

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Middle East and North Africa Zone

Appeal No. MAA80003

15/August/2011

This report covers the period  
1st/Jan./2011 to 30/June/2011



Libyan RC volunteers are providing several relief activities in IDP camps inside Libya. Photo: Libyan RC

### In brief

#### Programme outcome:

The overall focus during the reporting period was concentrated on the efforts directed to address the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest which has been sweeping the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) since the beginning of 2011. This has affected, to a considerable degree, the implementation of the regular 2011 plan and budget that was launched at the beginning of the year.

The IFRC is responding to the evolving humanitarian situation working with the National Societies to ensure that they can continue to deliver effective emergency and social services in a neutral and impartial manner. The IFRC is fully alert to pre-existing hardships and difficulties that are exacerbated by the current socio-economic conditions and is enhancing its focus in support of the most vulnerable amongst the affected population.

The current operation is considered to be one of the biggest in the history of the MENA Zone with an emergency appeal amounting to more than CHF 15 Million and targeting up to 300,000 beneficiaries mainly in Libya, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen.

#### Programme(s) summary:

During the reporting period, the Disaster Management (DM) programme focused on enabling the NSs to provide effective services to the people affected and displaced by the civil unrest.

In health, the community based approach integrated with disaster risk reduction was adopted by several NSs including the NSs of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Psychosocial support was integrated within the relevant programmes of National Societies including Qatar, Palestine,

Morocco, UAE, and Iran.

Consolidating the basis for NS organizational development and capacity building, an overall mapping of NS capacities, priorities and gaps was conducted as part of the effort to update the base line to facilitate the roll out and implementation of Strategy 2020 within the MENA Zone. The report was presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> MENA Conference in Abu Dhabi, March 2011.

A comprehensive trend report was also developed summarizing the nature and direction of the changing socio-economic and political context in MENA with a condensed analysis of the humanitarian effects of the on-going civil unrest.

### **Financial situation:**

The total (2011) budget is CHF 1,051,962 of which CHF 803,811 (76%) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 199,646 (19%) of the budget. The budget has been revised downwards (from CHF 1,839,019 to CHF 1,051,962).

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

### **No. of people we have reached:**

The direct beneficiaries in DM and Health as well as through the OD/CB programmes are NS' staff and volunteers. The number of indirect beneficiaries is estimated to reach up to 160,000 people benefiting especially from the DM and health activities of the NSs supported by the Federation. Up to 50 percent of the beneficiaries are estimated to be women and 30 per cent children.

### **Our partners:**

Our partners: The main partners supporting the 2011 programmes through the MENA Zone are the Norwegian RC, American RC and DFID. Working relationship is also maintained with other RC/RC partners and non-RC partners including the UN agencies.

## **Context**

With the on-going civil unrest in several countries, the socio-economic and political context in MENA is fundamentally changing. The ongoing civil unrest is increasingly seen as 'a popular movement' across the region with shared expectations that it will lead to fundamental socio-economic and political changes. The changes already unfolding in some of the countries, with a rapid change of long-established centres of power and traditions of governance, seem to be generating a new dynamic with a potential of reshaping the existing and emerging realities. On the whole, the widely held view both within and outside the region is that the movement, as a positive force for change, represents a case of unprecedented transformation heralding a new future of hope, peace, democracy and prosperity with a culture of good governance and participation.

The short term challenge for the NSs and their partners is how to ensure adequate support to the people affected and displaced by the on-going changes raising the stakes in terms of security, safety, protection, and threats to livelihoods. In the medium to the long term, the challenge for the NSs is how to ensure adequate adaptation re-defining their auxiliary role within the changing socio-economic and political context.

## **Progress towards outcomes**

## Disaster Management

The disaster management strategy 2009-2011 states that the mission of the Red Crescent and Red Cross National Societies throughout the MENA Zone is to significantly expand their capacities to alleviate suffering and increase community resilience by focusing on disaster management. This expansion requires a systematic increase in resources devoted to seeking out vulnerable populations and practicing disaster risk reduction before disaster strikes.

