

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

North Africa

Appeal No. MAA82001

30/11/2008

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 30/06/2008.



Moroccan Red Crescent Society volunteers provided first aid in Nador. **Moroccan RC.**

In brief

Programmes purpose: The regional support plan 2008-2009, in line with the Global Agenda (GA) Goals of the International Federation, focuses on facilitating the development of the five National Societies in the North Africa region by building their capacities and providing technical support to the four core areas of disaster management, health and care, capacity development, and promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values.

Programmes summary: Political and social tensions in addition to violence have been present in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco forcing most of these countries to reinforce internal security systems. In addition, migration (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) and avian influenza (Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia) have continued to be the emerging humanitarian challenges in the region.

During the reporting period, support was provided to the core programmes as per the plan. The health and care programme focused on HIV/AIDS, psycho-social support programme (PSP), first aid/community based first aid (FA/CBFA) and avian and human influenza whereas the disaster management programme aimed to respond to small scale emergencies in Egypt and Tunisia, disaster preparedness training, risk reduction programmes, and vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) in Morocco and Libya. The capacity development programme came into life as related to governance support in Algeria and regional cooperation for Tunisia-Libya was reinforced through the development of the twinning projects. Cross border risk reduction programme was prioritised as well.

Pan-African coordination team (PACT) meetings placed focus on food security and on the preparation of the coming Pan-African Conference to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2008.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget was revised from CHF 2,467,258 (USD 2,349,770 or EUR 1,509,026) to CHF 1,656,277 (USD 1,577,407 or EUR 1,013,013), of which 49 per cent covered. The target was revised based on implementation rates and donor response to the Appeal. Overall expenditure was CHF 406,847. The response to the Appeal remains low; however the regional representation accessed additional funds from United States Agency for International development (USAID) for human pandemic preparedness (H2P), the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and Avian Influenza Global Programme in order to meet the objectives outlined in the Appeal.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

Please go to the International Federation's website for operations relevant to the North Africa region during the reporting period.

No. of people we help: It remains difficult to estimate the total number of beneficiaries supported through the programmes as beneficiaries can be National Society volunteers, staff, people receiving relief assistance during emergencies or large audiences reached through public awareness campaigns and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities. The regional representation has not yet been in a position to set up an adequate system to gather these data from the North Africa National Societies and disparities in figures received are too high to provide a comprehensive outlook.

Our partners: The regional representation works closely with the National Societies in the region, their governments, and local communities. Few partner National Societies (PNSs) are operating bilaterally in the region like French and Spanish Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross and Department for International Development (DfID) are supporting the Annual Appeal multilaterally. Close coordination with other partners such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Arab General Secretariat is taking place and is a key element to support the work of the National Societies. Maintaining and building relations within the United Nations and European Union systems continue to be a priority, especially with partners such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Bank, World Health Organisation/Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO), United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), USAID, Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI)¹ and the African Bank. Furthermore, the regional representation encourages the North African National Societies to build direct partnerships with the media and other local partners such as the diplomatic missions and the private sector to promote their work.

Context

The regional representation for North Africa continued to focus on country level support to the five National Societies of the region, complementing the support provided at the zonal level through the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Strategic Dialogue, disaster management excellence, reinforcement of MENA regional networks' capacities and human resources pools. This approach saw progress, including the strengthening of the National Societies' strategic planning process, advocacy and representation role; increasing confidence to act as members of the international

¹ Spanish Agency for International Cooperation

Federation, gaining recognition on the national level as key actor of the civil society; aligning National Society strategies and plans on the International Federation's GA, increasing ownership and appropriation of programmes and funding mechanisms; developing new partnerships at local, national and international levels; increasing National Societies' preparedness and readiness in disaster management and health; and addressing emerging challenges such as migration and human pandemic preparedness in sensitive environments.

The reporting period was marked by a deteriorating security in the region due to the violence in Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco. The situation remains unpredictable. The increasing prices for food and energy also continued to affect the region - especially Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

Small scale emergencies have continued in Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. A DREF allocation was released for Egyptian Red Crescent to support its assistance to Palestinians stranded at the border in January.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results

- Communities in target areas are aware of disaster hazards and are well prepared to effectively cope with effects of localized disasters.
- The impact of disasters on peoples' lives is reduced through effective and timely emergency response.
- Communities are better prepared to prevent the risk and to cope with the impact and stress of disasters.
- An integrated action by the International Federation and its Movement partners is implemented in order to improve the protection and the living conditions of the migrating people and those who became vulnerable because of the migratory phenomenon in North Africa.

