

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

MENA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

3 July 2002

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.54/2002; Appeal Target CHF 2,526,660; Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: 01 January -30 June 2002.

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 62 %

Outstanding needs: CHF 959,346 (USD 643,411/EUR 656,089)

Summary: Progress over the first half of 2002 has been good in improving cooperation and coordination amongst MENA's Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in the areas of health and disaster management. With support from the Federation, the societies are meeting regularly enabling frequent exchange of information.

Operational Developments w

Heightened tensions over the reporting period between Palestine and Israel, and the negative impact of continuing economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, directly and indirectly contributed to an increasing sense of uncertainty and apprehension throughout the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). The volatile nature of the overall regional context, posed both strategic and operational challenges. Whilst the desire is to stay focussed on set objectives related to national society capacity building, the changing nature of the context demands a constant process of adjustment in light of recurring emergency needs. Despite the challenges of the first half of 2002, considerable progress has been made regarding the implementation of the core objectives set for the Federation's regional delegation for 2002-2003 within the annual appeal (01.54/2002).

The following highlights achievements within the core areas which are detailed within this report.

Health and Care: Thirteen HIV/AIDS trainers were trained from the five North African National Societies (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), providing the basis for the national societies to increase their roles in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR): Eighteen disaster preparedness trainers/coordinators from 12 national societies were trained to serve as focal points for DP/DR training and coordination within each of the respective national societies. The training also provided a forum whereby the trainees examined the content of the Federation's DP Manual, with a view to adapting it to the MENA context and improving its applicability within the region.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Principles: A monthly regional newsletter has been launched to promote Red Cross/Red Crescent humanitarian values and principles within the region, and foster dialogue among the MENA based national societies and with partners outside the region

Organisational Development: Twenty eight potential delegates, drawn from 13 MENA based national societies, participated in the third MENA Regional Basic Training Course (BTC) 2002. The course was borne from the expressed desire of the national societies to develop volunteers and national staff as a first step towards integrating regional talent into the wider network of international Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

Disaster Preparedness/ Disaster Response (DP/DR) w

Objective 1: Assist MENA national societies to set up a regional disaster preparedness and disaster management coordination network enhancing cooperation in terms of human, material and knowledge resource sharing.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 1

- *The MENA regional Disaster Relief Centre established in Tehran to improve performance in DP/DR and related activities.*

In line with recommendations regarding national society capacity building in DP/DR from the third MENA Conference (Tehran 2001), the MENA Regional Disaster Relief Centre has been officially launched, following an agreement between the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. The centre will improve the coordination of DP/DR activities in the region including training, logistics and management.

The Federation's regional field reporting delegate provided assistance to Red Cross/Red Crescent societies in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine with improving their skills in developing and managing ECHO funded projects.

- *SPHERE (the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response) training conducted for the first time in Arabic to expedite understanding and implementation of the SPHERE concepts within the region.*

A SPHERE training was conducted, for the first time in Arabic, in Cairo involving about 25 participants from the Egyptian Red Crescent and representatives from six national societies in the region. The basic concepts of the SPHERE standards for humanitarian assistance were discussed and analyzed to improve their applicability within the region. The fact that the training was organized in Arabic facilitated understanding and applying the SPHERE standards in the region.

- *DP trainers/coordinators trained and the Federation's 'Introduction to Disaster Preparedness Manual' translated into Arabic.*

Eighteen disaster preparedness trainers/coordinators from 12 national societies, were trained to serve as focal points for DP/DR training /co-ordination within their respective national societies, strengthening local capacities for effective response in terms of disasters. The training also provided a forum whereby the trainees examined the content of the Federation's DP Manual with a view to adapting it to the MENA context. The need to create a network of disaster preparedness coordinators in the region and a regional preparedness summer camp to exchange ideas and experiences among the regional DP coordinators/trainers was also identified during the training as important areas for follow up

- *The regional delegation participates in interagency planning meetings to improve coordination.*

The regional delegation participates, together with the ICRC and the Jordan Red Crescent, in the interagency contingency planning meetings coordinated by the UNHCR regarding a possible conflict in Iraq and the subsequent implications in terms of population displacement.