### Outcome(s)

- Integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation tools including CBHF are developed and adopted by the MENA zone disaster management network and disaster management steering committee.
- The disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes, implemented at country and /or regional levels, are effectively supported and monitored.
- The zone disaster management coordination working more closely with the disaster management steering committee and network building up awareness and capacity to use standard International Federation tools for preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction
- A comprehensive MENA disaster management human resources strategy is developed and adopted by National Societies.  
Disaster response and cooperation has the capacity to support and if required coordinate disaster management operations and programmes.
- National Societies' disaster management role is fully acknowledged by governments and National Societies' disaster management mandates are clearly determined.

### Achievements

- The Zone hosted two IFRC global events in Damascus in cooperation with the Syrian Arab RC:
  - The global DM coordinators meeting , 27 and 28 March 2011
  - The Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum 29 to 31st March 2011

The Global Forum was attended by 117 participants representing around 70 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the International Federation, international and non-governmental agencies. The Forum had the following objectives

- To assess and summarise Red Cross Red Crescent progress in community safety and resilience programming at national and community levels.
- To discuss progress and agree specific practical recommendations and measures to improve delivery, impact and accountability including a broad work plan for the coming two years.
- To share and investigate approaches to safety and resilience programming that integrate DRR (including CCA) into ongoing and new sector and multi-sector programming at community level.
- To discuss strategies for DRR and CCA advocacy activities at the national, regional and global levels.

Arabic and English versions of the Logistics Strategic plan 2015 were sent to MENA NS DM focal points to assist them in integrating Strategy 2015 in their DM programmes/activities.

- Supported NSs in implementing the community based disaster risk reduction programme in Morocco, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, and Palestine providing technical support, manuals and materials.
- Several Migration articles and essays were shared with the concerned NS focal points ,
- Facilitated exchange of DM materials with a focus on climate change and DRR activities between NSs by sharing best practices, lessons learned and challenges .
- Disaster response information system: as a need to sustain more proactive approach in disaster response within the region, disaster response information system was developed to be used by the national societies and the zone office; two days consultative meeting was organized mid April in Amman for 6 national societies (Morocco – Syria – Lebanon – Jordan – Palestine and Qatar) to agree on the database structure & use.

The system to be implemented in MENA Zone 3 regions, North Africa, Middle East and the Gulf region. All RC National Societies from the Zone will be able to enter their volunteers into the HR database, manage their data and choose who is capable of international engagement. Those people will be visible for MENA staff, and considered as regional asset for future trainings, education and, in case of disaster, deployment. NS DM Coordinators will be supplied with unique username/password, that will allow them to edit their own NS data in the system, as well as to enter current stocks of their NS central DM warehouse, in accordance with RC Emergency catalogue, with certain quantity of shared items, that comprise “virtual warehouse” concept.

- The system will reflect positively on the quality of response plans both at NS & Zone level.
- Deployed the MENA RDRT members under the current operation responding to the humanitarian effects of the MENA Civil Unrest. Sixteen information updates were issued promoting the operation.
- A concept paper has been developed on RDRT training. The training will be hosted by the Iranian RC in September 2011.
- Disaster Response mechanism was developed; this mechanism serves as standard operation procedures for all levels of the Zone; Specifying the roles and responsibilities against clear sequence. This response mechanism will provide a comprehensive framework also at national society’s level and enable them to use the IFRC disaster management tools in more efficient way.
- Conducted field visits to IFRC operations in North Africa, visiting the Libyan-Tunisian border, the Libyan – Egyptian boarder to support the coordination mechanism and give more direct support to the operation field managers.
- Conducted field visits to Syria and Yemen to monitor implementation of the response activities
- Represented IFRC as an observer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> PPRD steering committee meeting organised in Sarajevo in June 2011.
- A DRR working group was established with members drawn from eight NSs to achieve the following objectives:
  - To exchange and document information, experience, and lessons learnt and to support partnerships in risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
  - To Provide the National Societies with Technical Human Resources in order to support the Risk Reduction Program regionally and nationally during the planning and implementation of their activities.

