

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

NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

8 January 2002

Appeal No. 01/71/2001

Appeal Target CHF 1,007,000

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: July - December 2001

Last Programme Update issued 12/9/01

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 49.2%

Outstanding needs: CHF 543,068

Update: Steady progress has been made to implement programmes in the North African region. Overall coordination has improved with the Tunis office playing a vital role as illustrated during the Algerian floods disaster in November. A lack of human and financial resources has been the made constraint to further achievements.

Operational Developments:

The North Africa sub-region, which consists of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, is prone to disasters such as earthquakes and droughts, but they seldom reach major proportions. However, this happened on 10 November in Algeria, where after a long period of drought, heavy rainfalls caused sudden flash floods and mudslides killing more than 750 people in the city of Algiers and its surroundings. (For more details, see latest Operations Update, Algeria: Storms & Floods on www.ifrc.org). The September 11 events in New York and Washington also had consequences for North Africa. The tourism industry has suffered heavily, especially in Tunisia and Morocco, causing a rise in unemployment, even if official figures are not available.

Disaster Preparedness

Disaster Preparedness (DP) has been identified by the North African National Societies as a priority for Federation support, for which reason it was highlighted in the Appeal 2001 for regional programmes. As funding was made available by the Swedish and the Finnish Red Cross, and the Libyan Red Crescent offered a Staff on Loan (SoL) for three months, important progress was made during the reporting period. With support from the Disaster Preparedness and Health Departments, and with the Federation Tunis office as his base, the SoL worked

on an integrated DP/Health and HIV/AIDS prevention project covering the five National Societies of North Africa. A close coordination with the Amman regional delegation (RD) technical staff was maintained.

The idea of an integrated approach stems from the fact that Disaster Preparedness and Health are very closely linked on local level - and if we want to promote the concept of community based DP and Health as per Strategy 2010, these areas need to be dealt with together. In addition, building of the organisations' local capacities, such as volunteer training, goes hand in hand with the community based approach. Finally, as the HIV/AIDS has been declared a disaster, transgressing the area of health only, and as it has been defined a priority area of action for the Federation, it was decided to include HIV/AIDS in the integrated DP/Health project.

During the three months of his assignment the SoL visited all five National Societies of North Africa, namely Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt and Morocco. Discussions were held with the leadership of each of the Societies on their situation, on their specific priorities and on their willingness to carry out community based prevention projects or to participate in a regional programme.

Regarding Disaster Preparedness, the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) as a tool for decision makers for assessing the efficacy of the implemented programmes and tracing the roots of the vulnerabilities was introduced, explaining its usefulness in helping the NS staff to identify projects for strengthening the capacities of the local communities while making those communities aware of existing hazards. All five Societies expressed an interest in piloting a VCA project. The Egyptian RC has already identified its pilot area to be the Upper Nile. The Libyan RC is willing to introduce a pilot project in its Benghazi branch, the Algerian RC in Tipaza, the Moroccan RC in one of its Northern branches, and the Tunisian RC possibly in Tunis. All five Societies are willing to participate in VCA-training, while the Egyptian and the Moroccan RC are prepared to host such training. The VCA training and pilot projects are planned to start in early 2002.

In the context of the Algerian floods and mudslide disaster, it is foreseen that after the emergency phase of three months is over, a project for strengthening the ARCS capacity to respond to disasters will be implemented. Algeria was also chosen as the North African representative in the working group to follow up on the Disaster Preparedness decisions of the 3rd MENA Conference in Teheran. A first meeting of this group took place during the General Assembly of the Federation in November.

In most North African countries, the Civil Defense plays a prominent role in Disaster Preparedness and Response, while the Red Crescent organisations assist them, mostly by providing volunteers. Often the respective roles of the two organisations have not been clearly defined, nor is there an up-to-date national DP plan. For this reason cooperation with the Civil Defense was a central topic in a round table organised on 20 July jointly by the Tunisian Red Crescent and the Federation Tunis office on the occasion of the World Disaster Report launch. Important commitments were made during this launch by the authorities for joint training of volunteers. In the same spirit, all North African NS participated in a meeting of MENA Red Crescent Societies and Civil Defense organisations, convened by the Jordanian Red Crescent.

Humanitarian Values

No specific activities were carried out in this area due to lack of response to projects presented in Appeal 2001.

Health and Care

The Appeal 2001 had three objectives in this area, namely (1) to encourage NS to work on community level and take up preventive activities, (2) to start work with NS regarding HIV/AIDS, and (3) to support Algerian Red Crescent in expanding its occupational centres for women.

Concerning the first objective, no specific activities have been implemented during the reporting period due to lack of funding. However, with a funding possibility in early 2002, follow-up to the North African First Aid workshop, organised by the Federation Tunis office in July 2000, is foreseen with the objective of harmonising approaches in health programmes and aligning them with Strategy 2010. Furthermore, all five North African Societies have, during the visits of the Tunis office SoL, expressed their willingness to integrate into their First

Aid training elements from the Federation Community Based First Aid Manual (CBFA Manual), which was recently translated into Arabic and introduced to them during the mission.

