targeting the information coordinators in the Willayas. During the reporting period, the regional office supported two workshops (Information/Reporting at time of disasters, and a Principle and Values workshop focusing on the organisation and elaboration of public awareness campaigns, disseminating the fundamental RC principles and highlighting at community level the humanitarian values).

In Tunisian RC, the nomination of an information focal point to support the Secretary General to build an internal but also external communication strategy has not been very successful due to the very heavy agenda of the Volunteer selected. To balance this non-availability, the Department for Program Support is doing its best to develop the relations with the Media and is successful to keep the Press and the Radio involved in the main events. However, this effort remains insufficient to the building of a Communication Strategic Plan and only benefits on an ad hoc basis in the NS Headquarters.

The Permanent Office, with the support of the Federation (Secretariat, Europe Department and North Africa Regional Office), organized a three days workshop in Barcelona (20-21 October). Two NS participants (youth representatives, social programs managers) have attended the workshop. Plan of Actions were elaborated and commitments taken to continue at country level. The workshop provided a good opportunity to exchange experience and discuss the commitments made during the 2004 Mediterranean conference (Cairo Declaration).

### **National Society websites are supported or upgraded in two societies at least**

Egyptian RC has launched its new website earlier this year. On the other hand, the Tunisian RC has launched it in December. The website needs to be developed and updated but unfortunately and despite the proposed support from the Regional Office, no work could be done because of the non-assignment of a focal person to work on this issue (development, maintenance of the website at the national and branch level).

The information and Communication Unit of the Algerian RC continues to review their website, aiming at reinforcing it. The process is slowed down due to the internal crisis faced by the National Society.

### **National Societies participate to the Federation common platform - FedNet**

NS staff has very restricted access to FedNet, due to managerial decisions. Most of the Red Crescents have decided to keep a very limited access to Internet within their Societies. Access is in general restricted to the President, Secretary General or

Director Offices. Program managers are not entitled to get an official access and often are using their private addresses to communicate with the Regional Office.

### **Federation is supporting the provision of standardized material for advocacy and supports NS initiatives**

The Regional Office continues to monitor this planning, to support the development of promotional material, to encourage the organization of public events (forum, debates, exhibitions) and to associate traditional but also potential partners to these events. More planning is needed and collaboration with ICRC can be increased to support the National Societies, to also present and raise the movement approach.

So far, the process and the support provided to the National Societies are benefiting essentially NS Headquarters due to poor or weak communication between branches and Headquarters. Many RC branches are very active in the celebration of the RC days, their activities are not enough well reported and branches could benefit more from the Federation support. It is important in the next phases of the process to include in the planning at least some pilot branches and to support the development or the strengthening of the communication network between branches and Headquarters.

<b>WorldRC Days</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Libya</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>
<b>Youth Day</b>	Tunis	12/08	Youth Camps				Annual National Youth Meeting
<b>First Aid Day</b>			x	x		x	
<b>Launch of the WDR</b>	Algiers (October)  Tunis (November)		Celebration with ICRC, Ministries and ARCS key partners				Organized with Ericsson at the WSIS Summit
<b>HIV-AIDS</b>	Algiers/Cairo /Rabat/Tunis	01/12	x	x	x	x	Tunis/Sakiet
<b>Volunteer Day</b>		05/12		Cairo		Rabat	Tunis

The regional volunteer campaign initiated on May 8<sup>th</sup>, recognizing and promoting the role of the Red Crescent volunteers, continued and promotional materials were shared with all Red Crescent Societies. The National Societies adapted the contents to their own contexts and used it for the RC Days (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco). Posters are produced in French and in Arabic. The slogans selected are referring to Humanitarian Values: the concept of dignity, respect, tolerance, assistance, non-discrimination outlining the Red Crescent specificity, added value versus other partners. All these posters were used for the Volunteers' days and exhibitions were organized in the RC Branches.

### **Impact**

North Africa National Societies have year after year improved their planning and organisation of the RC days, using these opportunities to increase the RC visibility, raise their profile through a better understanding of their role and activities, strengthen their public relation skills and their relations with the Media, and advocate on the main RC themes.

### **Constraints**

The main constraints faced remains the lack of a recognized and official structure at the central level (NS Headquarters) who could work on a strategic approach and coordinate efforts made in the field at branch level. The example of the Algerian RC's successful communication unit, well connected with its branches, is regularly shared with other NSs but so far not very much followed.

