North Africa

Executive summary

The North Africa region, made up of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, is economically diverse with rich, resource-abundant economies like Algeria and Libya and countries that are resource-scarce relative to their population size such as Egypt and Morocco. These five middle income countries are generally on track to achieving the health Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target by 2015, but still face significant rural and urban disparities and gaps in coverage.

Like other regions, North Africa faces two major challenges. The financial and economic crisis is increasing vulnerability and poverty at both a macro and a household level, representing both development and humanitarian difficulties for vulnerable communities and marginalized groups. The second challenge is climate change. In recent years, the North African Red Crescent Societies have responded to significantly more weather related disasters. These are frequently poorly predicted, and underline the imperative of early warning and early action. Both these challenges pose a significant humanitarian impact. From the obvious higher numbers of deaths, injuries and exposure to diseases and loss of property and possessions through to increased food insecurity and potential migration.

A wide-ranging consultation process has been undertaken this past year with the Red Crescent Societies of North Africa to identify priorities and operationalise the commitments taken through various regional and global meetings. The regional plan laid out in the following pages outlines the support the International Federation will continue to provide in developing stronger, integrated community based programmes, as well as adapting current disaster response and preparedness strategies to emerging challenges. These include climate change, population movement and migration. However, the fruits of the consultation will lead to a review of this plan in early 2011, making the support provided relevant and utilizing available resources in an accountable manner.

The revised plan will certainly articulate the new emphasis on humanitarian diplomacy that Strategy 2020 brings, to enable National Societies and the International Federation to more effectively engage in the humanitarian debate. Engaging in more robust humanitarian diplomacy with a range of external factors will foster greater understanding of the role the Red Crescent plays in development contexts, and the values that underpin its work.

The total 2011 budget is CHF 1,369,243 (Click here to go directly to the attached summary budget of the plan).

Regional context

North Africa is the most heavily populated sub-region of the Arab-world, but is rarely seen at the heart of developments in the broader Middle-East context despite its countries radiating stability. The rate of economic growth is on average 5-6 per cent. But appearances can be misleading. In Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya socio-economic, as well as political tensions seriously threaten the consensus between the government and the people, bringing into perspective the kind of material and moral foundation that secures lives and an acceptable quality of life for the majority.
External interest in North Africa tends to highlight the more violent manifestations of insecurity, whether related to terrorism, drugs and arms-smuggling or clashes between police and migrants seeking to enter Europe. But the real security threats are not so much transnational as local and human. Economic reforms have certainly improved overall growth rates and nominal income levels, but insufficient institutional reforms have encouraged different forms of parallel engagement to take root. The increase in Islamist activism across the region and the rise in illicit migration can be traced to the weakening bonds between state and society.

The outburst of social and economic discontent that hit the whole region during the sharp price rise affecting imported foodstuffs could be repeated in 2011 as cereal prices begin to rise again. Such fluctuations cast people into poverty and malnutrition as health systems stretch to, or beyond, capacity.

The North Africa region also faces growing challenges from environmental stresses, resulting from population pressures, urban growth, water scarcity and pollution, desertification (second highest ratio of desert after the Arabian Peninsula, with over three-quarters of the land) and climate change exacerbating water shortages. This matters for the future security and stability of the region.

(\textit{Source AHDR 2009})