Achievements

The regional disaster management programme focused on scaling up the capacity of North African National Societies at local, national, and regional level to respond to the increased vulnerability to disasters across the region. Guided by the International Federation's GA, significant steps were taken by the National Societies of Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Egypt in the field of organizational preparedness and readiness for effective response.

In Morocco, thanks to the joint International Federation/AECI International Development of West African Red Cross (IDWARC) programme implemented with the support of Spanish RC, basic emergency stocks have been procured and pre-positioned for 2,000 families. 16 regional committees benefited from equipment, internet connection, and volunteers were trained in the field of management (reporting and project planning process), logistics and relief. The Moroccan Red Crescent is involved in the contingency planning and coordination group led by UNDP Morocco and several simulation exercises were held to test the plans presented and discussed.

Algerian Red Crescent has been reactivating its contingency planning process and has been undertaking a series of meetings with the governmental representatives as well as with its main local and international partners to explain its disaster management strategy, and to discuss and review its role in the national disaster plan. Several meetings were held in the regional committees and with the national intervention teams, aiming to present to the newly elected members in the local committees the National Society's disaster management structure and strengthen its network of trained volunteers through an effective deployment of the national and regional intervention teams.

In June, Tunisian Red Crescent held its annual disaster management workshop and organized a large simulation exercise focusing on train accidents. The simulation was attended by a vast range of partners such as Civil Defence, Ministry of Health, scouts, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities, etc.

With the support of one trainer from Algerian RC, the Egyptian RC will conduct a VCA process in the end of July. The VCA tool will be used within the avian influenza human pandemic preparedness project (H2P). Questionnaires will be developed, targeting the communities in two large provinces, mapping the vulnerabilities, the capacities and resources, as well as the level of information within the communities and the perception of the risk. Based on the feedback received and checked, the results will be entered in a database and analysis will be done. Findings will be used to design appropriate public awareness campaigns and preventive measures, aiming at building community preparedness and resilience.

In January 2008, a DREF allocation was granted to Egyptian RC following a crisis resulting in people being stranded at the Palestinian- Egyptian border. Egyptian RC teams were able to intervene very efficiently and in a timely manner providing FA, psychological support, and food and non-food items. After discussions with Egyptian RC's secretary general, it was decided to use part of the DREF allocation to reinforce the capacity of the El-Arish branch (renovation of the warehouse, pre-positioning of stocks and disaster management/logistics/relief training for the volunteers). ICRC Cairo delegation has also been supporting the warehouse renovation through financial contribution.

In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action, Moroccan, Libyan and Algerian National Societies have been re-working their approaches, expressing their willingness and interest to develop their DRR strategies and to be supported in this effort by the International Federation. Moroccan RC and Algerian RC have a large experience in DRR, particularly in the field of earthquake and floods, and will capitalize on the expertise and tools developed. Both National Societies were selected and are preparing an application for a three year proposal for the World Bank.

In Egypt and Tunisia, DRR packages for schools have been developed including topics such as FA, domestic accidents, avian influenza prevention, and road safety. Egyptian RC developed a partnership with UNICEF, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Affairs, and VCA tools will be adapted to be used at schools. Moroccan and Algerian RC have also expressed their interest to consider similar programmes and should soon develop their respective proposals after consultations with their counterparts in concerned ministries and technical departments.

Libyan Red Crescent has also expressed recently its willingness to focus on the DRR programme. Following the VCA workshop, a DRR workshop is planned later this year. A national road safety conference will be co-organized in Benghazi in July by the Libyan RC and the Libyan Aid Foundation to support the development of the National Road Safety Strategy. A member of the Global Partnership for Road Safety, supported by Shell company, will be present to support the elaboration of the strategy and the International Federation representative will present a statement on the International Federation policy and share the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) experiences and programmes in the field of road safety.

