

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon

Appeal no. MAALB001
Programme Update No. 4

This report covers the period of 01/01/2007 to 30/06/2007.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Logistics and Emergency Medical Staff participating in a basic logistics training in Beirut organised and facilitated by the Federation with the contribution of the ICRC as part of a tripartite agreement between Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC and the Federation.

In brief

Programme Summary: The consequences of the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel in July and August 2006 have had a knock-on effect, not only on the political climate within Lebanon, but also on the focus of the Lebanese Red Cross operations into the first half of 2007. The upward appeal revision for 2007 at the end of 2006 increased activities to build on the strengths, as well as the weaknesses of the Lebanese Red Cross as identified during the conflict-related operation. However, the continued tensions within the country, the resulting slower than expected implementation rate and no significant additional response to the appeal from non-traditional donors have resulted in the need at this stage for the Federation to scale down the budget for 2007. However, some activities relating to capacity building were integrated into the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal (MDR81001) as a complementary approach as well as in line with donor earmarking. This has allowed the Federation to continue with the majority of the planned activities for 2007.

The political, social and economic situation in Lebanon has been deteriorating significantly in the first half of 2007 with a wave of bomb attacks on civilian and political targets and a lengthy internal armed disturbance in the Palestinian camp of Nahr-el Bared in the north of the country between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the militia group Fatah al Islam. A paralysis in governmental decision-making processes and this deteriorating security situation have had a significant impact on the socio-political and economic situation of the country.

The goal to support structural change, resource management and strategic and operational planning has started to be realised through a consultation process resulting in two road maps for a strategic planning process and a legal base review. This has been complemented by a PriceWaterhouseCoopers assessment of human resources, IT and finance structures of the National Society as well as strengthened internal and external communication tools. The Lebanese Red Cross, with its partners, has played a significant part in responding to the Palestinian refugee crisis in the north with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on 24 hour stand-by for a period of 56 days at the time of writing.

It is with great sadness that the Federation has to report the tragic loss of two Lebanese Red Cross first aid volunteers during the reporting period.

Needs: Appeal target was revised from CHF 1,582,343 (USD 1,286, 458 or EUR 958,996) to CHF 1,040,007 (USD 845,534 or EUR 627,644) out of which 74 % covered. **Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.**

No. of people we help: The Lebanese Red Cross is in the process of improving the collection of data with regard to beneficiary numbers. The table below reflects estimated beneficiary numbers of the Federation supported activities for the first six months of 2007. The beneficiaries of the EMS are not listed but the service covers 80 per cent of emergency and minor emergency calls throughout Lebanon.

Programme	Target Population	Number of Beneficiaries	Female %	Male %	Children %
Organisational Development	Lebanese RC governance, staff and volunteers	200	40	60	
Health and Care	Lebanese RC volunteers	560	30	70	
Disaster Management	Lebanese RC volunteers and staff	1600	25	75	
Humanitarian Values	School children, university students, community at large, prisoners	100,000 *	25	75	(100 - Traffic Safety)

* Representing the number of participants at awareness sessions and the number of persons target with the distribution of leaflets and placemats.

Our Partners: Components of the Red Cross Movement were the main partners of the National Society to date. Multilateral and bilateral support has been provided by the Norwegian Red Cross, the Belgium Red Cross, the French Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This expanded to include support from the Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Kuwait Red Crescent and American Red Cross for the operation in the north of the country. Close cooperation for this operation also included the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the Government’s Higher Relief Commission and the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNWRA/UNICEF). The Lebanese Government also remains a main financial contributor to the Emergency Medical Services and other activities.

Progress towards objectives

Health and Care

Objective: To provide improved and sustainable community-based health services by strengthening health and care programmes and capacities with a focus on disease prevention and health promotion.

Achievements: The HIV and AIDS awareness campaign implemented by the youth HIV and AIDS team, with Federation support, was ongoing throughout Lebanon. This included the distribution of post-cards on safe love and placemats for restaurants promoting the use of condoms.

