

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

17 December 2001

Appeal No. 01.64/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,114,757

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: June-November 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 47.2%

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,644,074

Update: The region has made significant progress in terms of its advocacy and dissemination programme with the engagement of information specialists to assist operations in support of vulnerable people. This new development complements continued progress in disaster preparedness and health and care in the community. Donor support meant that less than half of the appeal has been met.

Operational Developments:

This report is prepared to reflect the activities of the Amman Regional Delegation (ADR) in the Middle East. More information is available in the detailed reports on Iraq, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Lebanon, as well as in the specialised projects/programmes reports issued by the ARD.

The reporting period was marked by escalating violence between Palestinians and the Israelis. In Iraq, sanctions continue to devastate lives and livelihoods. Generally, the September 11 attacks on the US have added to tension in the region.

Disaster Preparedness

The objective of the regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) programme is to help national societies (NS) prepare their structures, staff and volunteers to respond to the challenges presented by disasters through preplanning, training and improved structures.

With technical support from the Disaster Preparedness Department of the Federation's Secretariat, the regional DP appeal for 2002 /2003 has been prepared focussing on key objectives related to strengthening DP capacities of the NS through a series of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) to enhance regional DP and management coordination and integrating community based DP, health and organisational development (OD).

An assessment mission travelled to Yemen between 2-6 September 2001. The mission was related to the flood disasters that affected the two governorates of Hijja and Hodaidah in August 2001. Based on the assessment of the two governorates, a proposal was submitted to enable the National Society to replenish its basic DP stocks that have been exhausted while responding to the August floods.

In addition, the following were agreed with the NS in terms of other interventions to be facilitated through the Regional Delegation (RD):

VCA in the two governorates of Hijja and Hodaidah identified as more disaster prone especially related to floods, epidemics and socioeconomic vulnerabilities,
evaluation of primary health care (PHC) centres;
OD workshop for NS leadership and management (including headquarters and branches);
orientation for selected media representatives.

During the VCA mission to Yemen between 19-27 September 2001, 47 volunteers from Hijja and Hodaidah governorates were trained for 2 days in the techniques of VCA data collection. Two steering committees - drawn from Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) branches, Ministries of Health, Education and Youth in the two governorates - have been established to monitor and support the VCA process. The data collection process is planned to be implemented in 12 randomly selected districts in the two governorates (6 in Hijja and 6 in Hoidedah).

At headquarters, the existing national committee on DP and disaster response (DR) - the Yemen Disaster Management Authority (YDMA), which is composed of YRCS and relevant Ministries and NGOs - will monitor the process. In addition, an understanding has been reached to establish a DP Department at the HQ of YRCS to follow up on the DP/DR work at the central level..

The VCA work carried out in the West Bank and Gaza over the past two years has been compiled into a comprehensive document published by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The RD is facilitating the distribution of the document to encourage other NS to learn from the experience of the PRCS. The RD has also provided the PRCS with the DP training manual - Introduction to Disaster Preparedness - to be used in the effort the Society makes to train volunteers in community based disaster preparedness.

During the planning mission to North Africa between 14-19 September 2001, a series of discussions was held with the sub-regional Federation office and the staff/volunteers of the Tunis Red Crescent Society. The discussion with the sub regional office focused on how to prepare the ground for the VCA tasks to be conducted in Algeria and Egypt.

Introduction to Disaster Preparedness is being translated into Arabic to enhance understanding of the concepts and application of the manual among the volunteers and staff of the NS.

Health and Care

The objective of this programme is to consolidate NS efforts meeting major health challenges including HIV/AIDS, networking and the promotion of preventive rather than curative approaches.

The Regional Health Delegate undertook a familiarisation mission accompanying NS visitors from the United Arab Emirates who visited the RD and the NS of Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria as part of the effort promoted by the RD encouraging the NS in the region to exchange experiences.

An assessment mission to Yemen was carried out between 2-6 September 2001. The visit was related to the assessment of the flood disaster in Hijja and Hoidedah governorates. The need for a number of items, including a WHO emergency kit, was emphasized in terms of replacing the DP stocks of the YRCS..

The visit was also productive in terms of gaining more insight as regards some of the common health problems persisting in Yemen including TB, malaria, and a host of parasites (intestinal worms, leishmania, guinea-worm, etc.).