As a follow-up to the North Africa - level consultation on HIV/AIDS related activities, organised by the Tunis office at the end of June, missions were carried out to each of the five National Societies by the SoL based in Tunis. Three areas related to HIV/AIDS were taken up: 1) Interest of NS to carry out a Pilot Youth Peer Education programme on HIV/AIDS; 2) Interest of NS to use the recently completed translation into Arabic of the Federation Youth Instructor's Manual on HIV/AIDS & STD; and 3) Interest of NS to participate in/organise Training of Trainers (ToT) for Youth Pilot programmes.

All five NS agreed in principle to pilot a Youth Peer Education project, while the Libyan and Tunisian Societies had already identified the branch in their respective Societies that would implement it. All Societies were interested in networking in this field, and agreed to appoint a focal point. All Societies also said they would be using the Manual materials in their activities, while the Libyan, Egyptian and Moroccan Societies were willing to host a ToT workshop in early 2002. In summary, this is an excellent development in view of the fact that only one year earlier, after the Ouagadougou Conference, there was very little interest in this problem, which was not considered as a priority for North Africa.

With funding from the Netherlands Red Cross, the Algerian Red Crescent has been supported in setting up and expanding two occupational training centres for women, one in Blida and one in Algiers. The women who receive the training have in most cases been directly or indirectly affected by the violence in the country. As stated in the previous Update, the equipment was purchased during the first half of the year, and the centres should have started functioning during the second half of the year. However, due to the floods & mud disaster, the final evaluation mission was postponed.

The Tunisian Red Crescent Monastir branch hosted a Workshop on Psychological Support on 9-10 July, 2001, following the participation of the President of the branch committee in a workshop organised in Baghdad earlier in the year. The participants came from the TRC branches as well as from health and social institutions in Tunisia. The Federation Representative facilitated sessions about the concept and experience of different National Societies in this field. The Tunis office had also agreed to sponsor, together with Tunis/ICRC, two representatives from the Algerian RC to a Psychological Support Conference in Copenhagen. Unfortunately, this did not materialise due to problems of obtaining a visa for the participants.

Institutional and Resource Development

Capacity building - or Institutional/Organisational and Resource Development (OD) - is one of the key areas of North African Regional Assistance Strategy. The following main objectives were stated in the Appeal 2001:

- To compile basic data on the National Societies and countries, including organisation, resources, key service programmes as well as socio-economic data on needs;
- To assist each National Society in producing goals, strategies and action plans for its institutional and resource development as well as for its service programmes;
- To start a financial resource development programme in the region, with pilot projects in two National Societies by end of 2001.
- To organise leadership training on regional level, and pilot a human resource development programme in one National Society by end of 2001.
- To help National Societies build capacities on branch level by strengthening branch infrastructure and training of volunteers and staff in all five Societies by end of 2002.

Funding was received from the Federation Capacity Building Fund at the end of 2000, and from the Finnish Red Cross in April 2001.

Basic data compilation has been continued during visits and other contacts with National Societies, but a systematic data base remains to be set up. Work on strategic planning with National Societies has been started, with four out of five NS - Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia - having completed their self-assessment

questionnaires, in some cases with support from the Federation Representative. Algerian RC also received the questionnaire, and has agreed to work on it after the emergency phase of the recent disaster is over.

The first strategic planning workshop took place at the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), where the Sfax branch hosted the event on 16-18 July 2001. The purpose was to help develop a vision and a strategic direction for the TRC, to ensure alignment of TRC activities with Strategy 2010 and to carry out a self-assessment of the TRC, identifying strengths and areas of improvement. The expected outcome was to produce first elements for a Strategic Plan, which would allow the TRC leadership to take decisions concerning future direction of the Society, including steps that need to be taken to ensure capacity in order to identify and implement programmes according to Strategy 2010. The workshop was facilitated by the Federation Representative in Tunis together with the ICRC Cooperation delegate for Maghreb.

About 20 people from the TRC national headquarters and regional branches had been invited, with an aim of having a representative cross-section of the Society present. The majority of the participants were Presidents of Regional Committees or volunteers engaged in first aid / rescue service activities, which is the main programme of the TRC. Three members of the Board (including the Secretary General) and one senior staff also participated. Men outnumbered women by 4 to 1 approximately.

The content of the workshop included (1) General information on the RC/CR Movement (structures, principles, functions), the Strategy 2010 (core areas and strategic directions), a Well Functioning National Society (statutes, strategic plans, governance / management, human resources, financial / material resources), (2) An analysis of the external environment (major problems, opportunities, constraints) and of the internal environment (capacities, services), as well as (3) Formulation and prioritizing of objectives for a long term NS plan and a Plan of Action.