Objective 2: strengthen DP activities utilizing Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) experiences. Participatory VCA studies as a basis for effective performance of the National Societies of Palestine, Iraq and within the North Africa sub-region.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 2

- *By developing a well functioning disaster management unit, the Palestine Red Crescent Society is implementing up to 90 percent of the recommendations of the VCA conducted over the past few years (facilitated by the regional delegation).*

Twenty participants from the five North African National Societies participated in the VCA planning meeting in Morocco, facilitated by the regional delegation and the Federation's representative for North Africa. A tentative critical pathway has been devised by the participants paving the way for a full VCA studies in Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt.

1) The need to base the VCA on participatory and community driven approaches, 2) the training of national society human resources departments to do the same, and 3) the creation of communications systems and exchange of experiences among national societies were also identified during the meeting to strengthen the DP/DR effort within the sub-region.

Based on the experience gained from the comprehensive VCA study done in Palestine, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society with from the Federation's regional delegation and Iraqi country delegation finalized preparations to institute similar processes. The effort in Iraq is particularly significant as it coincides with the need to develop the society's overall preparedness, including the need for contingency plans in view of the uncertainties and risks of more conflict.

- *VCA knowledge sharing enhanced with inter-regional dimensions.*

VCA experiences were shared with other regions by the Federation's DP delegate who discussed his experiences assisting in the VCA training conducted in Mongolia. The cooperation was based on a two way process of knowledge sharing, as the experiences gained in Mongolia were found to be useful to enrich the similar process launched in Morocco involving the five North African National Societies.

Objective 3: facilitate training to promote integrated community based disaster preparedness, health and organizational development.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 3

- *Basic DP/DR elements included within the integrated training package for better cost effectiveness and impact .*

Basic DP/DR elements were included as part of the integrated training conducted in the Middle East (Syria). The DP/DR section of the training outlined the three phases of DP/DR; pre, during and post disaster phenomena. Following this training, it should be noted, in June volunteers /staff of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were the first to arrive when the Zeyzoun dam collapsed and destroyed several villages. The camp management was handed over to the Red Crescent in recognition of the excellent work and contact the volunteers established with the villages.

Possibilities are being explored to replicate the integrated training 'model' involving more national societies from the Gulf and North Africa sub-regions to encourage wider use of this approach throughout the MENA region

Constraints

The VCA work at national society level requires a lot of follow up to ensure that the momentum created through the VCA training is maintained, incorporating the findings within the programme planning and implementation cycle of the national society. However, as most of the national societies do not have designated people to sustain this process for a longer period of time, the immediate impact the VCA is expected to generate in terms of facilitating change within the service portfolio of the national society is not immediately apparent.

Lessons learnt

The MENA national societies are interested in the VCA initiative, as an important tool to develop effective DP/DR capacities. This seems to be the case despite the fact that the VCA initiative is based on a process of community awareness/participation rather than on immediate delivery of products. The challenge is maintaining a balance and ensuring that the process will ultimately lead to a good product with a more sustainable prospect.

Humanitarian Values w

Objective 1 : enhance public knowledge of Strategy 2010 through the active use of mass media; ensure that national society staff have full understanding of the Strategy and clearly see it as a primary tool in planning their programmes.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 1

- *Monthly newsletter launched to enhance awareness and promote dialogue.*

The monthly, bilingual (Arabic and English) newsletter of the Federation's regional delegation ("Al-Ittihad", i.e. federation or unity), highlights national societies' and the Federation's work, as well as featuring the Federation's press releases, stories and pictures from the field. The newsletter has been regularly sent to all major media across the region and in Jordan. The information is increasingly being used by both the Arabic and English speaking press. Each month, over 3,000 copies of the newsletter are distributed to MENA national societies, and contributes towards raising volunteers' and staff's knowledge about the Movement and its work in the region.

