

# 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

10/12/2003

Appeal no. 01.92/2003

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: January - October 2003

*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 over 180 countries.*

*For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

Appeal coverage: 36% (For details please see the attached *Contributions List* )

Outstanding needs: CHF 911,065

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Middle East and North Africa Region (Appeal no. 01.93/03), Tunisia: Floods (Appeal no.04/03), Algeria: Earthquake (Appeal no.14/03)**

#### Programme Summary:

During the first ten months of 2003, several national societies in North Africa were severely affected by disasters. The response activities of these national societies have disrupted to certain extent the implementation of longer term programmes since most of their resources and capacities were mobilized in the provision of the emergency assistance. In its role of focal point for the field coordination, Federation Regional office in Tunis was instrumental in supporting the mobilization of international resources and the coordination of assistance.

<u>Emergency</u>	<u>Algeria</u>	<u>Morocco</u>	<u>Tunisia</u>
<b>Floods</b>		January-March 2003	February-June 2003
<b>Flash Floods</b>		August 2003	September 2003
<b>Terrorist attacks</b>		May 2003	
<b>Earthquake</b>	May 2003		

The lessons learnt from these emergency operations were captured through evaluations which in turn will help the national societies to identify their weaknesses and needs, to review the current programmes and design, if indicated, more appropriate ones.

Despite the workload caused by the emergency response, the North Africa's Red Crescent societies resumed the

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implementation of the activities planned under the current Annual Appeal.

The Federation Regional office for North Africa was established in 2000 to support the capacity building efforts of the Moroccan, Algerian, Tunisian, Libyan and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies particularly in the areas of disaster preparedness, health and organizational development. Expectations of the national societies have grown gradually and their leaders recommended the strengthening of the Regional office.

The planning reflected in the current Appeal in terms of increased volume of activities and funds and expertise needed was based on this well grounded request. The response didn't match however with the expectations, and the operational budget had to be reduced significantly. Consequently, the office remains staffed with the Head of Delegation only.

The continuity of the office since its establishing till now and the reliability of its activities were ensured thanks to the contributions of the Finnish Red Cross Society and the Finnish government. Other donors have not come forward to support the Regional Appeal for North Africa, even if they responded generously to the emergency requests.

Bearing in mind the unchanged priorities of the national societies and the needs emerging from repeated disasters, it is expected that a disaster management delegate will join the Regional office at the end of 2003. The expertise in the fields of health, organizational development and humanitarian values will continue to be provided by the Federation Regional office for the Middle East in Amman

In line with the *Change strategy* implemented by the MENA Department, the Regional office for North Africa reports now directly to the Secretariat.

### Operational developments

While during 2000-2001 disasters were rare, they massively hit the region in 2002-2003. After a period of more than three years of drought in all of the North Africa, Algeria experienced flash floods in November 2001; Morocco had flooding at end of 2002 and, Tunisia in January-February of this year. The bomb attack in Casablanca, in mid-May caused shock in Morocco. A devastating earthquake hit Algeria in May 2003. During the summer months of 2003 both Morocco and Tunisia were affected by strong but localised floods.

All these disasters were reported through Information Bulletin and reflected in the related Appeals and Reports as well as in the field reports posted on the DMIS ([www.DMIS.org](http://www.DMIS.org)), web stories ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)) or articles in the MENA regional publication *Al Ittihad*

The perspective of the war in Iraq had a strong impact on the activities of the North African national societies in spite of the fact that some of the countries are geographically far from Iraq. As tensions grew, governments feared popular uprisings. In this context, the national societies greatly contributed to the relief efforts of their governments in terms of priorities and resources used thus weakening their capacity for other activities.

The arrival of a new Head of Delegation in Tunis, in spring 2003 coincided with these developments.



This year, the North African Red Crescent Societies participated very actively in marking various Red Crescent events (World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, First Aid Day). In July, the Libyan Red Crescent Society organized the launch of the *World Disaster Report 2003*. The launch was used as an opportunity to invite stakeholders' representatives from the Civil Defense, local authorities, Ministries, grass-roots NGO's, UN and international agencies as well as representatives from the private sector (Insurance companies, Banks, Foundations). Useful presentations were made on various topics related to disaster management and had generated fruitful discussions among the participants. A similar launch took place in Tunisia, in early October. For the first time, the Algerian and Moroccan Red Crescent Societies took part at the event and

subsequently committed their societies to organize the 2004 launch in their respective countries.

## Health and care

### Goal:

The vulnerabilities to infectious diseases and other community health problems in North Africa are reduced through a meaningful contribution and cooperation of the Red Crescent Societies with health authorities and other partners.

### Objective:

The capacities of national societies to work in community programmes, including youth and volunteers in advocacy and services, is significantly enhanced so as to bridge gaps between health promotion, disease prevention, first aid, disaster preparedness and social welfare.