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Source AHDR 2009)</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Algeria</th>
<th>Tunisia</th>
<th>Libya</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface Area</td>
<td>446.6th sq km</td>
<td>2,381th sq km</td>
<td>163.6th sq km</td>
<td>1,800th sq km</td>
<td>1,001th sq km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN HDI rate</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>31 million</td>
<td>32.4 million</td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>5.7 million</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.5% is under 15 years of age.</td>
<td>30.4% is under 15 years of age.</td>
<td>26.7% is under 15 years of age.</td>
<td>30.4% is under 15 years of age.</td>
<td>33.9% is under 15 years of age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>42.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(% of total pop.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty (% below the national poverty line)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Arabic/French</td>
<td>Arabic/French</td>
<td>Arabic/French</td>
<td>Arabic/English</td>
<td>Arabic/English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita (USD)</td>
<td>4,555</td>
<td>7,062</td>
<td>8,371</td>
<td>10,335</td>
<td>4,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School enrolment</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy of adult</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
<td>83.44%</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>83.4%</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>74.08</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services &amp; social security</td>
<td>Weak – poor access in rural areas</td>
<td>Have deteriorated, preventive services to improve</td>
<td>Good level of health care &amp; social security</td>
<td>Health services reasonably well developed</td>
<td>Limited access for poor people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS Prevalence % 15-49 years (2005)</td>
<td>0.1 [0.1-0.4]</td>
<td>0.1 [&lt;0.2]</td>
<td>0.1 [0.1-0.3]</td>
<td>[&lt;0.2]</td>
<td>&lt;0.1 [&lt;0.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disasters/crisis</td>
<td>Earthquake, floods, violence, AI</td>
<td>Earthquake, floods, landslides, violence, AI</td>
<td>Floods,</td>
<td>Earthquake, violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**National Society priorities and current work with partners**

In line with the vision of Strategy 2020 “To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view of preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world” (Article 4, Federation Constitution), the five National Societies of North Africa are reducing vulnerabilities through focused programmes in disaster management and health and care.

The Red Crescent Societies are the longest established humanitarian organizations in each of the North African countries, benefiting from relatively strong structures and a presence across the national
territory through their network of regional, local branches, hospitals, clinics, blood banks, community centres, first aid training centres, youth clubs and volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of foundation</th>
<th>Algerian RC</th>
<th>Egyptian RC</th>
<th>Libyan RC</th>
<th>Moroccan RC</th>
<th>Tunisian RC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Branches</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priorities are regularly assessed and reviewed in line with the regional and international context, and emerging vulnerabilities resulting from the new humanitarian context and challenges. In the last few years external and internal challenges have multiplied, but the National Societies address them through their traditional work within the four core areas and representation in regional networks and technical working groups on disaster management, disaster risk reduction, health and youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algeria</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Libya</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Tunisia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Humanitarian Law (IHL), detention, cooperation (first aid; psychological support)</td>
<td>IHL, cooperation with the Arab League, capacity building for National Society staff</td>
<td>IHL RFL</td>
<td>Family links, IHL Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL), cooperation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donor’s Funding channeled through bi-lateral programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Red Cross</th>
<th>First Aid, HIV-AIDS</th>
<th>First Aid (including psychological support, emergency preparedness), Community Health prevention Nurse Training Centre, Twinning projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Red Cross</td>
<td>Relief Assistance to Western Sahara</td>
<td>Water Sanitation DRR awareness programmes IDWARC Equipment (Car, Blood Bank bus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf National Societies</td>
<td>UAE RC</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Fund for Tuberculosis Aids and Malaria</td>
<td>HIV-AIDS</td>
<td>HIV-AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Agencies</td>
<td>UNHCR, WFP</td>
<td>UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, OCHA, UNFPA, UNDP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Societies, many with good relations with their respective ministries are developing a more structured and strategic dialogue based on concrete programme delivery. The emerging regional support plan for 2011, in line with Strategy 2020, focuses on facilitating the building of strong National Societies by strengthening their capacities and providing technical support to the four core programmes of disaster management, health and care, the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values as well as organizational development. Assistance will continue to be provided at regional level through knowledge sharing, exchanges of best practices, strengthening of effective networks. At national level, tailored assistance will be provided to meet the National Societies’ priorities and needs, ensuring that both approaches complement and are coherent. Forging new and effective partnerships within and outside the Movement to mobilize the resources needed and to effectively advocate on behalf of the vulnerable, remains vital for achieving the outlined outcomes.

Cross border programmes are developed for disaster risk reduction, road safety, youth and principles and values. The objective is to build confidence in working as a Federation and capitalizing on partner National Society or partners’ expertise and resources to the benefit of the hosting National Society. It implies increasingly harmonized planning and common and complementary approaches.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2011

The International Federation and its National Societies are facing many contemporary challenges and a flexible approach is developed to adapt to a fast changing world. Simultaneous efforts need to be made at the level of household and the community as well as at national or global level. The plan focuses on supporting the National Societies to scale up their programmes and develop adequate structures to support their service delivery to communities. The revised plan to be presented in early 2011 following further discussion with the leadership of the North African societies will articulate in more depth this and also how humanitarian diplomacy will be utilized to raise awareness at government level as well as for the public and corporate sector, highlighting the new challenges.