- *The MENA regional activities effectively promoted through the Federation's Web site.*

Several stories were published on the Federation's public web site promoting activities of the MENA national societies.

- *The World Disaster Report 2002 launched in Jordan.*

The World Disaster Report 2002, focussing on risk reduction, was jointly launched by the regional delegation and Jordan Red Crescent. Key messages from the report were disseminated through some of the major regional media.

- *National Society staff/volunteers trained in the advocacy mandate of the Movement.*

The advocacy mandate of the Movement was introduced to volunteers and staff of six national societies of the region during the integrated training conducted in Syria focussing on the core areas of Strategy 2010 and organisational development.

As part of a regional BTC organised in Jordan, the trainees attended a session on relations with partners, and in particular on why and how the Movement can benefit from the media.

Objective 2: strengthen collaboration and coordination among the components of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to present a united vision and a more solid image of the Movement; expand/strengthen advocacy efforts at regional, sub-regional and national society levels to improve knowledge and visibility of the Movement, and the distinctive roles of each component.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 2

- *Joint ICRC/Federation/National Society communications to the press promoting the practice of working together based on a coherent approach.*

Joint ICRC/Federation communications to the press with regards to the Movement's work in the Palestinian Autonomous and Occupied territories, as well as joint ICRC/Federation/Jordan National Red Crescent Society press conference on 8 May and coordination of the inputs on communication during the MENA Regional BTC, among other examples, have contributed to the building of a more united image. Also instrumental in promoting the practice of working together, was the systematic dissemination to the media of statements, stories, and pictures, not only from the Federation but also from the national societies themselves.

Objective 3: establish strong and expanded relations with local and regional media with the purpose of disseminating information about the Federation's strategies/programmes, fundamental principles/humanitarian values.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 3

- *Partnership agreements initiated with major web-based communities.*

Among major achievements in this respect, contacts were established for partnership agreements with two major regional web-based communities (arabia.com and maktoob.com), which already picked up and posted the Federation's stories and news items. Several stories were written in local and regional newspapers (Arabic and English) about HIV/AIDS and the way the Movement is fighting against the spread of the disease.

Objective 4 : provide communication support to regional programmes such as Organisational Development (OD), Health and DP.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 4

- *The implementation of Strategy 2010 core areas and OD in the region more widely promoted.*

All main activities (programmes, workshops, training sessions, missions, publications) carried out under the above programmes were highlighted in “Al-Ittihad”, the MENA monthly newsletter. Relations with the media, including press conferences when appropriate, were organised. Special attention was given to HIV/AIDS issues and actions in the region, in particular through the Federation’s web site (with four stories posted since the beginning of 2002). Support was given by the regional delegation for the production of promotional material, i.e. posters, T-shirts, bags, caps, etc.

Constraints

Much time, effort and money is spent on efforts to get needed news items from national societies, which are as of yet proactive enough to provide inputs to the newsletter. Shipment of the newsletter across the region and the world also takes time. Although all country delegations and national societies are encouraged to disseminate the newsletter to the media in their respective countries, the capacity of the regional delegation to ensure the distribution is limited. Monitoring of the media pickup is also difficult, except in Jordan.

The different agendas and constant workload of the various components of the Movement in the field, can limit the coordination among themselves. Time and human resources are lacking to develop strong, direct relations with local and regional media outside Jordan.

Lessons learned

- Arabic material makes a big difference, both in regard to the media and national societies. Although the Federation’s efforts and initiatives in this respect have significantly increased this year, a lot more resources should be dedicated to producing more material. Although presently published by the regional delegation, it is instrumental that “Al-Ittihad” become the newsletter of all the MENA national societies.
- More remains to be done, in particular through the media, not only to show the unity of the Movement, but also to explain its different components and the division of responsibilities.
- The Federation’s staff, in country delegations, need to be encouraged to develop relations with the media so they can help their hosting national societies to build their advocacy/information capacities.
- Better focus is required to highlight a few but newsworthy, outward-looking, and beneficiary-oriented achievements rather than a lot of repetitive, internal activities which is most of the time unfit to print though instrumental to the work.

