

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

3 December 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. 01.60/2002

Appeal Target CHF 712,022

Programme Update No. 1

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 80.7%

Related Appeals: MENA regional programmes (01.54/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 137,246

Summary: Donor support was dominated by Finnish Red Cross/government backing to Federation efforts to build capacity of North African National Societies. This strong engagement from Finland has enabled the Societies to be more effective in their support of vulnerable people. Regional cooperation is vital if the wider humanitarian challenge in North Africa is to be successfully confronted. National Societies and the Federation are endeavouring to do this in coordination with other humanitarian organisations.

Operational Developments w

The Federation office in North Africa covers five countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. According to the Regional Agreement Strategy for North Africa (RAS), this office was to focus on Capacity Building of National Societies, and in particular on Organizational Development (OD) and Disaster Preparedness (DP). The latter would be closely linked with Health activities, in particular HIV/AIDS prevention.

Two and a half years after being set up, the Federation office in Tunis has seen its working relations with the National Societies turn from cautious observance to increased demands on more and better services. Much of this has resulted from sub-regional training events and encounters, organised by the Tunis office and hosted by Societies in the region. These have allowed representatives of the five National Societies to meet and exchange experiences as well as to discover new approaches and tools developed by the Federation. Examples are Disaster Preparedness related events (Sphere-training, Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment (VCA) workshop), HIV/AIDS Youth training of trainers (ToT), and Gender network. At the same time the needs for Federation

support as perceived by the Societies themselves have become more concrete, showing that certain objectives and activities stated in the Appeal 2002 were either premature or else of low priority for the Societies. For instance, leadership training both on national and sub-regional level is generally regarded as high priority, while organizational development, including strategic planning, has not generated same amount of interest or acceptance.

A recent UNDP study on the Middle East and North Africa region - carried out by a group of distinguished Arab scholars - has produced conclusions that help explain the difficulty of capacity building approaches in the region. The Arab Human Development Report 2002, UNDP together with Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, concludes that significant progress has been made in fields such as health, housing and education. However, there remain important “deficits” in three areas: freedom (including good governance), empowerment of women, and knowledge. The barrier to better performance is not necessarily a lack of resources but a “poverty of capabilities and poverty of opportunities” that undermines human development. It manifests itself in various ways, such as high illiteracy rates (especially among women), economic disparities, desire to emigrate (especially among young people), declining work productivity - and low Internet connectivity. The report calls for investment “in Arab capabilities and knowledge, particularly those of Arab women, in good governance, and in strong cooperation between Arab nations.” Translated into Red Cross/Red Crescent language this reaffirms the importance of capacity building, good governance, gender awareness and regional cooperation.

The attacks of 11 September 2001 has had a wideranging and serious impact on the region. The violence in Algeria, meanwhile has nor receded. It is estimated that around 800 people, most of them civilians, have been killed since the beginning of 2002. Unrest in the berber regions of Algeria, especially in Kabylia, have continued.

Disaster Response w

Algeria floods:

The response to the devastating floods that took place in Algiers and surrounding areas on 10 November 2001 killing more than 750 people have been reported on separately. The follow-up of the relief operation, after the departure of the Federation FACT-team, has been assured by placing a Delegate in Algeria. This Project Coordinator is following up on the distribution of remaining donations as well as helping the Algerian Red Crescent upgrade their Disaster Preparedness capacity. (See separate reports of March 2002 and July 2002).

Egypt train accident:

Early morning on Wednesday 20 February fire swept through a crowded passenger train on its way from Cairo to Upper Egypt, carrying passengers home for the El Aïd religious celebration. It was the worst train disaster in Egypt's history, with a death toll of 377 and more than 200 injured. The victims were mostly poor people living in villages along the Nile river.

The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERCS) was the first to arrive at the site of the disaster, in the early hours of the morning. It was actively involved in providing first aid to the victims, in ensuring their transport to hospitals as well as in helping families to identify their dead. Nine Red Crescent branches from along the river Nile mobilised hundreds of volunteers to provide food, blankets and clothing to the injured and to the families of the victims, as well as psychological support. Immediate financial assistance was given to 68 families. The volunteers also visited all injured in the hospitals, facilitated transfer of cases to specialised hospitals, and provided financial and administrative support. The Federation released from its DREF fund CHF 30,000 to cover immediate needs.

