

IRAQ/JORDAN/LEBANON/ PALESTINE RC/SYRIA

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

CHF 1,359,000

Programme no 01.47/99

Introduction

The Regional Delegation in Amman, opened in 1993, initially worked with the National Societies of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Red Crescent. As of 1998 the regional delegation also covers cooperation with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Federation's Iraq office became a full country delegation, also in 1998. The Federation also has a representation office in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Occupied Territories (AT/OT). Support will continue to be provided to the country offices in the region for programmes and cooperation as well as for financial and logistics administration as required.

Co-operation with the Gulf National Societies continued and will be intensified, in particular in training activities.

A Regional Development Committee (RDC), established in 1995, serves as a forum where National Societies of the region can exchange experience, strengthen regional co-operation, and build up co-operation with the Federation. Continuing support for regional co-operation has been requested, focusing on youth, first aid and financial resource development. Other development programmes and activities aim at strengthening institutional capacities, resources, development and services.

Objectives

The 1999 plans have been developed jointly by NSs and the Regional Delegation through a combination of joint assessments, small scale self-assessments, delegate assistance and internal planning. The main objectives for 1999 will be to:

- enhance regional co-operation, and use of regional human resources
- respond to specific National Society needs in both relief and development
- continue assisting NSs in the process of strengthening structures and procedures
- clarify or re-establish co-operation and support to country delegations and the representation office in the region

- continue providing support to the delegations in the region for financial and donor reporting and logistics / administration.

Programmes

Regional Community Based First Aid

The regional health pattern shows both poverty and life style related diseases. The Community Based First Aid (CBFA) programme aims at improving general knowledge of simple and common health threats in local communities through training volunteers to assist in first aid, health education and disaster preparedness and response. The CBFA programme started in Iraq in 1997 and began elsewhere in the region in 1998.

Programme achievements

Training of trainers at national level has been done in Syria and Jordan. In 1998, the translation, local adaptation and printing of training manuals for volunteers and trainers was completed. The next step will focus on development of additional educational materials related to specific NS needs.

Plan for 1999

The programme will continue in Syria and Jordan with training for trainers, and is expected to reach branch level with training for volunteers. Continued support in training volunteers and upgrading of trainers is planned in Iraq.

National Societies will be encouraged and helped to develop national CBFA plans; support will include further guidance on reaching the most vulnerable and on methods of monitoring, supporting and evaluating the

CBFA volunteers' work. Regionally, there will be more focus on regional networking to ensure partnership, cross-regional learning and replication of successful First Aid programmes.

Regional Institutional Development and Capacity Building programme

The Regional Delegation provides support and inputs to the Regional Development Committee (RDC). Other development programmes and activities focus on strengthening the institutional capacities of the NSs according to their needs and priorities, and in line with the main challenges of the SWP and with the policies of the Federation.

Programme aim

In 1999 support to the regional exchange and capacity building of National Societies will continue, focusing on Institutional, Financial, Human and Resource Development, First Aid, Youth and Disaster Preparedness.

Plan for 1999

Institutional Development

A Regional Planning Workshop held in 1997 concentrated on NS strategic development and project planning. National level work has continued since then, depending on NS interest and

commitment. Technical assistance from the Regional Delegation for both strategic and project planning continues to be in great demand in all NSs due to their very limited professional staff.

- Financial Resource Development

The need for appropriate infrastructure and sound management procedures in order to improve fund-raising capacities was identified at the Regional NSs Presidents' meeting in June 1998, and technical assistance was requested from the Federation. The Federation Resource Development Training package and CAPI indicators were introduced in 1998. This will be one of the main sectors of technical assistance and regional exchange in 1999. Initiatives will include a regional workshop for common basic issues and national level follow up.

- Human Resource Development

RC/RC work in the Region up to the secretary general level is carried out almost entirely by volunteers, and the number of professional staff is very limited. Plans will be developed to meet these human resource needs.

- Youth

National level leadership training will take place. One regional level youth camp will be organised in 1999.

- Disaster Preparedness

National level efforts include workshops, and training as a component of the Regional Community Based First Aid Programme. All National Societies are involved in disaster preparedness, but will be encouraged to better define their disaster preparedness role.