Health and Care w

Objective 1: consolidate efforts and results taking into consideration existing and emerging challenges in health and health-related priorities.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 1

- *The roles of the national societies are enhanced in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the MENA region*

Increasingly aware of the growing danger of the spread of HIV/AIDS, (with more than 200,000 persons estimated to be infected in the MENA region), the national societies are stepping up their efforts to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS. In particular, the efforts in the MENA sub-regions have started to gather momentum with support provided by the regional delegation.

- *The fight against HIV/AIDS: encouraging progress in the Middle East sub-region*

Consolidating the efforts started in the previous years, the National Societies of the Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon Palestine and Syria) are currently involved in a variety of projects dealing with HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS awareness/ prevention activities are as follows:

Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran: The Society’s HIV/AIDS projects have been included within the central structure which consists of an executive committees that coordinates all HIV/AIDS related

activities in the country. The committees have started to produce HIV/AIDS related materials for health promotion, e.g. posters and leaflets.

The Kermanshah Province (near the Iraqi border) was selected as 'a pilot area' because it has the highest number of HIV positive persons in the province (about 800 tested cases in the Kermanshah town). The Kermanshah branch is cooperating with the University clinic handling HIV/AIDS counselling /treatment. The branch has also initiated a project on intravenous drug abuse, and an HIV/AIDS counselling centre providing people with information on AIDS, and social support for the victims of the disease.

The Federation's regional delegation is assisting the Iranian Red Crescent with its effort to translate and adapt "the Youth Peering manual" into the Farsi language.

The recently established "MENA Regional Gender Network" plans to conduct one of its knowledge sharing meetings in Teheran focussing on issues related to HIV/AIDS and female sexuality.

Iraqi Red Crescent: The Iraqi Red Crescent is in the process of developing HIV /AIDS projects which includes aspects of training of trainers and youth peer education. The Society is closely working with the Ministry of Health and the WHO. A cross-border cooperation between the National Societies of Iran and Iraq is currently being discussed to encourage an exchange of experiences in relation to HIV/AIDS.

Jordan National Red Crescent: The Jordan Red Crescent Society is cooperating with UN Agencies(including UNICEF). On 8 May 2002, the Society launched a two-year campaign against the stigma of HIV/AIDS..

Lebanese Red Cross: The Lebanese Red Cross is closely cooperating with the national AIDS programme which assisted the national society with the organisation of a training of trainers among its first aid volunteers. Plans are under way to organise a training of trainers 'camp' in which about 60 youth from Lebanon, Palestine and Syria will be trained as HIV/AIDS youth peering counsellors. The Lebanese Red Cross has also started to train its nurses and social workers as HIV/AIDS educators and counsellors. So far the training has been conducted in northern and southern Lebanon and in Beirut.

Palestine Red Crescent: Efforts in Palestine are based on a more comprehensive approach focussing on training on "infectious diseases" including hepatitis, STD, drug abuse, etc. Training is conducted via '*distance learning*' due to problems related to security and mobility.

Palestine Red Crescent (Lebanon branch): The PRCS-Lebanon branch is targeting its HIV/AIDS awareness efforts towards the general public and the youth. The branch has adopted an educational approach which focuses on health education campaigns for primary, secondary and tertiary level students.

Syrian Arab Red Crescent: The Syrian Arab Red Crescent have trained 15 HIV/AIDS trainers together with the youth from the Lebanese Red Cross in July 2002.

- *The fight against HIV/AIDS - initial steps in the North Africa sub-region*

A sub-regional level training of trainers of HIV/AIDS facilitated by the regional delegation has been conducted involving 22 participants from the five North African national societies (Algeria, Egypt, Libya Morocco and Tunisia).

The training was based on the Federation's youth peering manual which has already been translated into Arabic. Based on the knowledge gained during the training, and the existing realities in the respective countries, the North African national societies are currently trying to define the role they can and should play in the fight against AIDS.