- Zone DM coordinator and Palestinian RC DM coordinator participated in Gender mainstreaming workshop organized by IFRC in Beirut – Lebanon early May, in the workshop the Zone DM coordinator gave a presentation on DM & Gender.
- DP and RDRT specialists were recruited to strengthen the DM unit at the Zone level.

## Constraints/ Challenges

- More than 40% of the NSs are engaged with the emergency response related to the ongoing civil unrest which did not enable to focus on 2011 activities; several activities were postponed such as ( RDRT trainings, DM steering committee meeting)
- Frequent change of management and technical counterparts within the NSs imposes a condition in which time and effort is required to build new relations with new people.
- The lack of financial resources stills a major challenge for the implementation.

## Health and Social Services

The health and social services programmes strengthen the operational capacities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through regional thematic networks and workshops that promote knowledge sharing, coordination and cooperation.

## Outcomes

- Strengthen NS capacities in community based health and the integrated approach in addressing public health trends.
- Support NS contribution in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Support the integration of psychosocial support programme (PSP)/activities within relevant programmes of the NSs.
- Strengthen a Zone wide emergency health and water/ sanitation programme.

## Achievements

- The Arabic version of Strategy 2020 was sent to the MENA NS health focal points to assist them in integrating Strategy 2020 in their health programmes/activities.
- Supported NSs in implementing the community based health and first aid approach in Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, UAE, and Palestine. The community based approach reflected on better hygiene habits and behaviours among the local community.
- Supported NS training workshops in Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and UAE; providing relevant material and presentations.
- Facilitated exchange between NSs health materials focusing on community based activities and behavioural change
- Facilitated exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned between the NSs
- Technical advice was provided to Yemeni and Iraqi Red Crescent on their auxiliary role in Polio vaccination campaigns.
- With the beginning of winter and announcement of H1N1 cases in the region, a follow up plan was implemented and a bulletin issued on H1N1 virus. Infected cases in MENA countries and the role of NS in prevention and preparedness were highlighted.

- Following up on NSs' HIV programme performance for the year 2010, the necessary information including volunteer hours and resources was mobilized. Translation of the HIV training package into Arabic in progress in cooperation with the UAE Red Crescent.
- Translated the Psychosocial Support Newsletter "Coping with Crisis" into Arabic. Supported PSP training courses and provided training manuals to Yemen, Libya, Qatar and Tunisia including the deployment of a regional PSP expert from Palestine Red Crescent to support the Yemen RC. .
- Provided the MENA health focal points with MENA Update (Bulletin) on the situation of the civil unrest; including the health situation and activities.
- Coordinated with the operation team the health needs/activities related to the civil unrest in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen and Syria. Carried out a field visit to IFRC operations in North Africa, visiting the Libyan-Tunisian border and checked the health services and psychosocial support provided to the displaced people in IFRC camp/ clinic.

### **Constraints/ Challenges:**

Due to lack of funding the following events were not implemented during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year; and the plan was reviewed to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

- The school based health and First Aid (SBHFA) Reference Team meeting and SBHFA curriculum & training guides.
- PSP Regional Reference Team meeting
- Consultative meeting on Emergency Health and WatSan.

### **Organisational Development**

#### **Outcomes**

- NS organizational development including access to better manage strategic planning and change management
- Support in NS leadership and management development with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with the desired level of competencies
- Improvement of NS legal base
- Support in volunteer/youth development and management as well as branch development
- Support in partnership development enhancing the capacity to ensure coordinated efforts

### **Achievements**

#### **Increasing focus on gender and diversity**

The Federation facilitated a consultation and development workshop on gender awareness and mainstreaming organized in Beirut, Lebanon at the beginning of May 2011. Attended by 16 volunteers and staff from eight National Societies including Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen (one-third of the participants were male), the consultation enabled the participants to discuss and contribute focusing on the following agenda items.