A climatic change workshop was organised for the Maghreb countries by the Office for Cooperation in the Mediterranean together with the RC/RC Climatic Centre based in the Netherlands.

Été sans risques, a regional cross border programme, was developed with Algerian, Tunisian and Libyan National Societies on the 17 cross borders points (14 on the Algerian-Tunisian borders, and three on the Tunisian-Libyan borders). The project was aiming at reducing the risks associated to migratory flux during the summer (3,5 million people per month cross those two borders) and more specifically at setting up and reinforcing local community networks, community awareness programmes (road safety, FA, environment/climatic change, promotion of Principles and Values, and protection of persons), assistance to vulnerable people during the long stay/queues at the borders (elderly, pregnant women, children, and handicapped people), and PSP. Target groups identified for

the training were RC volunteers (two teams of 10 volunteers per health post at each border point), taxi drivers, local authorities, tourists, travellers, and vulnerable people. A partnership was signed with the UNHCR office in Tunisia. A module on international protection was included in the community awareness package and specific trainings were organised jointly with UNHCR staff for the volunteers. Regional meetings were organized on each side of the borders to share experience and expertise, and two regional meetings were organized in Tunis for the set up of the programmes with the governance/leaders of the three National Societies and with the presidents of the concerned committees. Five training sessions were conducted in the field (three in Tunisia and two in Algeria), along with two evaluation meetings. A regional pre-evaluation workshop was organized in Algeria and a final evaluation was conducted with the presidents of the branches concerned and the Governance of the National Societies. This pilot project was very successful despite poor participation of Libyan RC. Through training, development of awareness material, cooperation with partners and local authorities, the local committees took the opportunity to strengthen their capacity, to raise their profile and to dialogue better with their local counterparts. Partnership with the private sector was very successful as well, contributing to the production of awareness and promotional materials. Good visibility was ensured, and the National Societies - particularly the branches - have expressed their satisfaction and are willing to continue the work in 2009.

Regarding the implementation of the EU/AENEAS² two years project in Morocco, the Moroccan RC will finalize the process of procurement for and renovation of the community centre in Rabat headquarters (kinder gardens, vocational centres for women including cooking, sewing, and broidery courses, youth centre, and FA centre), the Rabat local committee (music training centre, FA centre, and vocational training centre), as well as similar RC centres in the regions of Figuig and Nador. The process will be completed in the end of August to allow the activities to start in September. The Moroccan RC opened its training and community centre to African women in difficult situations and to their children. Collaboration with Caritas was put in place to identify the interested people within the migrant community. The FA and sewing training for young migrants took place in Rabat this summer. Parallel to this preparatory process, the regional representation worked with the research institute AMERM³ for the preparation of a field survey, aiming at assessing the perception from the local hosting communities in six regions of Morocco of the migration phenomena and its impact. This is the first ever field survey focusing on the Moroccan communities - previous surveys were made but focusing exclusively on migrants. This survey will hep all partners involved in Migration to get a comprehensive understanding of the global picture. A cross analysis of those surveys will be prepared by the research institute and presented at a later stage with the results of the survey on the hosting communities. Questionnaires were developed for the community mapping and teams of Moroccan RC volunteers were trained in enquiry methods. This interaction between the academic researchers and the RC volunteers issued from the communities was very positive and fruitful in terms of respective inputs. The main impact was the revision of the questionnaires as to be better adapted to the communities targeted by the field survey. The field survey will be completed by end of August and sent for verification and analysis. A web site for the project is under construction and should be launched for the celebration of the Migrant Day on 18 December.

Building on this experience and successful impact of this programme, a second application was prepared for European Union for Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia focusing on the promotion of the Principles and Humanitarian Values, supporting the Red Crescent Societies of this region to be better prepared to respond to this increasing and silent vulnerability. The main areas covered are the reinforcement of RC branches at the borders (disaster management, VCA), community awareness (including a large communications program, development of tools and a communication strategy) and support to community programmes (cross border programmes, re-integration and admission programmes in Morocco) as well as a research on the impact and consequences of climatic changes on migratory flux. Migration remains to be a very sensitive issue in North Africa and National Societies are left with very little space to operate in the field. Access and assistance to vulnerable migrants yet remain difficult as the security aspects of migration are still predominant. Advocacy,

² European Union/financial and technical assistance to third countries in the field of migration and asylum

³ Association Marocaine d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Migrations

dialogue and effective communications is very much needed to overcome these difficulties and to create a safer environment for National Societies' staff when implementing their mission.