- *A regional network established to promote the planning and implementation of Psychological Support Programme (PSP) in the MENA region*

The Federation's regional delegation facilitated regional psychological support network meeting involving 13 participants from national societies in Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Algeria (plus Federation and ICRC representatives) with the objective to discuss ways and means as to how best to develop and implement

psychological support programmes within the region. The discussion was based on exchanging experiences of national societies, and learning more about the Federation's psychological support in emergencies

As a follow up on what was discussed during the meeting, the Lebanese Red Cross is forging ahead with implementing the initiative. About 100 volunteers/staff have already been trained in psychological first with about 200 more to be trained in the near future.

Objective 2: assist the national societies with implementing integrated CBFA with a focus on prevention and preparedness and a capacity to respond to emergencies and common health problems.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 2

- *Community Based First Aid (CBFA) as part of an integrated training for better cost effectiveness and impact*

Basic CBFA issues were presented as part on an integrated training on (health,DP,OD and humanitarian values and principles) conducted in Syria involving more than 40 participants(from Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates)

Objective 3: support the national societies with continued technical advice to enable them to improve health services based on increased knowledge and exchange of experiences.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 3

The Federation's regional delegation facilitated discussions between the national societies' of the United Arab Emirates and the Finish Red Cross to explore possibilities for the volunteers and staff of the UAE to participate in the ERU training of the Finish Red Cross. Efforts have also been made to encourage cooperation along similar lines between the Iranian Red Crescent and the German Red Cross.

The Federation's regional health delegate participated in the Regional Interagency Coordination Committee Meeting for poliomyelitis, expanded programme for immunisation and other communicable diseases. The useful experience of the Iraqi Red Crescent in the monitoring of the polio campaign in Iraq was presented and discussed at the meeting

Constraints

The biggest constraint is related to lack of adequate financial support to implement the activities according to plan. Despite this constraint, however, considerable progress has been made partly due to the fact that some of the costs for CBFA, as part of the integrated package, were covered through the DP budget.

Lessons Learnt

- The original plan to establish a psychological support centre in Iraq did not materialise for lack of interest and support. The present level of national society readiness is not yet fully mature to establish and sustain a regional structure/centre for PSP. Alternatively, the focus on individual national society level with a regional network to exchange experiences seems to provide a more realistic option .
- A lot of work has already been done in the implementation of CBFA in the region. In order to make it more relevant to the priority needs in the region, the need to widen its scope , based on a thorough evaluation, has been recognised as an important area of concern.

Organizational Development w

Objective 1: OD support to follow up on the planning process leading to the development of cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

Summary of Achievements in Relation to Objective 1

- *National Societies strategic planning as a basis for evolving co-operation agreement strategy (CAS).*

Follow up consultations were made between the Federation's regional delegation, and the leadership of the National Societies of Iraq, Syria and Yemen

The strategic plan of the Yemen Red Crescent Society (2001-2005) was finalised and approved by the National Executive Board of the Society, and an agreement made to develop the CAS during the second half of 2002.

A basic understanding was also reached with the leadership of the national societies of Iraq and Syria to encourage them to finalise their strategic plans and start to develop their CAS

Objective 2: regional OD support to initiate/consolidate strategic planning processes involving the National Societies of Jordan and Palestine.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 2

- *A strategic planning process initiated with the NS of Jordan*

Jointly facilitated by the Federation's regional delegation and the ICRC in Jordan (Amman), a four day national strategic planning seminar was conducted involving about 25 staff / volunteers from the headquarters and the branches of the Jordan Red Crescent