The ERCS is working on a rehabilitation programme, in which priority will be given to families who lost their breadwinner. The programme will include income generating projects, financial assistance to families whose children are enrolled in schools to cover school fees and transport, vocational training to youth of certain families to help them find employment, sustained psychological support to a few families that will continue to need it, and physiotherapy and appropriate appliances for those who became Handicapped. (For more information on the Egypt train accident see Information Bulletin nr 2, March 2002.)

Disaster Preparedness w

The general goal of the North Africa regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) programme, mainly composed of country specific programmes, is to enhance the capacity of and co-ordination among the National Societies for coping with disasters on regional, national and local levels. It is to strengthen the role of the Societies as auxiliaries to public authorities in disaster response, and ensure an integrated approach with their health and first-aid activities on local level.

The specific DP objectives are 1) To adapt existing disaster preparedness strategies of National Societies through an integrated approach, focussing on local vulnerabilities as per Strategy 2010; 2) To strengthen each National Society's capacity to cope effectively with small, local disasters as well as with large national disasters, and to clarify its role in the country's overall preparedness plan; and 3) To improve regional cooperation and coordination among the National Societies in the field of disaster preparedness and response.

During the first half of 2002 two sub-regional events were organised to meet several of the above objectives. The first one was a workshop on Sphere standards of humanitarian assistance, hosted by the Egyptian Red Crescent, and the second was a workshop on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, hosted by the Moroccan Red Crescent.

Workshop on Sphere standards, Cairo, Egypt, 9-11 March, 2002

The aim of the workshop was to give those responsible for emergency response in their respective National Societies an opportunity to discuss effectiveness of humanitarian response in the region, and to get familiar with the Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response and the Humanitarian Charter. This was the first time such a workshop was organised in Arabic, using the newly translated Arabic version of the Handbook. (The representatives of the three French speaking Societies were later provided at their request the material in French, to be used in training in their respective Societies). The workshop was facilitated by an Arabic speaking Sphere trainer, assisted by a Staff on Loan from the Syrian Red Crescent. The 21 participants, who were mostly staff or volunteers responsible for disaster management, came from the Red Crescent Societies of Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco in North Africa as well as from Jordan and Palestine. Through practical exercises they discovered how the Sphere Handbook could be used as a disaster management tool and how the key indicators can be applied. It was also an occasion to discuss and debate such internationally used concepts as accountability or rights-based assistance, which were new to most participants.

The main outcome of the workshop was an increased understanding of the importance of quality disaster response and of the need to act in a coordinated way in international operations (objective 2). Another outcome was a start of networking on regional level of persons responsible for emergency response (objective 3) as until recently there has been very little communication or coordination between the technical people of North African NS. It must be recognized that this is just a start. More sustained work and training is needed before the Societies are sufficiently familiar and comfortable with Federation and other international emergency cooperation procedures.

Workshop on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Mehdia, Morocco, 6-9 May, 2002

The aim of this workshop was to introduce the concept of VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) as an essential component of a well-working Disaster Preparedness programme, and to train the persons responsible of VCA pilot projects in their Societies on how to carry out a VCA. The background to this initiative is in the Integrated Disaster Preparedness and Health Initiative, launched with support of the respective technical departments in Geneva and in the MENA region. During visits carried out by a Staff on Loan from the Libyan Red Crescent in the autumn of 2001, all five North African Societies reacted positively to organizing pilot VCAs as well as pilot projects for youth in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Each North African Society sent two persons to the VCA workshop: one from national/headquarters level and one from regional/local level. The programme was run in Arabic, facilitated by Federation staff from Amman Regional Delegation and Geneva DP Department. It consisted in clarifying the concept and explaining the process of VCA, emphasizing the participatory nature of the process and the importance of working in

partnerships with local authorities and other organisations. Initial planning of the structure that needs to be in place in each National Society that has decided to carry out a VCA was done by the Society's representatives. Tools and methodologies were introduced for carrying out the study, for monitoring, implementation and analysing the results. People from the local community, including a group of children, were involved in the case studies.

The VCA workshop was organised to familiarise the Societies with local level Disaster Preparedness and vulnerability assessment (objective 1) and to promote cooperation with local and national authorities in view of identifying a proper role for the Red Crescent in each country's Disaster Preparedness Plan (objective 2). The outcome is a first step in this direction: raised awareness but need for more practical coaching. The Societies have requested a follow-up on country level, with more tailor-made training and planning for the pilot VCAs. This will be done during the second half of the year - and perhaps early 2003 due to Ramadan in November - in cooperation with the Amman Regional Delegation.