The Lebanese Red Cross has become increasingly aware of the need for a Psychological Support Programme (PSP) for volunteers as well as the need for an increased role of the National Society within PSP in the community at large. PSP sessions were provided to volunteers from the Emergency Medical Services and youth

centres throughout the country. Support was also provided to the Lebanese Red Cross youth department to develop close cooperation in PSP activities with other Movement partners and UNICEF. As a result of this cooperation, Lebanese Red Cross youth volunteers benefited from a special training focusing on appropriate psychological approaches for dealing with children affected by war. The youth department has also identified a permanent PSP focal point to ensure continuity within the programme and, with the coordination of the Federation health coordinator, was in the process of defining a future programme with the Belgium Red Cross. In addition, the coordinator has been offering counselling sessions to Lebanese Red Cross volunteers upon request.

In order to broaden the activity base of the Lebanese Red Cross, a Community Based First Aid (CBFA) pilot project was initiated in the north of Lebanon. Two day training was provided to 20 volunteers primarily from the EMS department in the north, which was followed by a rapid assessment in the region.

In order to improve the services provided by the Blood Bank department, the International Federation provided new equipment to blood banks around the country as well as support to set-up a blood donor and stock management database. This was funded by the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.

Constraints or challenges: There is still an overlap and confusion between various Lebanese Red Cross departments regarding roles and responsibilities within the programme areas of HIV and AIDS, PSP and CBFA. This has hindered implementation and planning for future activities. Furthermore, the situation in the country has reinforced again the role of emergency health rather than preventative health activities and no further action has been taken to develop a preventative health strategy. The CBFA pilot project was delayed by the fact that most of those trained have been on active ambulance duty since the conflict started in the north.

Disaster Management

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

Achievements: Logistics capacity to respond to operational needs was identified as a key weakness following the conflict of last summer. As a result, the Federation has supported the upgrade of logistical services and systems particularly in the area of fleet management, warehousing and procurement as defined in a tripartite agreement between the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation at the end of 2006. By the end of the reporting period, several basic logistics trainings were completed and standard procedures introduced. Furthermore, the Federation provided the Lebanese Red Cross with a contribution of vehicles and other items.

The Lebanese Red Cross has managed to develop and present a five-year strategy for the Emergency Medical Services, integrating the findings of an ambulance assessment the previous year by the Federation and the Norwegian Red Cross. The Federation has contributed to the component to upgrade the ambulance fleet with the purchase of six ambulances and active participation in the ambulance committee.

The majority of the activities under logistics and the EMS have been funded by the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal (MDR81001).

The Disaster Management Committee of the Lebanese Red Cross has continued to meet on a regular basis, particularly during the conflict in the north of Lebanon at the Nahr-el Bared camp. The Federation assisted the committee to develop and finalise a Disaster Management Plan of Action for 2008 and 2009 outlining key activities for improved coordination and increased capacity of branches to respond to future crises.

The Federation additionally facilitated two mountain rescue training sessions by the Norwegian Red Cross in Lebanon. Some 70 volunteers of the Lebanese Red Cross mountain rescue teams participated in the training which focused on the use of snowmobiles, response to avalanches and additional first aid training specifically for winter conditions.

Constraints or challenges: Due to the lack of clear strategic plan for National Society as a whole, the operational departments of the Lebanese Red Cross are struggling to identify specific roles and responsibilities within disaster management as well as the role and function of a centralised logistics system.

Organisational Development

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

Achievements: Based on the momentum of the elections last year, focus on improving the Lebanese Red Cross institutional performance in particular with regard to the development of a strategic plan for the National Society as well as a legal base review has been prioritised. This has been achieved through a consultation which resulted in a legal base and planning road map, the launch of a statute drafting commission, the physical establishment of a planning department, the organisation of a workshop for the senior management staff on integrated planning methodology and the provision of technical support to the planning department. This has been complemented by an HR, finance and IT assessment undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers aiming to provide a road map with clearly identified activities to improve these core service functions.