The Society wants to evaluate its involvement in the area of health and health related activities based on changing needs and capacities. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Society's 11 clinics and facilities should be assessed with technical support from the RD. The purpose is to reorient the existing structures and facilities towards a primary health care approach and enable the clinics to operate as training and outreach centres promoting community health programmes. The fact that many of the YRCS volunteers are doctors working with the Ministry of Health at different levels provides a good basis to accomplish the objective in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and other agencies working in health and related activities.

The RD is preparing a database for resource persons for health and related activities. As part of the implementation of one of the recommendations of the 3rd MENA Conference, the database is designed to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences within the region in the area of health and related activities.

The integrated approach the RD pursues combining DP, Health and OD aspects, in a manner that maximizes effective use of resources, is making progress especially through the staff on loan schemes that includes the Syrian Red Crescent from the Middle East and the Libyan Red Crescent from North Africa. Similar efforts will be required to expand the initiative to the National Societies in the Gulf region.

The planning mission to North Africa between 14-19 September 2001 focused on the orientation of the staff on loan working with the Federation Office in Tunis and ensuring that the activities planned and implemented at the sub-regional level are well coordinated through the RD including the effort to be made to strengthen the database for health professionals within the sub-region. A useful discussion was also held with the representatives of the Tunisian Red Crescent regarding health priorities related to community based water and sanitation as well as prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The Regional Health Delegate, together with the staff on loan working with the RD from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, visited the UAE Red Crescent from 20 to 28 September 2001, The purpose was to facilitate the integrated volunteering/DP/DR workshop organized by the UAE Red Crescent. The workshop was organized to discuss the role of the NS and its volunteers in international disaster operations. Field visits were also made to the Ministry of Interior (ambulance and rescue services), Federation logistics office, and Al-Ain RC Branch of the NS.

Institutional and Resource Development

The objective of the organizational development programme is to assist NS in building their capacities to be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in their respective countries.

The RD is supporting the NS of Iraq, Syria and Yemen to work towards a common partnership meeting that brings together interested participating National Societies (PNS) and other components of the Movement. The purpose is to present the draft strategic plans of the three NS and initiate a process of more dynamic cooperation that encourages the spirit and practice of working together on a more sustainable basis.

The regional OD appeal for 2002/2003 has been prepared consisting of key objectives related to the consolidation of efforts started with some NS in terms of strategic planning as a basis for more effective cooperation and performance and effective human resource development and utilization (e.g., training of NS leaders and staff/service volunteers through a variety of schemes including coaching).

The preparation of the appeal was based on a series of consultations with the NS to ensure that their capacity building priorities are adequately captured within the regional OD appeal. Similar consultations were also held with the ICRC Delegations in the region to harmonize approaches especially in the area of support directed towards NS capacity building.

The RD worked with the Jordan Red Crescent and Civil Defense of Jordan as well as with the ICRC in the preparation for the Joint NS /Civil Defense Forum in Jordan at the end of October 2001. With the greater part of the funding covered by the Swiss Embassy in Jordan, the Forum is designed to bring NS and Civil Defense representatives from all Arab states together. The discussion will focus on the twin tracks of volunteering and DP with the part that deals with volunteering to be facilitated by the RD. The main purpose is to encourage greater cooperation between the NS and the Civil Defense structures especially in the area of disaster preparedness/response.

Five RD staff attended a day long orientation organized by the ICRC in Amman. The training was organized to help support staff working at the RD and the ICRC to improve their RC/RC knowledge and reflect on the nature and extent of commitment required from them in the effort being made to achieve the humanitarian objectives of the Movement.

The RD participated in the integration course organized by the ICRC. The course is designed to train ICRC staff from different Delegations including from Europe and the Middle East. The RD participated in the panel discussion organized on 26 September 2001 to enable participants to have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the National Societies and the Federation (Secretariat /Delegations). Representatives from the RD and the Jordan Red Crescent took part in the panel and provided explanations for the various issues and questions raised by the participants.

Information/Advocacy/Humanitarian Values

The objective is to establish mechanisms leading to improved visibility of NS through the media and more NS and RD capacity to deal with the media and improve coordination among the components of the Movement.

The regional delegation was able to employ, for the first time, an information officer and an information delegate. Together they will design an information strategy and work plan aiming at strengthening the ability of NS in dealing with the media, establish networks and partnership with the media and strengthen the image of the Movement in the region..