The seminar focussed on analysing national society structures and services as a basis for creating a strategic plan (covering medium to long term perspectives), and in which the key priorities will be (re)formulated in line with the changing community needs and the strategic directions/core business areas of Strategy 2010 of the Federation. To facilitate the evolution of the Society's strategic plan, through a participatory approach, based on the inputs generated during the seminar and mobilising additional ones from both within and outside the Society, a task force of five members has been established with representatives from the national headquarters and the branches. The evolution and effective implementation of the strategic plan of the Society is designed to provide a pathway to success raising the level of efficiency in terms of both service delivery and advocacy. It is also expected to pave the way for the development and initiation of an effective cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) which can improve the prospect of working together effectively, addressing the priority needs of the most vulnerable in Jordan

Objective 3: regional OD support to specific projects/ priorities emerging from the core business areas (including Health, DP/DR and Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles of the Movement)

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 3

- *Basic OD elements included as part of the integrated training for better cost effectiveness and impact.*

Training on basic OD elements (as part of the integrated package that brings together the core areas of Strategy 2010) provided to staff/volunteers of the National Societies of Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. OD elements were also included within the curriculum developed for the integrated package.

Objective 4: regional OD support to enhance human resource development in the region.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 4

- *A Basic Training Course (BTC) conducted for potential delegates from within the region.*

28 potential delegates (5 female and 23 male) drawn from 13 national societies in the region participated in the third MENA BTC 2002. This was in response to the expressed wish of the national societies as regards the need to develop the volunteers and staff as a first step towards integrating them within the wider network of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Jointly facilitated by the Federation and the ICRC in Jordan (Amman), the course was a success and most of the participants have been recommended for possible missions in their different areas of competence.

- *Leadership orientation/consultation with the National Board of Directors of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.* The Federation's regional delegation, in cooperation with the ICRC in Syria, facilitated a two day orientation/consultation seminar for the newly (re) elected Board of Directors of the Society.

The discussion focussed on a review of the history of the Movement, the development process of the Society in the context of Strategy 2010 of the Federation, and the characteristics of a well functioning national society.

As the existing leadership profile of the national society does not represent a picture of fair balance (in terms of both gender and age), further efforts need to be made to address the issue at both headquarters and branch levels.

Constraints

Although the strategic planning process had started well in Iraq and Syria, keeping up the momentum, in both cases, posed a challenge. As result draft plans still remain to be finalised and approved. This determines the pace at which the CAS process can be launched as a logical next step in the process. Issues related to the election (in Syria), and the lack of sustained communication between the national society and the Federation contributed to the delay in the process.

The ongoing conflict in Palestine and the involvement of the PRCS in the resulting humanitarian emergency, did not allow time to start up the strategic planning process which the society wishes to undertake.

The 'capacity building /cooperation forum' planned to be facilitated involving the Gulf National Societies had to be postponed due to competing priorities.

Lessons Learnt

Sustained communication and dialogue is required to ensure that capacity building (OD) processes stay on track. The challenge, as noted from the experiences in Syria and Iraq, is how to ensure the continuity of communication and strive to achieve the desired results in the capacity building process.

Closer follow up with the national societies can help speed up capacity building (OD) processes as demonstrated in the case of Yemen. Things have started to move faster after the Federation's OD delegate was assigned in Sana'a to work with the national society.

Coordination and Management w

Objective 1: facilitate and coordinate communication and support among the national societies and their partners within and outside the Movement.

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 1

- *Third MENA Conference Follow up Committee Meeting.*

The Federation's regional delegation facilitated the third MENA Conference Follow up Committee meeting conducted in Amman (April 2002) consisting of representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, and Iran.

The committee reviewed the progress regarding the implementation of recommendations of the third MENA Conference and approved its Terms of Reference. These were shared with the national societies of the region, together with a sample format for monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the conference's recommendations.

- *MENA Consortium - Second Meeting.*

The Federation's regional delegation participated in the MENA Consortium's second meeting conducted in May 2002. The meeting concentrated on exchanging information among the consortium member societies, which also included review of progress and performance pertaining to resource mobilisation efforts and results in relation to MENA appeals 2002.