Strategy 2020 strategic aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.

Disaster Management

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1 The present plan is the first draft to be reviewed. A more comprehensive version will be released in early 2011.
**Programme purpose:**
The National Societies in North Africa have contributed to reducing the vulnerability and increasing the capacity of population living in risk areas.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 125,723

The programme places a specific emphasis on building local institutional capacity to respond to disasters while reducing vulnerability and building resilience at community level. It does this through the following four components, which constitute an integrated approach to disaster management at all levels. It should be understood in conjunction with the International Federation policies, the disaster management strategy and the global health and care strategy, as health plays an important part of the disaster management action. In order to ensure an integrated approach, the North Africa representation is promoting and supporting community based initiatives including first aid, Psycho-social support, food security, nutrition, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion and HIV interventions in emergencies to reduce the risk of public health emergencies and build community resilience.

### Programme component: Community and organizational preparedness:

**Component outcome 1:** Communities in target areas are aware of disaster hazards and are well prepared to effectively cope with the effects of localized disasters. **Component outcome 2:** Encouraging and strengthening the self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

Support National Societies in:
- mapping and programming- VCA, communities capacities and involvement in program design and implementation increased
- forming policies and planning- disaster management, contingency, disaster risk reduction strategy
- human resources- disaster management units, national and regional intervention teams, regional disaster response teams
- developing tools and systems
- capacity in restoring family links in line with the Movement commitments

### Programme component: Disaster response and recovery:

**Component outcome 1:** The impact of disasters in affected areas on people’s live reduced through effective and timely emergency response **Component outcome 2:** Recovery programmes that develop National Societies’ capacities in livelihoods and shelter programming. **Component outcome 3:** Ensure that national, regional and international disaster response tools and guidance are improved and used in a harmonized way.

Support National Societies in:
- disaster preparedness awareness, prevention and mitigation.
- school programmes
- road safety
- community based health and first aid/ psycho-social support

### Programme component: Disaster risk reduction (CBDRR):

**Component outcome 1:** Communities are better prepared to prevent the risk and to cope with the impact and stress of the disaster. **Component outcome 2:** Focus on climate change, pandemic preparedness, road safety and emergency health related issues

### Programme component: Migration:

**Component outcome 1:** To improve the protection and the living conditions of migrating people and those who became vulnerable because of the migratory phenomenon in North Africa.

The International Federation and its Movement partners propose to implement an integrated action to assist migrants:
- defending/presenting a plea for migratory issues so a more secure environment based on the principles of humanity, fairness and humanitarian values such as tolerance, respect and fighting discrimination pervades
- providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and expelled people
- protecting and integrating marginalized groups, including migrants
Direct beneficiaries of the disaster preparedness project are defined as those staff and volunteers who are directly trained or supported by the project. They, in turn, work with a much larger group of people in disaster-prone areas, who are defined as “indirect” beneficiaries.

In the disaster response project, the direct beneficiaries are defined as people affected by a disaster that would benefit from non-food relief items like tents, blankets, jerry cans, plastic tarpaulins and kitchen sets. It also includes the staff and volunteers who will benefit from services and trainings on how to assess and respond to common disasters using their own community level resources.


Health and Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The capacity of the North Africa National Societies in enabling vulnerable groups to reduce risk and the impact of diseases, accidents/injuries, to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crisis in partnership with stakeholders, is increased.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The health and care programme budget is CHF 244,879

To achieve this, the programme, has four components. The National Societies will mainly focus on prevention, fighting against stigma and discrimination, building capacity, strengthening volunteers and staff skills, addressing advocacy and public awareness and reinforcing partnerships and networking.

Programme component: HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases including avian influenza

National Society response capacity is strengthened, programmes are scaled up in line with HIV and AIDS national strategy through information, education, communication programmes and fight against stigma and discrimination.