Although NSs appreciate very much the effort made by the Media or technical department regarding the standard communication packages for the RC Days, it is hoped that Press Releases and other communication materials can be delivered at least a month in advance in order to be in position to share it with the Branches, to prepare adequate

Plan of Action and to organize adequate communication strategies with the local Media. Too often, the Press Releases are made available the day before the event.

## 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**

**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 and Moroccan RC were identified as the two societies willing to address some changes in their structures and to revise their structures accordingly. Both societies are currently facing some managerial and internal crisis. It is therefore difficult to progress on this process although these are generating interesting discussions, questions on the role of Governance versus management, on the role Headquarters should play versus branches, on the structures that need to be adapted, reviewed to provide a better support for the branches. Many questions on the impact of the international cooperation at NS level is also raised. All this questioning can be seen as positive and maybe as the beginning of an Organizational process build internally from the National Society staff, volunteers and members. If the situation can be perceived as “paralyzed” and slow in terms of program implementation (Donor’s requirement in terms of deadline), it may also be a needed phase which will lead to a better understanding of the cooperation and partnership concepts. The situation is closely monitored and assessed by the Regional Office together with the other RC key partners (Bilateral PNSs: French, Spanish and Netherlands RC) and ICRC.

Revision of the statutes is planned in Algeria and in Morocco as in both countries the Association Law has been changed (including stricter procedures, greater transparency, good governance and financial accountability). Respective NSs need to reassess their systems and procedures in order to comply to the new law.

**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 Society. 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>	Programs	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
PPP	OD	Country	Morocco	2-4/09				X (25)	
Leadership Course	OD	Regional	Damascus	11-15/09		X (1)			X (2)
MENA Youth Network	OD	Regional	Tunis	1-5/12	X	X	X	X	X
Volunteers Management	OD	Regional	Nairobi	October		X (2)			X (1)
Gender	OD	Regional	Amman	26-29/11		X (1)			
Youth Camp	OD	Regional	Italy	13-23/08	X	X			X
Youth	OD	Country	Rabat	26-28/12				X (16)	
Youth	OD	Country	Tunis	23-26/12					
Arab Secretariat	RCRC/IHL	Regional	Mauritania		X		X	X	X

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Programs	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
DM/INFO	DM	Country	Algeria	07-09/11	X (25)				

## North Africa Regional Programmes; 05AA082; Programme Update no. 2

VCA/SDC	DM	Country	Morocco	10-17/10				X (25)	
Disaster Self Protection	DM	French RC	Paris	25-26/10	Federation Regional DM Coordinator				
DM Workshop	DM	Country	Egypt	26-30/11					
VCA Practitioners	DM	Regional		20-21/09	X	X		X	X
NIT Workshop	DM	Country	Tunisia	06-11/12	Federation Regional Coordinator & Tunisian RC DM coordinator				
Risk Assessment	DM	British Gas/ ENIT	Tunisia	28-29/11					
Sphere ToT	DM/Health	Country	Algeria	July	X (22)				
Sphere ToT	DM/Health	Country	Morocco	25-31/08				X (20)	
Sphere Shelter/Food	DM/Health	Country	Morocco	22-25/09				X (23)	
Sphere Watsan/Health	DM/Health	Country	Morocco	09-11/09				X(23)	
Sphere (Laayoune, Oujda, Nador)	DM/Health	Country	Morocco	25-30/12					

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Programs	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Mediterranean Office	P&V	Regional	Barcelona	20-21/10		X		X (2)	
NS Info Officers Meeting	P&V	Country	Algeria	13-14/12	X (23)				

<u>Workshops / networks</u>	Programs	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
CBFA Network	CBFA	Regional	Abu Dhabi	20-22/11		X	X	X	X
PSP/FA Consensus	PSP/DM	Regional	Tunis	17-19/10	X (2)			X (2)	X (3)
Coca Cola/Women/ToT	HIV-AIDS	Country	Casablanca	20-21/11				X (12)	
Health/Youth workshop	HIV_AIDS	Country	Rabat	25-27/11				X (27)	
Women/Health meeting	HIV-AIDS	Country	Rabat	26-27/11				X (24)	
PSP Network	PSP	Regional	Amman	18-20/12		X (1)		X (1)	
ToT CBFA Workshop	CBFA	Country	Egypt	23-26/12		X (25)			
CBFA ToT workshop UNAIDS Meeting	CBFA HIV-AIDS	Country Regional	Morocco Tunisia	26-31/12 3-4/10	X (8)			X(39)	X (10)