- Introduction to Strategy 2020 and sharing experiences and best practices related to gender awareness and mainstreaming in MENA summarizing the efforts made since 2001 including the establishment of a gender network
- Prioritizing gender within Strategy 2020. MENA feedback to be incorporated into the Global Gender Strategy of the Federation

- MENA gender framework of action (in line with Strategy 2020/draft Gender Strategy). Each National Society highlighted actions/priorities within the framework.

### **Greater understanding of the NSs and the context in which they work**

- Consolidating the basis for NS organizational development and capacity building, an overall mapping of NS capacities, priorities and gaps was conducted as part of the effort to update the base line and facilitate the roll out and implementation of Strategy 2020 within the MENA Zone. The profile was presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> MENA Conference in Abu Dhabi, March 2011. The profile is being used as a main source of reference to redefine the menu of services the Federation can provide to the NSs in line with their priorities and in alignment with Strategy 2020. It will also enable the NSs to develop strong data banking on the basis of which they can contribute to the Federation-wide reporting system.
- A comprehensive trend report was developed summarizing the changing socio-economic and political context in MENA with a condensed analysis of the humanitarian effects of the on-going civil unrest. The report provides insights fostering greater understanding of the changing context which will also influence the nature and direction of RC/RC organization and programming..

### **Promoting linkages between the on-going emergency relief and development/capacity building**

This focuses on exploring the opportunities for the NSs to review and redefine their strategic positioning in a way that can enhance effective and relevant service delivery in the changing context based on greater preparedness and response capacities.

- A comprehensive framework of cooperation was developed in support of the Egyptian RC to facilitate emergency response including logistics(during the 1<sup>st</sup> phase), capacity building including volunteer development( during the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase) redefining NS role in light of the changing context including review of statutes and government relations(during the third phase). The cooperation framework is planned to be implemented as a joint effort between the Egyptian RC, IFRC and ICRC.
- Terms of Reference have been developed in support of the Tunisian RC in the effort to conduct a diagnostic assessment as a basis for the NS to launch a self –development process based on a comprehensive analysis of capacities and needs. Led by the Tunisian RC, the assessment is to be carried out as a joint effort including the IFRC, ICRC and participating NSs.

### **Increasing focus on exchange of experiences :**

- Technical support to the NSs that developed and presented papers(case studies) on the various thematic areas during the 7<sup>th</sup> MENA Conference(Abu Dhabi, March, 2011): Egyptian RC on community development, Iranian and Lebanese RC on youth/volunteering, Syrian Arab RC on disaster preparedness and management, and Iraq RC on humanitarian messaging . The key issues from the presentations and discussions were included in the Abu Dhabi Commitments issued at the end of the Conference summarizing the key areas of focus until the next Conference
- In June, 2011, the Head of Finance from the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) visited/worked with the MENA Zone Office strengthening exchange of experience between the Federation and ARCO
- The Terms of Reference have been prepared to enable a staff on loan from the Algerian RC (in cooperation with the Centre for the Coordination in the Mediterranean – CCM) to work with the Federation(MENA Zone) focusing on strengthening youth/volunteer structures and services including development of initiatives that can ensure greater activation and more optimal utilization of the MENA youth network

### **Supporting and encouraging learning among NS staff and volunteers as well as IFRC staff**

- An increasing number of NS staff/volunteers and IFRC staff improving their knowledge in different areas using IFRC E-Learning Platform
- Twenty two leaders and managers from eight NSs have expressed interest to take part in the leadership development course planned to be launched in cooperation with the Bahrain Regional Learning Centre

### **Consolidating the process of planning and reporting**

- The 2010 Annual Report for MENA published and shared with donors in April 2011.
- A long term planning framework (2012-2015) developed according to the guidelines from the Secretariat