Programme component: First Aid /Community based health and first aid

Communities capacity to reduce their vulnerability related to public health preparedness and response are increased

Programme component: Psychological support

Capacity of National Societies to enable vulnerable groups to build resilience and better cope with risks and impact of crises increases by establishing adequate structures, tools and programmes.

Programme component: Community based development programmes

Focused and effective community development projects supported to respond to real vulnerability:

- education- literacy classes
- social welfare- vocational training, support to vulnerable groups of elderly, handicapped, homeless, migrants
- health promotion

Strategy 2020 Enabling action 1: Build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme purpose:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well functioning National Societies in North Africa are contributing to civil society through efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision regarding their role.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The organisational development/capacity building budget is CHF 55,487

Programme component: Support to governance

Strategic planning, integrity issues, legal basis, regional conferences, leadership programme

Programme component: Branch development

Strengthening of regional cooperation, North Africa National societies have improved their branch capabilities and the interaction of volunteers, staff members with their communities.

Programme component: Volunteers and youth management
National Societies management systems and databases are strengthened and the involvement of Youth Red Crescent is increased.

**Programme component: Gender**
North Africa National Societies have developed clear gender policies and integrated the gender issue across their programme activities.

**Programme component: Capacity Building**
North Africa National Societies capacity building plans are completed and implemented.

The regional programme aims to contribute to the development of well functioning societies in North Africa able to reinforce their position in the civil society through efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision and mission regarding their role.

Organizational development is, together with disaster management one of the key issues in the region. The Red Crescent societies are increasingly aware of the importance of such a process but remain slow to address it and to build on appropriate structures, investing in professional staff, which somehow explains the limited absorption capacity in terms of programme implementation.

S2020 strategic aim 3: Promote social integration and a culture of non-violence and peace.

**Principles and Values**

**Programme purpose:**
Community concern and responsibility for the most vulnerable is increased with a noted higher respect for humanitarian values, mutual understanding and increased tolerance.

The Principles and Values budget is CHF 900,018

"We will intensify efforts to mobilise community respect for diversity and action against racism, discrimination, xenophobia, marginalization and other forms of exclusion, faced by all vulnerable groups, also empowering volunteers and youth in humanitarian activities to prevent, defuse or mitigate violence…

Declaration *Together for Humanity* adopted by the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

In its work to achieve this purpose, the humanitarian values programme addresses strategic aim 3 of Strategy 2020 through the following two components:

**Programme component: Community awareness of the Fundamental Principles and values**
Integration of principles and values in all Red Crescent activities.

**Programme component: Migration programme**
- field research
- advocacy targeting authorities
- communication strategy
- public campaigns

**Programme component: Information and communication**
National Societies’ strategies and plans, active media network are in place.

**Programme component: Development of tools and advocacy material**
Common Red Crescent position and statement are supported by advocacy material.

As North Africa will continue to be a theatre of migration, a regional humanitarian values based approach to the communities hosting migrants has been adopted. A future where children, women and men risk their lives to reach other countries cannot be allowed and it is a priority concern of all Red Crescent societies in the region to make sure it does not. Specific public and awareness campaigns and assistance programmes are planned for the coming year.
The two-year programme has focused, and continues, on creating a safer environment for national communities exposed to the consequences of migration, combating exclusion, marginalization, acts of xenophobia, promoting dignity and respect for all, ensuring assistance to vulnerable groups deprived of any access to basic rights such as health and information.

The programme integrates the promotion of Principles and values at all levels of Red Crescent activities to promote a culture of diversity and peace and reduce the violence in the communities.

Potential risks and challenges
North Africa is prone to natural disasters and has over the past years experienced a range of emergencies. Earthquakes continue to be a threat, while the consequences of climatic changes are posing new challenges—flash floods, tornadoes, and cold waves—in these countries.

Migration is still perceived as a very sensitive issue linked to security, which has an impact on the development of a humanitarian approach based on dignity and respect to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Delay in implementing the activities is a risk, so advocating with public authorities is a priority.

Lack of adequate management structures or systems to support programmes and high centralization of responsibility were identified as challenges. Significant progresses had been made in recent years with National Societies increasingly working on capacity building, but they will need support in the long term.