In June, the International Federation, together with the ICRC, was invited to attend the African Inter Parliamentary Conference on Migration and to facilitate a working group on humanitarian challenges. A joint statement was provided by the International Federation and ICRC reminding the position of the RC/RC Movement on migration.

Constraints or Challenges

In line with the constraints and challenges faced by the National Societies at time of disasters and in the field of migration, it becomes crucial to engage a strategic dialogue with the public authorities to clarify the concept of the National Societies' auxiliary role and define better the complementary action and support that can be provided by the National Societies at grassroots level through their network of trained volunteers. This effort was successfully made in the health and care programme, which facilitates and eases the work of the volunteers on the field.

Health and Care

Outcomes/Expected results

- The response capacity of the National Societies is strengthened, and programmes are scaled up in line with the national HIV and AIDS strategies, through IEC⁴ programmes, and the fight against stigma and discrimination.
- Communities' capacity to reduce the vulnerability related to public health preparedness and response are increased (relief health, FA, psychological support, road safety programmes, and community health promotion).
- The capacity of National Societies in enabling vulnerable groups to build resilience and to better cope with risks and impact of crisis is increased through establishing adequate structures, tools and programmes.
- Focused and effective community development projects - education (literacy classes); social welfare (vocational training); and health promotion - are adequately supported to respond to real vulnerabilities.

Achievements

Moroccan RC has continued successfully to implement its HIV/AIDS programme together with the global funds, building on its network in the National Society branches and reaching various groups at risks.

Algerian RC has been focusing on the development of a large HIV-AIDS programme and the National Society was supported by the French RC. An assessment was organised in the south of the country (Tamanrasset) mapping the vulnerabilities, existing capacities and identifying projects. The National Society was requested to contribute to the application for the Global Fund for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (GFTAM) and presented an ambitious programme. Several awareness programmes are held in the branches and thanks to a partnership with a private phone company, a large amount of leaflets, posters and promotional materials were developed.

As per the avian influenza global awareness programme, three proposals for the second half of 2008 were prepared (Egypt - CHF 80,000, Morocco - CHF 60,000 and Tunisia CHF - 40,000), submitted to the avian influenza department in Geneva and were accepted. For Egyptian and Moroccan RC, these will be a continuation of their current programmes, building on the experiences and learning. Egyptian RC will continue to work in 27 governorates, targeting new groups. Moroccan RC has selected seven new regions to initiate the programme and will use the networks of trained volunteers and trainers to

⁴ IEC: Information, Education, Communication programmes

support the programme in these new regions (knowledge and experience sharing). Both National Societies are planning to introduce some components of pandemic preparedness and health departments have seized the opportunity to work closely with their disaster management units to link their approaches in terms of contingency planning, H2P scenarios, and preparation of simulation exercises. It is interesting to note that in Morocco, the commitment and involvement of health authorities and the willingness to prepare specific groups (medical and veterinary staff, poultry farmers and sellers, etc.) has increased. A good partnership is developed with the National Societies but there is a fear to initiate openly a large awareness programme at community level. Therefore, these awareness programmes are planned in different steps of preparedness. Tunisian RC has developed a very interesting programme targeting five pilot schools in the regions at risk (lakes, natural migration birds' reserve) and will focus on training school teachers, administrative and maintenance staff, parents, and pupils. The three National Societies are starting their planning for 2009 applications.

Considering the situation of avian influenza in Egypt, and following discussions with Egyptian RC, the regional representation and the secretariat's health department in Geneva, it was decided to apply to the USAID/International Federation global agreement and Egyptian RC to prepare for a large avian influenza human pandemic preparedness project. The regional representation, together with the H2P continental coordinator, supported the Egyptian RC in the development and elaboration of the project proposal. The project was finally approved in June and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed in July. The project will focus on community preparedness and readiness to mitigate the impact of a potential pandemic and is articulated through the axes of public health, food security, livelihoods, as well as partnerships and communication. A successful VCA process will be launched in the two selected areas involving all local actors (please refer to the disaster management section). Training curricula will be developed by local experts and the lessons learned from this first pilot experience in Egypt will be shared with other National Societies and network of partners, contributing to the development and implementation of other projects in the world. Projects will be implemented according to plans and deadlines, and the regional representation will closely monitor the implementation and financial management.