Humanitarian Values w

The general goal of the humanitarian values programme is to complement the training in IHL provided by the ICRC since more than a decade by an approach focussing on local level behaviour changes through advocacy. A TV-spot competition was foreseen in the area of HIV/AIDS, with an aim of facilitating a debate on this subject which is still very sensitive in the Moslem culture, and of passing culturally acceptable messages about abstinence, fidelity and methods of prevention.

This programme has not materialised in the planned form due to mainly two reasons: absence of financial response to the appeal, and departure of a staff-member with the required competencies to carry out the programme. However, two other initiatives are replacing this one.: Firstly, in relation to HIV/AIDS the Training of Trainers programme for Youth (see under Health & Care) has largely the same objectives. Secondly, within the Federation global initiative of fighting prejudice and discrimination, a pilot project for North Africa is planned. This may start in the second half of 2002 or early 2003.

Health and Care w

The general goal for this programme in 2002 is to develop the health and social services of National Societies in North Africa in line with Federation Strategy 2010, focussing on health and care in the community and on preventive aspects of health care in order to enable the Societies to strengthen their activities on local level. This also includes support to National Society social welfare activities, in particular those in favour of disadvantaged women.

The specific objectives are 1) To encourage and support National Societies to work on community level in an integrated way with a view of improving knowledge of common health threats in local communities and ways to cope with them, 2) To contribute towards prevention and stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS in North Africa by involving National Red Crescent Societies in this activity, and 3) To support programmes in favour of disadvantaged women in Algeria.

Regarding the first objective of encouraging and supporting National Societies' work on community level and by integrating health and disaster preparedness, this has been done to a certain extent through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) training (see Disaster Preparedness above). However, planned activities relating to promotion of community based first aid have not been realised due to lack of funding.

The expansion and upgrading of work centers for women in Algeria (objective 3) has not continued in 2002. This is mainly due to the limited absorption capacity of the National Society, occupied with the aftermath of the flood operation, leaving projects started in 2001 without completion. Furthermore, the French Red Cross carried out a consultancy mission, which produced a global proposal for upgrading and diversification of such

vocational centers. This proposal is available at the Federation Secretariat for Societies interested in supporting this activity.

The programme involving youth against HIV/AIDS (objective 2) has been launched at a Training of Trainers workshop hosted by the Libyan Red Crescent in April 2002.

Training of Trainers for HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education Project 21-25 April 2002 in Benghazi, Libya

The idea of this training goes back to June 2001, when representatives of all five North African National Societies met in Tunis to discuss the need (or not) for an HIV/AIDS programme in the region, and the applicability (or not) of the Federation HIV/AIDS & STD Youth Manual to the Arab-Muslim cultural context. It was then agreed that there was indeed a role to play for Red Crescent Societies in prevention and education, and that the Manual could be a useful tool. This meeting was followed by visits to all five Societies by a Staff on Loan (SoL) offered by the Libyan Red Crescent to the Tunis office during the autumn of 2001. The results were examined in a planning meeting held in Benghazi, Libya, 21-23 January, 2002, in which representatives of the Health and DP departments of the Geneva Secretariat, Amman RD and the Tunis office took part. It was noted that all Societies had during discussions with the SoL committed themselves to carrying out Youth Peer Education Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS in their local branches. It was then decided to invite them to appoint one National level Coordinator and one Branch level Coordinator to be trained in a sub-regional workshop in the methodology to be used. It was also foreseen that the coordinators would later receive on-the-job technical support in carrying out such projects.

The Libyan Red Crescent agreed to host the HIV/AIDS Youth Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop at the Society headquarters in Benghazi. The Societies of Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia each sent two persons, while the Libyan Red Crescent had a larger number of participants. The training focused on the use of the Federation HIV/AIDS & STD Manual that was recently translated into Arabic and culturally adapted to the region's needs. The programme consisted of information concerning HIV/AIDS transmission, global response to the epidemic, leadership and project planning skills, HIV and human rights, as well as a number of practical exercises relating to high risk behaviour, fighting stigma and psychological support. Particularly appreciated were the educational games that made it easier to approach the delicate subject of sexual behaviour. The participants also met with a group of HIV-positive children and their parents, and produced a preliminary plan of action for their Societies/regional committees.

This ToT in HIV/AIDS was the second such training in the MENA region. The first one took place in Syria end of 2001. This will now be followed-up with technical visits to each country as well as additional training (in French) for young volunteers.

Organizational Development w

The general goal of the Organisational Development (OD) programme is to build the capacities of the North African National Societies in line with Strategy 2010. This is to be done by developing their organisational structures and strengthening their human and financial resources taking into account the gender perspective. Such strengthened capacity would lead to a better performance as auxiliaries to public authorities as well as to more and better services.