In order to support a more integrated and holistic approach of information management between the departments, the Federation has provided funding and technical expertise to upgrade the computer network system and coach the Lebanese Red Cross IT responsible person in maintenance of the new computer network.

Internal and external communication of the Lebanese Red Cross was boosted with the establishment of a website and the employment of an additional staff member of the PR/Communication department to improve information management.

Constraints or challenges: Activities in organisational development have been affected by the deteriorating security situation, with the Lebanese Red Cross prioritising operational activities and postponing activities related to planning and the legal base review. The scheduled project planning and legal base workshop for the management and governance, respectively, were delayed. The communications department in the meantime, was unable to provide enough material for the temporary website to become permanent and internal HR procedures have slowed the employment process for planning, internal affairs and communication staff.

Humanitarian Values

Objective: Further develop the Lebanese Red Cross capacity to advocate for the respect of human dignity, promote tolerance and reduce stigma among marginalised groups in Lebanon.

Achievements: The youth volunteers continued to work to decrease stigma and discrimination against marginalised people, concluding training on the psychological effects of persons living with HIV (PLWHIV).

The situation of inmates in prisons and reformatories has been reassessed following the change in the prison system following the July 2006 conflict. A needs assessment took place in four prisons - Sour, Nabatieh, Baalbek and Rass Baalbek - and activities were organised for inmates in four other facilities. In order to improve the conditions for inmates the youth team organised one prison visit to the main facility in the Bekaa valley where individual hygiene kits were distributed. Training was held for 16 volunteers to improve the capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross youth volunteers to deal with the range of situations faced in prison environments.

The communication department organised an 8 of May campaign distributing posters highlighting the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement.

Constraints or challenges: The majority of the activities have been affected by an incoherent strategy by the Lebanese Red Cross despite a realisation within the organisation of the need to promote peace, tolerance and respect for diversity. In addition, the activities undertaken by the youth department have a tendency to be delayed due to lack of volunteer availability or structural problems affecting implementation.

Working in partnership

The nature of the volatile context in Lebanon results in an ad hoc influx of short-term partners leading to the need to maintain a strong coordination structure. The Lebanese Red Cross has maintained the coordination mechanisms established as a result of the conflict of 2006 in order to ensure a coherent approach to situations like the internal disturbance in the north. This has been managed by the Disaster Management Committee. Short-term operational partnerships in response to the emergency situation have been in particular maintained with the Qatar Red Crescent and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. The internal disturbance also witnessed an exceptionally well functioning cooperation between the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestinian Red Crescent in Lebanon ensuring a distribution of tasks to cater for the needs of the Palestinian refugees affected by the fighting.

The Lebanese Red Cross, the Federation and the ICRC have, in the meantime, been consolidating the mechanisms for coordination with the development of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding. This was due to be finalised at the end of the reporting period. This will in particular guide the longer-term partnership of the three organisations including the bilateral participating National Societies and ensure the coherence of the Movement activities. Monthly movement coordination mechanisms have been ongoing.

With its high profile in Lebanese society, the Lebanese Red Cross is a favoured discussion and operational partner for governmental and UN agencies, being present in the emergency coordination meetings with all humanitarian actors at the Prime Ministers office and having an operational partnership with UNICEF on PSP. The Norwegian Red Cross remains the principal partner for the Federation annual appeal and on occasion implements ad hoc bilateral projects facilitated by the Federation.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ongoing focus of the Lebanese Red Cross on improving emergency response through the definition of a five-year strategy for the EMS and the development of a disaster management plan of action aims to ensure a sustainable and longer-term approach to increase capacity to reduce vulnerability of communities to disasters. This is complemented by the prevention activities and information/awareness campaigns to reduced discrimination of marginalised persons and communities. Despite this, the Lebanese Red Cross with support by the Federation, requires additional capacity to plan, monitor and report on activities in order to improve performance in some core areas and ensure accountability. The relatively new leadership in the National Society requires additional dissemination on key concepts such as the Global Agenda and the need to focus on key areas like beneficiary identification and incorporating gender issues within programme areas.