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

- **Principles and Values Workshop organized by the Permanent Office for the Mediterranean:** Egypt and Tunisian Youth represented North Africa Region in the Regional workshop organized in Barcelona on October 20-21. The Regional Office supported the Mediterranean Office with the organization of the journey and the preparation of the workshop
- **Secretariat OD/Volunteers systems management workshop (Nairobi, October 2005):** The Regional Office supported the attendance of three volunteers (2 from Egypt, 1 from Tunisia) .
- **General Assembly Seoul (November 2005):** 4 Youth from 3 out of 5 North African NSs were present in Seoul at the General Assembly. The Regional Office supported Egyptian, Algerian and Tunisian RC in sending their Youth Representatives to attend the statutory meetings and to provide them a chance to meet other Youth Representatives from other regions. The experience was very rich and this exposure to the statutory meeting allowed a better understanding of the RC/RC Movement. Several Youth meetings and debriefing was organized during the MENA Youth Network meeting organized in Tunis in December.
- **Regional Youth MENA Meeting (Tunis December 01-05):** The Regional Office for North Africa facilitated the organization of the Youth MENA Network in Tunis, combining the opportunity to celebrate both the Volunteers' Day and the World HIV-AIDS Day together with the TRCS youth and volunteers. 20 participants attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the definition of an effective youth participation in decision making internally within the NS and externally participating at regional and international level. One of the objectives of the meeting was also the preparation of the MENA Regional Conference planned in 2006 in May in Morocco. It was important to discuss the

## North Africa Regional Programmes; 05AA082; Programme Update no. 2

role of the Youth during this Conference and to identify how the MENA Youth could contribute actively to the Conference. This issue was of a particular concern and importance for the Regional Office, in charge of the preparation of the Conference.

In Egyptian RC, Youth clubs continue to be very active in several fields (social mobilization, health public awareness campaigns (polio, measles), disaster management, social development).

A Tunisian Youth Officers workshop was organised in Tunis during 22-25 December. Three main objectives were defined for this workshop:

1. Monitoring and evaluation of 2005 Youth programs and activities
2. Planning 2006-2007
3. Training and capacity building plan for Youth and Volunteers (Update on RC/RC Movement, Volunteer Management, Project Management, Partnerships, Communication strategy, Accountability)

The first Youth National Workshop was organized by Moroccan RC on 22-26 December 2005. The election of a national Youth Committee was the main objective and the Youth Committee was elected. It is composed of 16 persons (4 girls, 12 boys) and one coordinator, following the administrative "decoupage" of the 16 Moroccan regions. Its mandate is:

1. To prepare MRCS Youth Strategy (2006-2009),
2. To propose Youth structures and operational procedures as well as prepare for new elections in a year time,
3. To share information, experiences, get to know better the work done by the youth in the branches, do a mapping of these activities, better analyze the current situation, identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Treats. On basis of this SWOT, it was decided to work on a better planning of Youth programs and activities and to prepare a national Plan of Action.

77 people (including the facilitators and trainers) from all regions attended the workshop. On a short term, it was decided that the committee will design, elaborate and edit a Youth Newsletter (end of January), produce postcards and a calendar on basis of Youth work in local committees. As mid-term objective, it was decided that the Committee will focus on the preparation of youth structure at local committee level and organize a coordination meeting to reflect on IT Management system, especially looking for Youth and Volunteers Databases. A report with the different proposals was submitted to the Senior Management and the Youth Committee requested the official validation/recognition of the structure to be made at the MRCS General Assembly and included in the agenda for the revision of the statutes.

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

Monitoring and coaching continues to be provided to respective NSs. Quality of financial documentation and reports is improving as well as a better understanding of Federation and Donors financial procedures and requirements. Timeliness remains an issue and Federation accounting system and procedures do not allow a NS developmental approach. The Regional Office seeks at developing NS staff skills at Headquarters and branch level. A preliminary work shall be for NSs to look at updating and reviewing the existing NS operational procedures and then to look at adequate and user friendly financial management package. Financial management workshop proposed by the Regional Office was postponed to 2006.

A regional training on the RC Movement and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was organized by the Arab Secretariat and supported by the Federation Regional Office for North Africa and the ICRC Maghreb Office (Financial assistance and provision of Federation and ICRC facilitators). Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan RC volunteers and managers participated in the training workshop on the Red Cross Movement and the International Humanitarian Law. Experts from various European, Arab and African countries facilitated the workshop hosted by the Mauritanian in Nouakchott in the end of December. Participants came up with various recommendations in order to benefit from the workshop and to activate its objectives. French RC Delegate resident in Mauritania presented the "RaidCross" game and organized a demonstration/play role with the participants. Full report is available upon request at the Regional Office.