The specific OD objectives are 1) To assist National Societies in producing goals, strategies and action plans for their service programmes as well as their organisational development based on a self-assessment, 2) to assist them in acquiring a solid financial base by setting up a financial resource development programme, 3) to support development of future leadership through training organised together with the ICRC, 4) to build branch level capacities through infrastructure development and training of volunteers, and 5) to promote Federation gender policy in the MENA region.

Capacity building (or OD) has been a central element of the North African Regional Agreement Strategy (RAS) since the start of the Federation presence in Tunis two and a half years ago. When the RAS was originally drafted not much information was available at the Secretariat on the Red Crescent Societies of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. This has now significantly changed, but it has also revealed the need for adjusting some of the original programmes, in particular OD. This is not to say that capacity building is a lesser priority now than before - just the contrary. In fact, it can be described as even more important than originally thought, and the general goal remains valid. In this respect the stated objectives for work in North Africa are perfectly in line with those of the Federation Board, which has put a strong emphasis on capacity building of National Societies. What needs to be adjusted is the approach - or how to go about it - which should fit the historical and cultural context of the region.

The Federation capacity building approach and the tools developed to promote it rely heavily on the best practices of the developed western industrialised world. They include participatory approaches, self-assessments, result oriented planning, good governance, transparency, accountability, and delegation of authority.

During the first part of 2002 there has been both successes and constraints in implementing the OD programme. The constraints are due to mainly two reasons: the context of the region (as described in the Arab Human Development Report) and the limited capacity of the Federation representation in Tunis - which still consists of one delegate only. The small size of the delegation has meant that choices had to be made on what to concentrate on and what to leave for a later date. The choice made was to focus on building capacity through service programmes, such as Disaster Preparedness and HIV/AIDS, rather than OD proper, and to work on launching a gender network in the MENA region.

Regarding the specific objectives, National Societies were assisted in producing goals, strategies and action plans for their service programmes (objective 1) by introducing strategic planning and project planning, often with practical exercises, in all programme related workshops (Sphere, VCA, HIV/AIDS and Gender). Self-assessments had been already carried out by four out of five Societies, but only in one case (Morocco) limited follow-up was done due to the capacity constraint of the delegation. Work to have the self-assessment completed in all Societies is planned for the second half of the year. A consultation meeting of Society leaders is foreseen for September. Strategic planning and governance will be on the agenda.

No progress has been made on assisting National Societies in acquiring a solid financial base by setting up a financial resource development programme (objective 2). While several Societies have expressed an interest in this activity, technical expertise with the necessary language skills (French, Arabic) remains to be identified.

A second Leadership Course for North Africa, aimed at supporting development of new and future leaders (objective 3), was originally planned for April, but postponed to July due to conflicting schedules of facilitators. The courses took place in February 2001 and July 2002 (carried out with the ICRC), and were met with enthusiasm by the Societies.

Branch development through building of infrastructure and training of volunteers (objective 4) has not advanced due to lack of capacity of the delegation. This is, however, identified as a priority by most Societies. Plans have been made in co-operation with the ICRC to produce training modules for regional committees of the National Societies. Depending on available funding and technical expertise this could be started in the second half of the year or early 2003.

Promotion of Federation gender policy in the MENA region (objective 5) has been done through organisation of a seminar of National Society Gender Focal Points in Teheran, Iran, in May. The Federation Tunis Representative, as gender focal point for the region, helped organise this event together with Geneva OD Department.

Meeting of Gender Focal Points of MENA National Societies 25-29 May 2002, Tehran

The 3rd MENA Conference, held in Tehran in May 2001, recognized in its final declaration the importance of considering the needs and capacities of both men and women in RC/RC work, and emphasized the need for a better involvement of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation. It also welcomed the establishment of a network for gender issues in the MENA region and designated the Iranian RC as its focal point. It furthermore recommended that each NS designate its own gender focal point, and requested that the Federation Secretariat and regional delegation support the implementation of these recommendations.

The purpose of this meeting was to bring together Gender Focal Points from different NS of the MENA region to discuss the implementation of the above decision. For this reason the agenda consisted of both basic training on gender issues (concepts and working methods) as well as planning for future co-operation, based on a proposal produced by the Iranian RC. Altogether eleven National Societies participated - Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunis and Yemen - which represents about two thirds of all NS in the region and four out of five Societies in North Africa. Some, but not all, had been formally designated as Gender Focal Points in their NS. Most of the participants were women, with the exception of one man.