### **The 7th MENA Conference**

- 7th MENA Conference was organised during March 24 – 26, 2011 and attended by over 100 participants representing National Societies of MENA area, ICRC, PNSs and other partners and stakeholders. The conference was hosted by United Arab Emirates in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. The conference started by a press conference on 24th March, attended by the RC/RC Movement components and partners that represent the Federation, ICRC and NSs of Libyan RC, Tunisian RC in addition to the host NS UAE RC and covered by the local, regional and international media. The conference proceeded to discuss and address through the planned sessions the priority issues, hence, under International Movement Cooperation (situation in Libya and neighbouring countries "Tunis and Egypt" and analysis of the situation and operational updates as well as the achievements, lessons, and recommendations), National Societies - learning from the experiences (What do NSs do (externally & internally), best practices & experiences, Youth and Volunteering, in addition to the strategic dialogue of the Movement with participation of the NSs in the region, the Federation and ICRC. Moreover, the conference discussed under providing services & humanitarian diplomacy an overview on capacities and challenges that includes review of NSs achievements- pool of services –challenges – services provided to National Societies as well as media & humanitarian message (NS & IFRC) and media and resource mobilization in emergency appeal. Furthermore, the conference reviewed mapping international movement cooperation – strengths and challenges (review reports) and the way forward – effective implementation for strategy 2020 in MENA. On the other hand the International Conference and the report of the Observer of the implementation of the MoU between the Palestine RC and the MDA of Israel. The conference was concluded with the recommendations presented by the draft committee. The conference endorsed the recommendations – the Abu Dhabi commitments –which had been shared with the conference participants for implementation and follow up.

### **Constraints or Challenges**

The civil unrest in MENA and the unpredictability associated with it had an impact on implementing the OD/CB plans during the first half of 2011. The on-going civil unrest in several countries forced the NSs to reorient their focus towards the emergency front. The other challenge is related to the limitation of resources, including human and financial resources. Funding pledges and confirmation of funding were not received until late in the year during the reporting period.

### **Working in partnership**

The IFRC MENA Zone Office has established an Emergency and Events Monitoring Team (ZEEMoT) with an emergency operations room from which the Zone manages and supports the overall regional response to the crisis in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, as well as other countries. Immediate activities include coordination meetings, daily information updates, and support in the form of administration and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) deployments based on

requests and needs. Close cooperation is maintained with OCHA Regional Office for the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

As there appears to be a steady increase in the number of humanitarian actors responding to the effects of the civil unrest, ensuring greater coordination among the Movement partners remains a major area of focus to avoid the risk of duplication and or omission due to uncoordinated actions.

A number of national societies including the Kuwait Red Crescent, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Algerian Red Crescent, American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Moroccan Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Syrian Red Crescent, Palestinian Red Crescent are supporting the operation.. Other partners and stakeholders include governments, represented by Ministries of Health,(local health facilities, social services facilities), local communities, Medical Associations/societies, Universities and Medical colleges, local NGOs, UN agencies: OCHA,WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and international NGOs.

### Contributing to longer-term impact

The continuing support to the NSs in the different areas including DM, Health and OD/CB will take into account the need to enable them to achieve their strategic and operational objectives including the need to reposition themselves in the changing socio-economic and political context. This includes support not only in the usual operational areas but also in terms of humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilization as well as communication and external relations More efforts to be made enabling NSs to attract youth and women with right environment for participation and through specific interventions including DRR and CBHFA in which the key aspects of branch development and gender awareness and mainstreaming will be included as integral elements..

### Looking ahead

Integrated and coordinated support to the NSs in DM, Health and OD/CB will enhance their development in line with S2020 with effective leadership and management, a growing culture of volunteering and sustainable resource base and service delivery with increasing quality outreach and impact.

| How we work  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</u></a> and is committed to the <a href="#"><u>Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</u></a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p> |  |
| <p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>   | <p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol> |
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