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

#### In relation to the global fight against HIV/AIDS:

- *The National Societies of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt are committed to fight HIV/AIDS by mobilizing the necessary resources and building structures to allow the implementation of specific activities in their respective countries.*

The five national societies have expressed interest in working with the Federation on HIV/AIDS issues. However, the activities planned for the first quarter of the year were delayed because of the mounting tensions in relation to the war in Iraq. The Egyptian, Moroccan and Tunisian Red Crescent Societies received some funding to initiate HIV/AIDS related projects such as HIV/AIDS awareness and peer education involving the youth sections of the societies. Additionally to these projects, training of trainers (ToT) workshops on the reproductive health and HIV/AIDS for participants from the Moroccan, Algerian, Egyptian and Tunisian societies were organized in Egypt and Tunisia in close collaboration with the UNFPA, IPPF<sup>1</sup> and the American University of Beirut. Subsequently, some national societies decided to develop their plans of action while others benefited from grants for specific projects which are currently being implemented (Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt).

	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
ToT HIV/AIDS workshops					Target: provincial trainers
ToT Peer education / RH	Wshp in Tunisia Participants	Wshp in Cairo Participants		Wshp in Tunisia Participants	Wshp in Tunisia Participants
Projects		HIV/AIDS awareness educational program (TV spots)	HIV/AIDS-Children programs & social activities Awareness campaigns	ToT – HIV/AIDS workshop for Provincial trainers	Peer education / youth program

NB. Additional and detailed information on the specific project is available upon request.

As a part of the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and discrimination associated with it, the Libyan Red Crescent Society developed a co-operation framework agreement with a number of local and international organizations. The agreement was translated into a concrete plan which was implemented in densely populated provinces and/or tourist and border areas through a range of activities mainly in raising awareness on the HIV/AIDS threat, the ways of its transmission, and methods of support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The National Society appointed coordinators who once trained by the WHO supported the establishing of HIV/AIDS committees in each province.

- *All five National Societies have established partnerships with their national AIDS authorities as well as with UN agencies and NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS.*

The five societies are members of their national AIDS committees whilst most of them are in the process of developing contacts with UN agencies, NGO's and Health authorities with a view of possible partnerships.

<sup>1</sup> IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation (Arab World Regional Office)

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Moroccan Red Crescent: The Moroccan Red Crescent is perceived as a reliable partner by the Ministry of Health especially in the field of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD), diabetes and eye disease programme (trachoma). This cooperation ranges from using the network of Red Crescent volunteers for educational and/or awareness activities, acting as a liaison agent/middleman between the health structures and the communities, and working together in emergencies (Emergency health).

On May the 8th, an agreement was signed with OPALS<sup>2</sup> to reinforce the cooperation particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention. The agreement needs however to be translated into a concrete plan of action.

Libyan Red Crescent: within the framework of the fight against HIV/AIDS, a special project was developed in collaboration with WHO, scout organization, Libyan youth federation, National HIV/AIDS Committee, African Center for HIV/AIDS control and other relevant UN agencies. The Libyan Red Crescent had maintained also a close working relationship with UNICEF and UNAIDS. In all of the 48 branches, the National Society had organized trainings of trainers who subsequently become responsible for broadening the network and raise public awareness on HIV/AIDS issues. Campaigns conducted so far proved to be a success with the major impact achieved in breaking taboos associated with this kind of disease in highly conservative communities. They also contributed to enhance understanding about the disease itself and the challenges of the affected, and especially about the needs for the psychosocial support of both people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. In parallel to these prevention campaigns, the Libyan Red Crescent Society published a booklet to highlight experiences of children living with AIDS. The publication focuses on a story of a child who in addition to the disease, experienced discrimination in his own community. Social activities such as visits to the zoo, excursion to the beach, summer camps and others for AIDS affected children are organized by the Red Crescent volunteers. Within the frame of psychological support activities and this particularly in times of festivities and holidays, the volunteers pay visits and bring gifts to the affected children. Through this valuable approach in reaching out the affected children and their families, the Libyan Red Crescent is also putting humanitarian values into action, making the difference in their lives, initiating changes in the behavior and disseminating clearly Red Cross/Red Crescent values.

Egyptian Red Crescent: Additionally to the implementation of the above described project consisting in training of the trainers in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, the Egyptian Red Crescent carries out regular activities related to the eradication of measles and polio in co-operation with the WHO.

Algerian Red Crescent: The National Society maintains regular contacts with the WHO and UNICEF and took part at the ToT workshop organized in Egypt. The earthquake emergency response and rehabilitation activities have absorbed however the capacities of the Algerian Red Crescent and modified its priorities. In line with these priorities, the National Society concentrates currently its efforts on emergency health issues.

Tunisian Red Crescent: As a result of the establishing of constructive contacts with UNICEF/UNAIDS, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the Regional office became members of the thematic group on HIV/AIDS related matters and attended regularly the meetings of the group. Constructive contacts were maintained as well with the WHO office. Regional Pan Arab network on HIV/AIDS issues has been reactivated recently and the Tunisian Red Crescent is one of its active members.