The programme was divided by topics as follows: Concept of women and gender issues; Gender as an issue related to running of an organisation; Gender as a programming issue; and Regional networking. Women's and men's participation in the MENA National Societies was looked at in light of a review including data on nine NSs. Gender as programming issue - how to consider the needs and capacities of both men and women in RC/RC activities - included an overview of various tools. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Sphere Standards were presented as examples of gender sensitive Disaster Management. Examples of Gender in Health included Psychological support and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, checklists on how to make project planning in a gender sensitive manner were reviewed. Regional networking was discussed based on a proposal by the Iranian RC. The network will foster communication and knowledge sharing.

The Operational Framework for MENA Gender Network highlights the main outcome of the meeting. Its three objectives focus on (1) upgrading knowledge and skills of women in MENA NS, (2) considering the specific needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of women and men in RC/RC programmes, and (3) increasing involvement of women at all levels of RC/RC. Training and networking are the key components of this framework. All National Societies will be encouraged to develop a more specific Plan of Action, including time-lines, and this would include, among other things, the following: a) revision of at least one of their current programmes from a gender perspective; b) data update on the participation of men and women in MENA NSs; and) designation of a gender focal point if a NS has not yet done. A possibility of organizing a regional training course for the second part of 2002 will be explored by the Federation Tunis delegation and Secretariat.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental Principles and Initiatives

The Federation support to National Societies in North Africa corresponds well to the stated priorities of the Secretariat in the following areas:

- *The Fundamental Principles:* North Africa will be one of the pilot project areas within the global initiative of fighting prejudice and discrimination. This activity will focus on influencing behaviour on community level. Planning was started in the 2nd quarter of 2002 and implementation is foreseen for late 2002 or early 2003.
- *Issues of Diversity and Gender:* Gender issues have been high on the agenda of the Tunis delegation, acting as a focal point for the MENA region. A gender network is being promoted and gender training is being organised (see above). The results are very encouraging, taking into account the cultural context of the region. Diversity is addressed through using whenever possible regionally recruited facilitators in workshops and staff in programmes. For example, a Staff on Loan from Libya worked within the integrated DP and HIV/AIDS programme in autumn of 2001, and has continued to be involved.
- *HIV/AIDS:* This is one of the programme priorities for North Africa, based on a consultation meeting convened by the Tunis delegation in June 2001. In an integrated approach with DP programmes, training of trainers (ToT) has been organised on sub-regional level in order to encourage pilot projects in all five

Societies. This will be further enhanced through training of young people on practical implementation of Peer Education programmes .

- *Other Strategic priorities of the Movement:* Working together as a Movement, involving the ICRC and the National Societies in programme planning and implementation, has been important through the two years of existence of the Federation office in Tunis. Cooperation with the ICRC takes place on a regular basis, as the two delegations - the ICRC Regional Delegation for Maghreb and the Federation Representative for North Africa - are located in the same building in Tunis. Joint training of National Society Leaders has been done two times during an annual Leadership Course. Most recently, when the ICRC organised the meetings of their 50 Cooperation Delegates in Tunis during 2-8 and 9-14 June, the Federation Representative was invited to participate as a resource person during the entire two weeks.

Regional Cooperation w

While there were no specific items under Regional Cooperation in the Appeal 2002 for North Africa, this has been one of the most important aspects of the work of the Tunis delegation, reported on under different programme headings. It has mainly happened through training events and planning meetings, as can be seen from the table below. In addition, a planning meeting on Integrated DP/Health took place in Libya in January. The Tunis office actively participated in the recruitment of representative of North African Societies to a Basic Course for Delegates (BTC) in Amman, Training of Trainers in VCA in Jesolo, Italy, a Disaster Management Workshop in Amman, and a networking meeting in Psychological support (PSP) in Beirut.