Moroccan RC has expressed its interest to develop an H2P application despite the fact that no cases were yet declared in the country. The regional representation did support Moroccan RC in this process and was as well involved in the meetings with the Ministry of Health, advocating on the International Federation's position on avian and human influenza programmes.

French RC continues to support FA programmes in Algeria and Morocco. Discussions on harmonizing the approaches on the development of national and regional intervention teams are ongoing with Moroccan RC.

Road safety programmes are scaling up in all the countries of North Africa. Good partnerships are developed with the Ministries of Transport, Civil Defence, Education, etc.) and schools. The regional representation supported the Moroccan and Tunisian RC participants to attend the GPRS/International Federation workshop organized in Dakar. As a follow up of the meeting, several programmes were reactivated in Tunisia. 4,000 copies of the Road Safety Manual were re-printed in Arabic by the regional representation and distributed to the North African National Societies for their road safety trainings and workshops in the branches.

Egyptian RC and Moroccan RC have scaled up their activities in community health and hygiene promotion through new partnerships with their Ministries of Health: The regional representation has been supporting these programmes through the development of adequate communications and promotional materials. Moroccan RC has actively supported the large measles vaccination campaign earlier this year. Moroccan RC team of volunteers were deployed on the field to brief and prepare the families and to promote the objectives of the vaccination campaign.

Moroccan RC nominated a PSP focal point, who has been tasked to develop a PSP strategy within the disaster management integrated approach. The new PSP coordinator has been attending the MENA PSP network workshops.

In August, the Libyan RC will conduct a PSP workshop with the assistance of the MENA zonal PSP coordinator supporting the National Society to elaborate a PSP strategy adapted to the needs and role as well as to develop a plan of action aiming at integrating PSP activities into current National Society programming and activities.

Following the bomb attacks in December 2007, the Algerian RC maintained two emergency cells on the site of the disaster to support affected families, and the people living in the neighbourhood. Two months after the attacks, there was still some request to maintain such a structure.

Constraints or Challenges

The instability of human resources and insecurity of funds at country and regional level were two major challenges for the long term health programming during the reporting period. Thanks to un-earmarked funds from DfID, allocations could be made to support health projects.

Emergency health has been identified as a sector to be developed in North African National Societies.

Capacity Development

- Issues related to strategic planning, integrity, legal basis, regional conferences (PACT, MENA, Mediterranean), and leadership programmes are prioritised.
- North African National Societies have improved their branch capabilities and the interaction of volunteers and staff members with their communities.
- National Societies' management systems and databases are strengthened.
- Involvement of youth in RC activities is increased.
- North African National Societies have developed clear gender policies and integrated the gender issues across their programme activities.
- North African National Societies' capacity building plans are completed and implemented.

The regional representation continues to provide strategic organisational development and capacity building support to the National Societies in the region on the review of their legal base, encouraging them to review and if necessary to revise their statutes to be in alignment with the International Federation's guidance for National Societies' Statutes. Support is also provided to the Moroccan and Algerian National Societies in the implementation and review of their strategic plans.

All National Societies were briefed on the new operating model, how to use it, and translate it into the programming.

In December 2007, Moroccan RC applied to the intensified capacity building (ICB) of the International Federation and its concept note was selected: A full proposal was very carefully prepared by the National Society but did not get retained. The Moroccan RC was offered to re-work its proposal as it was not fitting the ICB's criteria and to re-apply to the second round in August 2008. The proposal was reviewed but withdrawn by the National Society fearing a second failure. A large part of this interesting proposal was shared with other partners and accepted for funding.

Three twinning projects between Libya and Tunisia are still being implemented. Tunisian RC requested the support of the regional representation for the organization of youth camps.

The DRR cross border programme for Tunisia, Algeria and Libya (please refer to the disaster management section - été sans risques) was successfully implemented. Positive impact on branch

development was ensured through provision of equipment to local committees and capacity building of local staff and volunteers.