Looking Ahead

With a normalisation of the situation in Lebanon still allusive, the first six months have highlighted the need for the Federation and other Movement partners to remain cautious in terms of the capacity of the National Society to be both a key emergency response provider in critical situations and at the same maintaining momentum within institutional capacity building and longer-term community based approaches. However, the Lebanese Red Cross is committed to continue the processes started and the Federation will continue to support activities in the core areas.

Accordingly, 2008-2009 will continue to build on the achievements to date in developing and disseminating a Lebanese Red Cross national strategy, ensuring momentum in the legal base review, broadening the activity base in disaster management and supporting preventative health and care activities bearing in mind that the context will remain volatile and require a flexible approach.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAALB001 - LEBANON

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAALB001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	225,521	89,007	143,251	582,228	0	1,040,007
B. Opening Balance	40,965	4,600	0	35,332	0	80,897
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	0			0		0
<i>DFID Partnership</i>	25,943			16,464		42,407
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	99,518	57,710	55,726	348,170		561,123
<i>Other</i>				755		755
C1. Cash contributions	125,461	57,710	55,726	365,389		604,285
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>				49,600		49,600
<i>Other</i>				37,117		37,117
C5. Inkind Personnel				86,717		86,717
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	125,461	57,710	55,726	452,106	0	691,002
D. Total Funding = B + C	166,426	62,309	55,726	487,438	0	771,899

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	40,965	4,600	0	35,332	0	80,897
C. Income	125,461	57,710	55,726	452,106	0	691,002
E. Expenditure	-129,900	-43,226	-37,791	-377,685		-588,602
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	36,526	19,083	17,935	109,753	0	183,297

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MAALB001 - LEBANON

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		225,521	89,007	143,251	582,228	0	1,040,007	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	22,000							22,000
Medical & First Aid	8,000							8,000
Total Supplies	30,000							30,000
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	30,500	13,431		4,313			17,744	12,756
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	11,000				5,895		5,895	5,105
Others Machinery & Equipment	20,000							20,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	61,500	13,431		4,313	5,895		23,638	37,862
Transport & Storage								
Storage					57		57	-57
Distribution & Monitoring					1,690		1,690	-1,690
Transport & Vehicle Costs	59,040	1,076	100	169	44,476		45,821	13,219
Total Transport & Storage	59,040	1,076	100	169	46,223		47,568	11,472
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	85,000		387		120,211		120,598	-35,598
Delegate Benefits	41,980							41,980
Regionally Deployed Staff					296		296	-296
National Staff	119,280	30,156	7,012		43,042		80,210	39,070
National Society Staff		2,225	2,017		429		4,671	-4,671
Consultants	18,000		2,112		5,572		7,684	10,316
Total Personnel Expenditures	264,260	32,382	11,528		169,550		213,460	50,800
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	226,900	9,852		2,767	21,558		34,178	192,722
Total Workshops & Training	226,900	9,852		2,767	21,558		34,178	192,722
General Expenditure								
Travel	20,863	1,783	-267		14,297		15,814	5,049
Information & Public Relation	63,942	3,765	1,650	1,000	3,821		10,236	53,706
Office Costs	21,334	1,438	-282		11,157		12,313	9,021
Communications	37,181	503	214		35,226		35,943	1,238
Professional Fees	14,000				7,007		7,007	6,993
Financial Charges	367	-1,810	1,823	4	-1,290		-1,272	1,639
Other General Expenses		65			2,371		2,437	-2,437
Total General Expenditure	157,687	5,744	3,138	1,004	72,590		82,476	75,211
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	173,020	58,972	25,650	27,080	37,687		149,389	23,631
Total Federation Contributions & Tr	173,020	58,972	25,650	27,080	37,687		149,389	23,631
Program Support								
Program Support	67,600	8,443	2,810	2,456	24,183		37,893	29,708
Total Program Support	67,600	8,443	2,810	2,456	24,183		37,893	29,708
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,040,007	129,900	43,226	37,791	377,685		588,602	451,406
VARIANCE (C - D)		95,621	45,781	105,461	204,542		451,406	