- Information and Communications

The last Regional Development Committee meeting focused on Information and Communication issues

– the production of NS publications and communications with media. Follow up of the recommendations and plans at the national level will be carried out in 1999. A Regional Delegation Quarterly Newsletter was initiated in 1998, and will be further developed in 1999.

- Regional Co-operation

One RDC meeting and one NS presidents' meeting are planned for 1999.

Cooperation with National Societies

Jordan National Red Crescent Society

Aqaba Branch Development

The Aqaba branch is located in an area with a population of 65,000. It is the only Red Sea port of Jordan and is an important tourist centre. Health services are satisfactory but there are no lifeguard services or first aid facilities on the public beaches.

The branch has recently elected a new leadership. It has been selected as a pilot branch for a branch development project.

Objectives:

- To build up the capacity of the Aqaba branch of the Jordan Red Crescent (JRC) to serve the community, and develop a comprehensive First Aid Programme for the branch.
- To identify opportunities to develop income generation models for the branch through the provision of first aid and water rescue services to the tourism industry.

The main service programme will be a Comprehensive First Aid Programme including:

- Water Safety and Rescue Services along the beach areas.
- First Aid training for special groups, especially for the staff of private companies, which could be a means of fund-raising.
- First Aid services for public events.
- Community Based First Aid (traditional First Aid, Health Education, Disaster Preparedness and Response and Red Cross/Red Crescent knowledge) will be a fundamental training component of this project.

After an assessment of needs, implementation will include recruitment and training of core staff and branch volunteers (present membership 500) for First Aid and life guard posts, and purchasing necessary equipment and material, which is available locally.

The branch will be responsible for the recruitment, administration and cost of personnel. The programme will run for two years: 1999-2000.

Syrian Arab Red Crescent

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is focusing its efforts on setting up structures and procedures to introduce better central co-ordination, and in particular to co-ordinate branch activities, which are mainly health and social welfare related. International Federation support for the three projects described below will move this process forward.

The programmes aim to improve the health and social conditions of very vulnerable communities by promoting community based preventive activities. Capacity building within the NS will be reinforced, as a prerequisite to ensuring effective services.

Programme aims

- Define a SARC health and social policy;
- Draw up a National Health and Social Action Programme;
- In line with the ongoing SARC development plan, define the HQ structure, staff needs, roles and responsibilities, and provide essential training and guidance for staff, volunteers and governance;
- Strengthen essential management practices at both the headquarters and branch levels;

- Develop and expand the services of existing health facilities to include preventive health care; train relevant health staff, volunteers and management accordingly.

National Society Capacity Building

The plan is based on an initial project proposal of February 1997 and the recommendations of an assessment mission in March-April 1998, reflected in the objectives above.

Water Safety and Rescue Services (Tartous branch)

SARC branches along the country's Mediterranean coast are anxious to develop water safety and rescue services. A feasibility study in 1997 recommended the establishment of services in two coastal locations, Latakia and Tartous. One of the projects, Latakia, has already received funding. The project foresees:

- training of staff and volunteers
- public information, including production and distribution of materials
- first aid and rescue equipment, an information network and a co-ordination vehicle.

Mobile PHC Clinic for Bedouins

The Syrian desert has a population of about 200,000 Bedouins who are shepherds or camel breeders. Some Kurdish and Iraqi refugees also live in the area. Conditions are harsh, access to health services and information is limited and made more difficult by the population's nomadic lifestyle. Health problems include tuberculosis, asthma, malnutrition and anaemia.

The SARC, with over fifty years experience of health care in some of its branches, plans to extend its assistance to the desert population. The project will establish two mobile clinics to provide basic curative and preventive health services and social care for the Bedouins and for the Kurdish and Iraqi refugees living in the desert area. Children and women will be the main beneficiaries.

The branches of Homs, Hama, Deir-e-Zur, Raqqa and Hasakeh will participate, providing the necessary staff and volunteers for the field work, in co-operation with the Higher Health Committee at SARC headquarters, which will do the overall planning and monitoring.