Contacts were established with the UNISDR Cairo office, DRR department in Geneva and the World Bank to explore a partnership for Tunisia on school safety programmes for the elaboration and production of school safety manuals.

Algerian RC went through a difficult election process for its youth president. According to their recently revised Statutes, the youth structure is now fully recognized in the National Society and its president will participate in the Board Meeting. The newly elected president will be participating in the Pan-African Conference in the youth panel and will be soon introduced to the MENA youth network.

Capacity building plans are increasingly prepared and integrated in programme proposals or in small scale emergency programmes, ensuring that National Society staff and volunteers get trained adequately to manage effectively their tasks.

Constraints or Challenges

The low funding of the different components of the regional organisational development programme hampered the implementation of some developmental activities. This explains why organisational development and capacity building support is now integrated into programme activities and directly charged and reported under those programmes.

Humanitarian Values

- Principles and Values are integrated in all RC activities.
- Public campaigns for migration are developed (please refer to the disaster management section)
- National Societies' strategies and plans, and active media network are in place.
- Common RC positions and statements are supported by advocacy material.

The Principles and Humanitarian Values have been promoted among the general public, National Societies' partners from the mass media, populations served by the National Societies' volunteers and staff through the RC/RC activities, training, events, and celebration of RC/RC days.

The integration of diversity, non-discrimination, tolerance, and respect for dignity has been promoted through sessions during trainings under the core programmes but also through thematic sessions.

- a. National Society newsletters and websites were strengthened in Egypt and Morocco. Moroccan RC is developing a newsletter addressed to its branches and its partners, sharing news and information on the programmes, trainings, and international activities. Egyptian RC is developing a newsletter on human pandemic preparedness, summarizing its activities, achievements, information on partners, and external inputs.
- b. The regional Representation is developing a web page for its migration programme supported by EU/AENEAS funding. This page should be launched on 18 December on the occasion of the Migrants Day.
- c. National Societies are increasingly recognizing the importance of building a proper communications plan and strategy to work on National Societies' image through provision of professional material and tools. So far, few North African National Societies benefited from a communications department or unit. The regional representation is supporting the National Societies in the identification of professional communications agencies who can help the National Societies to build their capacities. The system is successfully implemented in Tunisia and Morocco. It is hoped that funding will be made available for National Societies to invest into adequate communication structures.

A number of communications and visibility materials was produced during the reporting period including brochures, caps, t-shirts, pens, calendars, cards, school materials, stickers, and bags for the health, migration and disaster management programmes.

Constraints or Challenges

The communication between the National Society headquarters and subordinate units remain an area which needs improvement: Most of the activities carried out at branch level are not acknowledged, recognized or credited at central level and therefore not reported as it should be. This results in missed opportunities to further promote the positive work of the RC/RC Movement in the country and in the region.

Working in partnership

The regional representation maintains good working relationships with the governments, the diplomatic missions, the United Nations, international organizations and humanitarian actors in the region. In addition, the North African National Societies cooperate well with local authorities and ministries in their respective countries. During the reporting period, the regional representation has continued to strengthen and improve cooperation, coordination and explore medium to long term funding mechanisms, facilitating the collaboration amongst Movement partners (preparation with Norwegian RC for a four year proposal/plan for Algerian RC with a budget of CHF two million) as well as strategic partners (European Union, World Bank, ISDR, and USAID).

Specific focus is also placed on supporting the National Societies to develop direct partnerships with strategic partners, not only to create the space and necessary back up to the National Societies to assume the leading role in their country but also to strengthen their representation and participation role as International Federation members.

Regular coordination and consultation meetings are held during field visits with bilateral PNSs operating in the region (French and Spanish RC,) and with ICRC to share, harmonize and discuss the Movement approach and National Societies' cooperation plan - with a specific focus on Algeria (organisational development) and Morocco (disaster management/organisational development).