North African NS participation in Regional Training/Planning during January - June 2002						
	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia	Total
Sphere Standards of Humanitarian Assistance, Cairo Egypt 7-13 March	2	12	-	2	2	18
HIV/AIDS Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Education Projects Benghazi, Libya 22-25 April	2	2	8	2	2	16
Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), Mehdia, Morocco, 6-9 May	2	2	2	6	2	14
Meeting of MENA Gender Network of NS Focal points, Teheran, Iran, 25-29 May	-	1	2	1	1	5
MENA Basic Training Course For Delegates, Amman, Jordan, 9-14 June	-	3	2	-	1	6
MENA Disaster Management workshop, Amman, Jordan 22-28 June	1	1	1	1	-	4
TOTAL	7	21	15	12	8	63

Coordination and Management w

The general goal of the coordination and management function of the Federation sub-regional office for North Africa is to strengthen the cooperation of the five National Societies with the Federation Secretariat, with their sister Societies and among themselves, to coordinate and manage sub-regional programmes, enabling the National Societies to benefit from training, technical assistance and other capacity building measures of the Federation, and to coordinate its activities with the Amman Regional Delegation and the ICRC Regional Delegation for Maghreb.

The specific objectives are 1) To serve as contact point between the North African National Societies and the Federation Secretariat in Geneva, 2) To function as support infrastructure for implementation of Federation regional assistance strategy in North Africa; 3) To facilitate exchange of experiences and co-operation between National Societies in the region; 4) To promote contacts and partnerships with sister Societies in other regions; and 5) To represent the Federation externally with international and national organisations and authorities as well as the with ICRC.

Serving as contact point between the National Societies and the Secretariat in Geneva (objective 1) is taking place on an on-going basis. It has become a regular activity for the Tunis office to follow-up with the Societies on different issues and to ensure that they have received the information destined for them. The support function regarding Federation Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) is also on-going (objective 2). Regional cooperation between the North African Societies (objective 3) can be described as one of the most important contributions of the Tunis office. This is mainly ensured through regional training (see table above) and meetings. Promoting contacts with PNS (objective 4) has not happened to the desired level, partly due to limited capacity of the office and partly because some NS prefer acting on a bilateral basis. Invitations to have PNS delegates work based in the Tunis office has not bore fruit, even if planning has been advanced with one Society. The external representation function (objective 5) has been limited, as the office still works under the constraint on not having a Status Agreement with the Tunisian government. Among other consequences this greatly hampers contacts with other international organisations. Cooperation with the ICRC has been good and on-going.

Summary of activities of Federation Representative for North Africa January - June 2002			
<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Integrated Health/DP Mtg	Benghazi/Libya	20-25 January	Planning
Sphere workshop	Cairo/ Egypt	7-13 March	Training
MENA Gender mtg preparations	Geneva	14-15 March	Planning
MENA HoD meeting	Amman	24-26 March	Planning & Coord.
3rd MENA Conf. Follow-up committee	Amman	16-17 April	Follow-up, planning
HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education	Benghazi,/Libya	22-25 April	Training - ToT
Vulnerability & Capacity Ass (VCA)	Mehdia/Morocco	6-9 May	Training
Briefing Algeria Project Coordinator	Tunis	13-14 May	Coaching
MENA Gender Focal Points Mtg	Tehran/Iran	25-29 May	Training, planning
ICRC Cooperation Delegates' Mtg	Tunis	2-8 & 9-14 June	Training, harmonizing
World Disaster Report launch	Tunis	19 June	Advocacy
HoD meeting	Geneva	24-28 June	Updating, planning

Advocacy/Public Information w

The activities relating to public information and advocacy have been mostly related to specific situations, such as the Egypt train accident that took place in February. The office also organised a World Disaster Report launch on 19 June at the Tunis Press Club, together with the Tunisian Red Crescent. The event brought together

representatives from different authorities, such as Ministry of Health Civil Defence and Young Doctors without Borders. The sub-regional Youth HIV/AIDS training in Benghazi was well covered both by the press and the Federation Website due to the presence of Information staff from Amman RD. As the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment workshop, hosted by the Moroccan Red Crescent, coincided with the Society's 8 May celebrations, the Society used this opportunity to secure widespread media coverage.

Outstanding needs

As has been stated before, the Federation Tunis office has during the past two years established itself as a useful and productive entity serving National Societies of the region as a communication point, a provider for training and other services, and at times as logistical base. However, certain serious constraints remain: The lack of core funding and the small number of staff severely limits its capacity to function. This is aggravated by the lack of a Status Agreement with the Tunisian government. It is vital to strengthen the office in order to respond to the increased expectations and real needs of the Societies. Through establishing a Federation presence in North Africa a door has been opened for a good cooperation, and it is important that the Federation now assumes the responsibility for a sustained support to these Societies.

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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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North Africa regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.60/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02.12.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				712'023		TOTAL COVERAGE 80.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				354'993		
AMERICAN PRIVATE DONOR		950	USD	1'531	10.06.2002	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		148'846	EUR	218'253	11.04.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				574'777	CHF	80.7%