### **Impact**

More staff, volunteers and RC members being trained are developing some interest, discovering new potential for their RC societies. They are also realizing and becoming more aware of the unique added value of their network and

the partnership possibilities. As a consequence, the NS programs are scaling up, new partnerships are developed, effectiveness and proper management of programs and projects is a condition required and more and more clearly expressed by Donors. However, actual structures and staff capacities are not adequate enough to support this additional workload and the NSs are finding themselves in the difficulty to absorb the new programs, running the risk to fail in the implementation of the programs.

Organizational Development is the key issue in North Africa, and the Red Crescents are increasingly aware of it but at the same time, most of the societies are not yet keen to seriously undertake an OD process, being worried of the HR implications, the organizational changes and the costs it will imply.

### **Constraints**

Poor internal communication with the Branch, unclear distinction of the roles between governance and management lead to some resistance to the change process proposed. 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 ongoing recent and internal crisis faced by some societies have temporarily put on hold this OD effort.

## **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**

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

Very good relations continue to be maintained with the Bilateral National Societies (French RC, Spanish RC, Netherlands RC and Swiss RC) through coordination meetings, regular visits, discussions and correspondence. Plans and programs are increasingly discussed together within a Movement and complementarity's approach (migrant issue, governance support, information/communication). Cooperation with ICRC Head of Delegation and Cooperation Delegate in Tunisia, Egypt and in Algeria are excellent. Program's harmonization is on both institutions' agenda (DM, Health with PSP, CBFA, Information /Communication and OD with Branch Development). Since the arrival in Tunisia of the new Cooperation Delegate in charge of Morocco, regular consultations are taking place and common planning are under preparation.

**Regional cooperation between North African Red Crescents is effective and is reflected through joint projects and activities on shared concerns (HIV-AIDS, Road Safety).**

There has been international support from the North African Countries to other national societies. Egyptian and Algerian RC have actively supported the Pakistan Earthquake operation. Algerian RC has launched a public fund-raising campaign for its victims. ARC is also supporting the Sahel operation by sending three delegates to Niger, Chad and Mali. All the delegates were extended due to their good job.

Additional cross border projects are under consideration (HIV/AIDS, Road Safety), but the process remains very difficult and long. The Region is very well known for the "non regional or lateral partnership". Most of the interest is rather kept for Europe.

**New partnerships are developed by the national societies and funding for selected projects are secured**

The Regional Office contacted the regional Office of Coca Cola (based in Morocco), who has expressed some interest to develop some projects in the field of women, community health (including HIV-AIDS), but also youth and Road Safety campaigns. Some of the projects were materialized in Morocco (HIV/AIDS awareness targeting women). Additional follow up needs to be done by the North Africa NSs. Most of the Red Crescents have developed partnerships with Phone Communication providers getting support for their campaign (through SMS). Egyptian RC has being very successful in partnering institutions like the World Bank, the EU, UNICEF, UNFPA as well as a Private German Bank.

**North Africa Regional Programmes; 05AA082; Programme Update no. 2**

The common launch of the World Disaster Report with Ericsson was also a first of round of discussions on potential cooperation. Tunisian RC has developed an interesting partnership with British Gas.

A lot of potential partners are willing to work with the Red Crescents of the region, but capacity to handle Donor's requirement is still an issue, and especially at branch level.

**Relevant information to external partners is regularly disseminated through websites, RC/RC publications, programme leaflets, reports, etc.**

Other Conferences /	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
<b>PACT Coordination</b>	Tunis	01-02/09			NA PACT Representative		<b>X</b>
<b>Federation of the Future</b>	Tunis	03-05/09					Dr Cheniti Chairman FoF
<b>Preparatory of MENA Conference Org. Committee</b>	Geneva Tunis	September 20-21/12	<b>X</b> <b>x</b>	<b>X</b> <b>X</b>		<b>X</b> <b>X</b>	<b>X</b> <b>X</b>
<b>WDR</b>	Algeria	7/11	<b>X</b>				
<b>WDR</b>	Tunisia	17/11					<b>X</b>
<b>WSIS</b>	Tunis	16-18/11	<b>X (1)</b>			<b>X (1)</b>	
<b>RC/RC General Assembly</b>	Seoul	09-19/11	<b>X (4)</b>	<b>X (4)</b>	<b>X(3)</b>	<b>X (2)</b>	<b>X(2)</b>
<b>Conference Migration &amp; Religion</b>	Rabat	18-19/12	<b>Federation North Africa Head</b>			<b>X</b>	

**Status Agreement in Tunisia**

No progress noted

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