Highlighting the need for promotion of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Movement, the regional Information/Advocacy appeal for 2002/2003 was prepared encompassing some key objectives to include:

- enhancement of the visibility of the Movement through improved public awareness of the Federation's Strategy 2010 goals and priorities;
- improvement of collaboration and coordination among the components of the Movement based on increased understanding of the roles of each component;
- networking and more active cooperation with local and international media, NGOs and other relevant partners.

During his visit to the Palestine Red Crescent between 24-28 September 2001, the Information Officer from the RD took photos and wrote an article about the situation.

Press releases were prepared on the activities of the UAE Red Crescent, Federation and the current situation in Afghanistan..

Three interviews were conducted with the Head of Regional Delegation in Amman as well with the Head of Delegations in Iraq and Palestine. The interviews were carried out by the Weekly English Newspaper - STAR in Amman

Design and print offers have been collected for the information materials to be printed including year planner, Federation regional folder and an agenda to be distributed to the NS and other relevant partners.

A preliminary outline has been prepared for the regional information/communication strategy to be developed with participation from the NS in the region.

Preparations are currently underway to organize a media workshop for the Yemen Red Crescent Society. A total of 25 journalists from various media will participate. The objective is to involve them in disseminating information about the principles of the movement, assist the National Society to mobilize volunteers and people in times of need and create long-term partnerships with the Red Crescent.

Financial Management /the Regional Finance Unit (RFU)

The necessary financial management support has been given to the different programmes of the RD dealing with DP, Health, OD and Information/Advocacy.

The roll-out of country delegation/Federation representations reporting to the Regional Finance Unit (RFU) in MENA has been completed.

The project accountant from operation accounting and development unit in Geneva visited the RD and provided training and financial review support to the Regional Finance Unit (RFU).

The Regional Finance/Administration Delegate undertook a mission to Iran participating as a member of the drought assessment team that assisted in the development of the drought appeal for Iran. The delegate also visited Lebanon to follow up on financial matters before the departure of the Office Manager of the Delegation in Lebanon to take up his new assignment as Finance/Administration Delegate in Dushanbe.

The RFU has reviewed the appeal budgets for all the Delegations in the region. Specific missions have been planned for the RFU staff to help the sub-regional office in Tunis and the Lebanese Delegation as well as the Yemen Red Crescent to finalise the appeal 2002 budgets. The RFU has started to process the analysis of the monthly cash requests received from the Delegations /Federation Representations before transmission to Geneva..

Coordination and management

The RD has coordinated the development and review of the 2002-2003 annual appeals from the region. A two day Head of Delegation meeting in Amman between 10-11 September 2001 reviewed all the draft appeals and budgets and agrees key areas of common concern, including the need to ensure an effective resource mobilization strategy.

A DP Project Officer and an Information Officer have been employed to work with the RD. A new Regional Health Delegate joined the RD in July 2001.

An agreement has been concluded between the RD and the French Red Cross according to which the RD will, as of October 2001, provide office space, transportation and other services facilitating the work of a Regional bilateral Delegate from French RC who will be based in Amman.

The Regional Head of Delegation has been appointed to work as an acting Head of the Middle East North Africa Department as of 1 September 2001 for 6 months. Subsequently the Deputy Head of the Regional Delegation has taken the responsibilities of Acting HoRD.

Outstanding needs

For further details please contact: Cynthia Petrigh, Phone : 41 22 7304312; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: petrigh@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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MENA Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.64/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			17.12.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'114'757		TOTAL COVERAGE 47.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
SECRETARIAT PROG SUPPORT				608'103		
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	49'448	112.12.01	HEALTH PROGRAMMES
FRENCH - RC				33'300	01.10.2001	INFORMATION DELEGATE, 12 MONTHS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'618'123	NOK	303'461	12.09.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, NETWORKING, INFORMATION/ ADVOCACY & TRAINING
SWEDISH - RC		350'000	SEK	60'795	01.03.01	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - RC		500'000	SEK	86'850	01.03.01	CBFA
SWEDISH - GOVT		650'000	SEK	106'405	07.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION
SWISS - RC				40'474	05.03.01	COSTS FOR DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'288'836	CHF	41.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			22'012		
Japan	Delegate(s)			59'959		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			99'876		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				181'847	CHF	5.8%