- *Field visits by the Federation's Head of the Regional Delegation to meet with National Society leadership and country delegations/Federation representatives.*

The head of the Federation's regional delegation paid working visits to the national societies of Iraq, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. The discussion addressed a wide range of operational and strategic issues of common concern. The visits also enabled the Head of the regional delegation to monitor progress of the Federation's delegations and representatives in the respective countries in relation to the performance objectives set for 2002.

Objective 2: provide overall co-ordination support to the Country Delegations/Federation Representations

Summary of achievements in relation to objective 2

- *MENA Heads of Delegations - First Quarterly Meeting*

The first quarterly meeting of the MENA HoDs was held in Amman (March 2002). The meeting was facilitated by the Federation's regional delegation and attended by representatives of the MENA department in the Federation's secretariat, heads of delegations and Federation representatives.

The meeting reviewed progress during the first quarter of 2002 (January -March 2002), and agreed on the new working modalities. All the MENA delegations/and or Federation representatives will operationally report to (through) the regional delegation with the MENA department in Geneva primarily dealing with overall policy matters, fund raising and relationship management.

Administration/logistics support provided to the operations in Iraq and Palestine and the Federation's recent work in Syria with victims of the collapsed dam in the Hama Region were facilitated through the regional delegation.

Financial management support was provided by the Regional Finance Unit to the delegations /Federation representatives in the region.

Challenges and prospects

- Adequate resource mobilisation to support the MENA appeals has remained a major limiting factor over the past few years. However, the picture in 2002 has started to improve owing to the concerted efforts made to exchange information through the MENA Consortium and other channels. The contribution to the appeal from within the national societies in the region is also gradually increasing. However, there is still a long way to go to realise the full potential in this respect.
- Cooperation and coordination within the Components of the Movement (including ICRC and Participating National Societies working bilaterally in the region) has been steadily improving but more needs to be done to ensure that one of the strategic directions of Strategy 2010 of the Federation - working together effectively - can be realised in the region in a more satisfactory manner.
- The recent efforts made to narrow 'the apparent gap' that existed for a long time between the Federation/Secretariat and most of the national societies in the region has started to show positive signs of achievement in terms of increased motivation of the national societies to work with the Federation/Secretariat and the other Components of the Movement. However, more needs to be done to nurture this positive development through increased focus, more intensified capacity building and dialogue with the Federation(Secretariat/delegations) facilitating the process. This calls for a more sustainable mechanism of cooperation using the CAS as a collectively binding instrument through which the Federation/Secretariat stays engaged in the region and contributes to the development of the national societies
- The increased capacity building and dialogue process should also help to strengthen horizontal linkages among the national societies to ensure that the culture of mutual assistance is strongly anchored within the regional and sub-regional context.
- Strategically positioned to facilitate the process of NS capacity building and dialogue - the critical inputs that determine the degree of success of the decentralisation strategy of the Federation/Secretariat - the regional delegation needs to be strengthened with the necessary human, material and financial resources.
- In particular, as effective capacity building support to the national societies is the key channel through which the Federation's 'service leadership role' can be translated into action, the 'technical/professional core' of the regional delegation should continually be scaled up to ensure the availability and continued service of well qualified and experienced professionals that can work as regional advisors in the different areas of engagement. The relative strength in this respect is a matter of paramount significance as it represents the main avenue through which the value adding qualities of the Federation's capacity building support can be strongly demonstrated based on solid competencies and skills.

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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						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.54/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			01.07.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'526'660		TOTAL COVERAGE 62.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				308'928		
Programme support				497'960		
Programme support RFU				98'000		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				212'500	19.02.2002	INST. DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CBFA
BRITISH - RC				36'000	15.04.2002	DP DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC				93'896	15.04.2002	CORE AREAS
SWEDISH - GOVT				1'100'000	28.05.2002	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC				1'329	30.03.2002	CFA & ROAD SAFETY, DIRECTLY TO THE DELEGATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'394'663	CHF	55.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			59'959		
FRANCE	DELEGATE(S)			29'733		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			33'018		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			49'938		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				172'648	CHF	6.8%