Cooperation and information sharing with RC/RC Office for the Cooperation in Mediterranean is very fruitful to support North African National Societies in the area of climate change, migration, youth and gender. During the reporting period, two regional workshops were held in the region. A climatic change seminar with a link on displaced population/migration in Maghreb was held in Morocco. A second workshop was held in Tunisia on social insertion of vulnerable groups through the labour market. A regional seminar funded through the EUROMED⁵ mechanism is also discussed and planned in the second half of the year focusing on youth (exchange programme in partnership with French, Spanish, Egyptian and Moroccan National Societies).

Institutional development for Morocco/IDWARC programme covering disaster management institutional strengthening, support for contingency plan/stock piling, creation/improvement of management and administration departments of Moroccan RC is an area of focus. The multilateral project (EUR 1,3 million for 2007-2008) brings together the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the AEI, the Spanish RC, the International Federation and the Moroccan RC. The project is implemented by the Spanish RC. By August, most of the project's objectives will be met by Moroccan RC. Proposals are currently discussed with Spanish RC and AEI to use the funds left over by the end of the year.

⁵ Euro-Mediterranean Networks

The regional representation placed a considerable energy to develop with the North African National Societies strategies and mechanisms to access and invest into European Union funding. This approach, initiated in 2005, has brought positive results.

- EU/AENEAS grant was implemented in Morocco, focusing on migration (fight against racism and xenophobia in Morocco in the context of migration) for EUR 900,000 for 24 months.
- A second regional application (EUR 1,5 million covering four countries for 36 months) was placed to the European Union/cooperation thematic programme on migration and asylum seekers, focusing on supporting the National Societies of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco in the field of migration.
- The regional representation supported Moroccan RC in its application to European Union neighbouring country policies and funding mechanism. In March, Moroccan RC submitted for the first time in its history an application on child trafficking. The concept note was successfully selected and the National Society was asked to develop a full application.
- Following the same perspective, the Office for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean has also been very instrumental in the support provided to the Moroccan and Tunisian RC in their application to EUROMED funding.

The regional representation supported the Egyptian and Moroccan RC in the development of their applications to USAID. Egyptian RC proposal was selected as the first pilot human pandemic preparedness project within the USAID/International Federation global H2P agreement. A MoU will be signed for an 18 months project amounting to CHF 900,000. Moroccan RC will be applying to the next round of selection.

DfID continued to support the North Africa region within its institutional strategy and focus on Africa. In the field of DRR, new partnerships are explored with UNISDR, and the World Bank. Together with the support of the regional representation, Moroccan and Algerian RC prepared concept notes and are developing full applications to be submitted by the end of the year.

Cooperation was reinforced at country level with UNHCR (Morocco on the migration platform), and at regional level (cross border DRR programmes implemented in Algeria and Tunisia during the summer 2008 integrating a UNHCR module on international protection), harmonizing planning and advocacy efforts to public authorities.

The regional representation has encouraged National Societies to diversify their funding and to approach private sector companies especially in the field of health, disaster management and communications (Coca Cola, phone companies, and oil companies). These partnerships have not only resulted in an increasing visibility of the National Societies but also in a better understanding of the concept of partnership (equal partner concept – National Societies receiving support from the private sector but at the same time providing in return services such as FA training and community awareness sessions in HIV/AIDS, DRR, etc).

National Societies have continued to strengthen their partnerships with their ministries but in a more independent and visible way. Communications and promotional materials were developed, especially in the health (HIV/AIDS and avian influenza) and DRR areas, adapting from International Federation material or developing new material.

Four out of five Red Crescent Societies are closely working with the GFTAM and new funding possibilities are explored in the areas of youth and gender.

As an impact of the development of these new partnerships, National Societies are progressively reviewing their structures to adapt them accordingly and develop their capacity building plan to manage properly these new programmes through focusing on adequate human resources, financial management and decentralization processes.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The regional representation, together with the National Societies of the region, has been progressively reviewing and redefining its function and role in line with the International Federation's new operating model, focusing on leadership and provision of membership services to the National Societies, coordination and support in disaster response, and facilitation and promotion for operational alliances seeking for a long term impact and sustainability.