While most participants were not familiar with Federation policies or the Strategy 2010, and had never before been involved in analysing or planning for their own NS, they however managed to come up with a number of conclusions and recommendations, which will now be followed up with the TRC Board. It is hoped that this follow-up, together with a follow-up on the Self-Assessment questionnaires, will start a planning process within the TRC, which until now does not have a strategic plan in place. (This was foreseen to take place end of September, but due to illness of the Delegate had to be postponed after the Statutory meetings and Ramadan, and will now be done in 2002). Strategic planning workshops with other North African NS are also foreseen. The next one is planned to take place in Morocco.

Financial resource development has been high on the agenda of several North African Societies. However, the pilot projects foreseen to start by end of 2001 have not yet materialised. One pilot project planned with the Algerian RC had to be canceled due to change in the NS leadership and a consequent change in priorities. However, in order to increase the skills of the NS in this area, one person from the Moroccan Red Crescent, the President of the Marrakech branch, was sponsored to participate in the International Fundraising Congress on 17-19 October, 2001, in the Netherlands.

As financial resource development is part of the overall organisational development (OD) of a NS, it needs to be incorporated in that process. A major obstacle to realising the OD and financial resources projects during the past year has been the lack of human resources. The original plan and budget, reflected in the Appeal 2001, did not include an OD-delegate or a Consultant. However, it has proven difficult for a one-person delegation to implement all the foreseen programmes in different fields. For this reason, additional human resources will be sought in year 2002.

Leadership training was organised together with the ICRC in February 2001, and has been reported on previously. It has now been agreed with the ICRC Regional Delegation for Maghreb to repeat this activity in 2002, taking into account the experiences from Federation pilot projects on regional leadership training.

A new element in the field of OD, not foreseen in the Appeal 2001, is involvement in promotion of gender issues. The Tunis Representative coordinated the preparatory work for the 3rd MENA Conference in Teheran and has since been acting as a support structure for the new MENA Gender Network, the focal point of which is the

Iranian RC. In this sense, a coordination meeting was held in Geneva in November during the Federation General Assembly.

The Federation Representative also facilitated a number of sessions at a workshop on “Women and Humanitarian Work” organised by the Tunisian Red Crescent during 2-6 August, 2001. The topics included Federation Strategy 2010, Gender Policy and VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment). The participants, altogether about 40, came partly from the regional branches of the Tunisian Red Crescent, and partly from different Red Crescent Societies from the MENA region, including Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Syria and Palestine.

Once more it needs to be said that National Society capacity building requires time and cultural sensitivity. Confidence building is necessary before an OD process can get going. However, important constraints for getting programme fully under way have also been the limitation in time - due to many meetings and conferences, including the Federation statutory meetings, involving both NS leaders and delegates - as well as limited human resources. Additional human resources, especially from the region, would be very helpful to carry out activities in the sub-region.

Coordination and Management

The coordination and management of Federation-supported activities in North Africa is the task of the Tunis office, established in January 2000. It works closely with the Amman Regional Delegation. The office consists of one expatriate delegate, Federation Representative, and one full time and one part-time local staff. The main objectives are the following:

- To serve as contact point between the North African NS and the Federation Secretariat in Geneva;
- To function as support infrastructure for implementation of Federation regional assistance strategy in North Africa;
- To facilitate exchange of experiences and cooperation between National Societies in the region;
- To promote contacts and partnerships with sister Societies in other regions;
- To represent the Federation externally with international and national organizations and authorities as well as the with ICRC.

An important practical manifestation of the contact point function took place during the floods & mudslide disaster in Algeria on 10 November. One consequence of this disaster was that all communications between the ARCS and Geneva were cut, but telephone and fax continued to function between Tunis and Algiers. During the first critical days of the Algeria operation the Tunis office was the only channel of communication for Geneva and PNS alike. Tunis office contributed also with its resources to the response by seconding the local staff member to the Algeria field assessment and coordination team (FACT) team.

Outstanding needs

The main constraints in implementing activities have already been described above. In summary the principal reason was a lack of human and financial resources. Additional support is needed for the in-country costs, in order to allow implementation of programme activities.

For further details please contact: Evgeni Parfenov, Phone : 41 22 7304325; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: parfenov@ifrc.org, and Cynthia Petrigh, Phone: 41 22 730 43 12; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95, e-mail: 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>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Christer Aqvist
Head a.i.
MENA Department

North Africa: Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.71/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				21.12.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'103'396		TOTAL COVERAGE 49.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		148'846	EUR	228'985	10.04.01	ID/RD, DEP & DELEGATE COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC		148'315	NLG	143'699	08.06.2001	VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS
NORWAY - RC		150'000	NOK	27'675	13.12.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	82'750	07.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COORDINATION & MGT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				483'109	CHF	43.8%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			59'959		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				59'959	CHF	5.4%