Target population
The measurement of target population is posing a real challenge and figures given may not present the real picture:

- There are no standard tools and baselines available at National Society level and the way of measuring differs not only from country to country but within country from branch to branch;
- There is little consensus on measuring the population based on gender or other categories such as elderly, youth, handicapped, and rural versus urban groups. As a result, the reconciliation of these figures provided may become a difficult exercise at the time of the analysis.
- Another challenge lies with the data collection. In most North African National Societies, the branches have great autonomy and do not systematically report on detailed programme achievements. Communication between the branches and the headquarters is often weak, added to the fact that most of the headquarters are not equipped with the staff and systems to collect, monitor or analyze all this data.

The majority of beneficiaries of the programmes outlined in this plan are:
1. direct beneficiaries: Red Crescent staff, volunteers, trainers, members, and youth. It is interesting to note that more than 65 per cent of National Society volunteers are female.
2. indirect beneficiaries: communities, and within these communities, female youth and specific groups at risk represent the most vulnerable and exposed groups targeted.

Role of the secretariat

The secretariat’s budget for its support role is CHF 43,137

a) Technical programme support
The representation’s plan facilitates the strengthening of the five North African National Societies by building their capacities and providing technical support. To do so, the regional representation is adopting a flexible approach to meet the diverse needs of the National Societies and the challenges faced, supporting a country tailored approach which complements the MENA zone strategic directions. Continuity for long-term programme objectives will be ensured. Expertise and human resources support will be sought through the regional platforms, thematic networks, and its pool of experts within the National Societies and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners present in the region.

b) Partnership development and coordination
The regional coordination is based on the enabling actions of Strategy 2020 “to function effectively as a Federation”, which is interpreted as strengthening the cooperation and coordination processes,
supporting arrangements to deliver outcomes, improving planning, performance management and accountability) and “to pursue humanitarian diplomacy” providing the basis for greater humanitarian access. Hence, the regional representation will continue to actively support regional exchanges, cooperation and networking. All these components are integrated in the approach developed for programs in the four core areas.

**Operational Alliances and Global Alliances**

Moroccan Red Crescent joined in 2009 the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and has been working on a three-year strategy. This Global Alliance will enable a better mobilization of capacities and resources to provide harmonized, effective support to Moroccan Red Crescent for implementing programmes that will contribute to the achievements of the Global Agenda.

**Coordination with Movement partners in disasters** is part of the contingency planning exercise at national but also Secretariat level. Several lessons were drawn from the Gaza operation (role of Egyptian Red Crescent, the Federation, ICRC and the partner National Societies in the management of the emergency crisis; use of the Federation emergency mechanisms at time of the crisis; relation with the authorities, understanding of the concept of auxiliary to Government; access to beneficiaries)

**Cooperation and coordination with ICRC** is good in North Africa mainly in the field of humanitarian concerns generated by international migration, disaster management, Governance support (National Society Statutes andLeaderships), Restoring Family Links as well as in communication. Both regional offices have a clear common interest in supporting the development of a network of strong National Societies that can respond rapidly and effectively to humanitarian needs. Joint planning processes do ensure that realistic priorities are set; that activities complement each other, and that there is no duplication of efforts and resources.

**Regular planning and monitoring meeting are held between Movement components present in country** (French and Spanish Red Cross Societies) looking at complementary approaches and reinforcing the Movement image in the countries to the benefit of the National Societies.

It is essential for National Societies and the International Federation to engage in non-Movement operational level coordination and planning processes. This will contribute to avoiding duplication and gaps in responses while at the same time strengthening the Movement's position and profile in the humanitarian sphere. Special attention is placed on reinforcing the cooperation with the regional development institutions, development banks, donor missions, EU and UN agencies and other key NGOs to investigate for deeper public and government support as well as greater resources for National Society programme Implementation and service delivery to communities in needs. On the basis of successful approaches, for the sake of long term sustainability and as an exit strategy, the regional representation is also encouraging direct contact with the National Societies to increase and build partnerships with the corporate sector.

With an increased number of partners active in the region- EU, the World Health Organization (WHO)/Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), WHO/Mediterranean Center for the Reduction of Vulnerabilities, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), (GFTAM) the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNAIDS, NGO's and country authorities- the regional representation has a key role to play in supporting better advocacy and coordination of support to National Societies. Increased National Society participation and ownership will be promoted through the process of building strategies, priorities and needs.