In line with the 2008 planning and specific country matrices developed by the National Societies, the responsive work of the North African Red Crescent Societies and the regional representation has been increasingly focusing on the core programming areas, contributing to the International Federation's GA Goals. The regional representation capitalizes on its field visits, meetings with National Society colleagues, partners and authorities to share and promote at regional level and with National Societies the best practices, experiences and expertises. There are interesting coordination mechanisms in place in the region resulting from increased relation and cooperation between the National Societies themselves (bilateral twinning programmes; cross border programmes; regional thematic approaches such as road safety, HIV/AIDS, community development; exchange programmes; use of North Africa pool of experts).

	Global Agenda 1	Global Agenda 2	Global Agenda 3	Global Agenda 4
Algeria	Disaster preparedness, DRR, earthquake awareness programmes	Community health, HIV/AIDS, PSP, FA, and road safety	VCA (community empowerment), and developing and renewing governing bodies	Humanitarian Principles and Values programmes focusing on violence, prevention and migration
Egypt	Community based disaster preparedness, community based DRR (school, programmes), and projects in post recovery	Community health, HIV/AIDS, PSP, FA/CBFA, avian influenza and social welfare	Community development projects, community empowerment	Promotion of Humanitarian Values
Libya	Sphere, disaster preparedness (stocks pre-positioning), intervention teams	CBFA, road safety, PSP	VCA	
Morocco	Community based disaster preparedness, community based DRR projects, VCA, disaster management awareness programmes, school programmes, disaster response (stock management)	HIV/AIDS, FA, road safety, health policy and advocacy, avian influenza, and communications	Community empowerment	Principles and Values
Regional Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support participatory planning and strategic development approach; fundraising strategies and communications plan; • Promote programme coordination and complementary actions with other partners, and development and/or harmonisation of methodologies, approaches and tools by maximising the use of expertise available in the region; 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise resources for the core areas to increase harmonization of methodologies, tools, processes and approaches; • Increase communication and information sharing within the RC/RC Movement in the region through frequent working sessions with National Society leaders and programme managers, regular contacts/debriefing with ICRC delegates, bilateral PNSs, and other partners; • Strengthen advocacy, awareness and promotion of humanitarian trends and actions through thematic networks in the region, and develop and increase on advocacy capacity within the National Societies.
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During the reporting period, North African National Societies' staff and volunteers continued to be trained both at regional level (joint regional workshop organized with the Arab RC/RC Secretariat, and MENA disaster management workshop organized in Morocco) and country level on Sphere Project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, and Code of Conduct for the RC/RC Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief (Libyan RC, Algerian RC, and Tunisian RC). These recognized quality standards are increasingly used at time of emergencies.

Most of the National Societies in their role as auxiliary to their public authority are considering in their own strategic planning and programming their respective countries' timelines for achieving the Millennium Development Goals as well as Poverty Reduction Strategies.

The DREF allocation has allowed the Egyptian RC to respond immediately to emergencies, reducing the impact of disasters on affected populations, protecting and saving people, and thus to fully fulfil its role as auxiliary to public authorities.

North African National Societies are increasingly rethinking their own development and strategic approach integrating organizational development and the promotion of Principles and Values within their disaster management/health core areas.

Looking ahead

National Societies continue to demonstrate their capability and their potential on several occasions as well as being more specific and clearing their demands and expectations from the regional representation. The two years' country planning exercise, its monitoring and the development of National Societies' strategic plans are very helpful processes to review and identify priorities and related plans. The increased harmonization of plans at national, regional and continental level will contribute towards a better contribution of National Societies' inputs and facilitating the work towards common goals aligned with the International Federation's GA. Building on experience and the confidence gained, National Societies are increasingly inclined to explore new partnerships both at local or international level.

As a consequence and to complement the support provided at the zonal level, the regional representation will continue to focus its assistance on country level outcomes directly with National Society governance and managerial teams.

Disaster management and DRR continue to be the main priority in the region. The regional health strategy needs to be strengthened and additional support is to be provided to the North African National Societies. Funding for health and care programmes has been critical and new partnerships need to be identified and explored.

The migration agenda is very high on the National Societies' agenda despite the high sensitivity of the topic. Red Crescent Societies are defining carefully their working space through advocacy to their public authorities. The regional representation will continue to stand with National Societies in developing advocacy plans and supporting them to define their position in this difficult area.

The establishment of the MENA zone office with the recruitment of the zonal team will definitely provide increased resources and better support to the North Africa region.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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