The National Societies, which are already experiencing good relations and contacts, are developing with the assistance of the International Federation a more structured and strategic dialogue with their governments and respective ministries on the basis of effective programme delivery. This dialogue helps to clarify and address their unique role as auxiliary to the public authorities, re-defining the terms of their cooperation and the specific added value they can bring within the civil society.

c) **Representation and advocacy**
North African National Societies have been well represented in past years in the Red Cross Red Crescent Governance. The Egyptian Red Crescent, Tunisian Red Crescent and Algerian Red Crescent being governing board members for eight years respectively; the secretary general of the Egyptian Red Crescent was the vice-president for Africa and currently the chair of the health commission as well as a board member of the Red Crescent Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean; the secretary general of Tunisian Red Crescent was the co-chair of the Federation of the Future process, currently member of the pan-African Coordination Team Representative for North Africa). Such extensive knowledge of the International Federation and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is a strong asset for the advocacy work done at country level.

Through their programmes and activities such as marking the Red Cross Red Crescent global campaigns conducted in the region, the North Africa representation and the National Society leaders focus their advocacy work on key messages and the International Federation’s position:

- the international organisation status of the International Federation, and the auxiliary role of National Societies
- the worldwide membership of the International Federation, and its community base through National Society presence in virtually every community, everywhere
- the unique network of tens of millions of trained volunteers, as an indispensable partner
- the value of partnerships, driven by the 2007 International Red Cross Red Crescent Conference declaration, “Together for Humanity”
- the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and more particularly the Independence of the Movement components, including National Societies.

The 2011 plan provides many opportunities for National Society governance, middle management and Youth to increase their representation at international conferences, thematic forums, as well as exposure to statutory meetings such as the general assembly.

**Promoting gender equity and diversity**

Although progress on gender indicators and gender equality in North Africa has been recorded over the past few years, the gender gap remains a challenge for the region. Significant advances made on social gender indicators, notably faster improvements in female education than any other region, while progress on gender empowerment indicators such as participation in the economy and politics have lagged behind. There are great intra-regional disparities in women’s participation in the economy and the extent to which this participation has increased or decreased. There has been an increase in Algeria and Tunisia, while Morocco has seen a decrease. Despite an annual growth in GDP, most North Africa countries continue to struggle with high unemployment rates and women are disproportionately at risk. The widest gulf can be seen in Egypt.

Following the operational framework, the MENA gender network, three objectives define the agenda for the regional representation’s support in 2011, namely:

1. upgrading knowledge and skills of women in the National Societies
2. considering the specific needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of women and men in the disaster management and health programmes
3. increasing the involvement of women at all levels of the societies.

Training and networking are key components as well as empowering women through activities and participation in project management. All National Societies are encouraged to develop a more specific plan of action, with time-lines, including revising at least one of their current programmes from a gender perspective; updating data on the participation of men and women in their National Society; and designating a gender focal point if a National Society has not yet done so.

The focus for the coming years, in line with the recommendations and adoption of resolution at the General Assembly, will be on programmes reducing the violence to women. Youth and women constitute a key agent for behavioural changes in the communities.
Quality, accountability and learning

Focusing on the best results possible, the regional representation will ensure quality and accountability through active programme monitoring and evaluation at all levels with continuous improvement and adaptation of indicators. This will guide the collecting of data from field activities both in long-term and emergencies to analyse it and establish programme impact. Looking more widely, the representation will contribute to developing best practices following International Federation standards and learning from National Societies and other specialised actors.

Due to limited resources of the National Societies, programmes are often built through an effective integrated approach. Thus, attempting to segregate the data per programme for the calculation of beneficiaries may lead to duplication of beneficiaries and a wrong interpretation of the final data collected. The main focus of the regional programme is for the Red Crescent societies, together with the International Federation, to develop a coherent and comprehensive statistical and data collection system that could be applied at national and local level and be used for all Red Crescent programmes and activities in the region.

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### How we work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The IFRC’s vision is to:</th>
<th>The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

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