An important agreement between the International Federation and the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization (EMRO) was signed in Cairo, in March. The agreement aims at improving health services in the Middle East and North Africa by strengthening the links with Ministries of Health so that health services are tailored to meet the needs and to reach the most vulnerable groups of the societies. More specifically, the two organizations have agreed to cooperate closely in the following areas: prevention of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, health programmes enabling communities to prepare for and respond to disasters, water and sanitation projects, mental health in crisis and promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations. Technical expertise from the WHO will be complemented that way by the capacity of the volunteers' networks that maximize the impact of health initiatives by working directly in the communities.

Another important agreement was signed in Cairo and in March as well. The agreement between the Federation and the Arab League on the provision and coordination of the humanitarian assistance in the region is a significant step in formalizing the existing collaboration between the two organizations and promoting co-ordination particularly in the areas of health and sanitation.

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<sup>2</sup> French NGO closely linked to the French Red Cross

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- *Three national societies (Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt) have on-going projects at both national and branch levels involving volunteers and youth members. These HIV/AIDS awareness and First Aid related projects are designed to target particularly the youth and women.*

### *In relation to Psychological Support:*

Provision of psychological support to Red Crescent staff and volunteers as well as to the victims of natural and man-made disasters becomes an increasingly important component of the work of the societies across the region. The terrorist attack in Djerba (Tunisia) last year, the bomb attack in Casablanca this year, the ongoing violence in Algeria, as so frequently experienced mass accidents (train, fires, road accidents) in all of the North African countries, as well as successive natural disasters (floods, earthquake) were an opportunity for the societies to realize the importance of the psychosocial support and the unique role the Red Crescent could play in this area.

Some societies and in particular the Algerian Red Crescent have ongoing programmes in the field of psychosocial support. Namely a long term programme targeting women in the context of violence in Algeria has been supported for years by the ICRC. The French Red Cross has recently joined the programme as well. Immediately after the devastating earthquake, emergency teams of the Algerian Red Crescent provided extensive psychological support to the victims while medium term recreational activities for children, elderly and women were developed in the tent-camps to reduce the adverse effect of the disaster and to limit the impact of the crisis.

The first ever national training of trainers' workshop was organized in Egypt with the objective to provide the participants with tools for supporting people in stressful situations. The International Federation training module on "psychological support with a community based approach" was introduced for the first time in the region while the rest of the training material was adjusted to reflect elements relevant to the specific national context and its realities. This initial workshop which was facilitated by the Federation staff from the Regional health unit from Amman was followed up by two other training sessions entirely organized by the national society for the branch leaders.

These workshops as several other activities in North Africa were made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Finnish Red Cross thus proving its commitment to developing the capacity of the North African national societies in this important area of Red Cross/red Crescent work.

The global training manual on Psychological support, published by the Secretariat is in the process of being translated into Arabic and French. However, culturally adapted guidelines and training modules have particularly contributed to the improved quality of psychological support services. The regional pool of expertise had strengthened with the arrival of a regional psycho-social delegate in Amman while the continuous support from the Reference centre in Copenhagen has been essential for the development of the psychosocial support programmes in the region..

Representatives of the national societies, the Ministries and the Civil Defense of the French speaking countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon have planned to meet in Algeria at the end of 2003 to share experiences, discuss programming and define the support needed from the Federation. The Algerian Red Crescent developed a case study based on their extensive experience in providing the psychosocial support that will be presented at the meeting.

The regular annual meeting of MENA regional psychosocial support network will take place in Teheran in mid December.

### *In relation to Polio Eradication:*

Joint teams of Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers and Ministry of Health employees took part in a large polio vaccination campaign for children under five years of age. Along the personnel from the Ministry of Health, some 700 volunteers were administrating oral vaccines and registering the children. Three consecutive vaccinations rounds were organized last year and a new campaign is planned to take place in November/December 2003 along with a media campaign. The funding for this activity was made available through DFID and the global funds.

### *In relation to Community Development:*

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- *The National Societies of Morocco, Algeria and Egypt have continued to run their literacy programmes in favor of disadvantaged women.*

The activities in Algeria were not expanded as planned mainly because of the shortage of staff members and other resources which were mobilized for the earthquake response operation. However, social activities implemented in the “ouvroirs” (vocational centers) are ongoing, thanks to the support of the French Red Cross, the ICRC and the Netherlands Red Cross.

The planned expansion of literacy and vocational classes carried out by the Moroccan Red Crescent in the poor regions of the country was temporarily delayed due to the shortage of Red Cross/Red Crescent funds. The National Society has increased therefore contacts with local authorities and the Ministry of Education in order to ensure alternative funding. Recent statements of the Moroccan ruler on the need for starting family reforms and empowering the women have created a positive environment for developing further the activities of the National Society aimed at promoting the role of the women in the communities by building their capacities, providing adequate training and tools, and promoting their potential economic role. Local authorities and governmental agencies have expressed interest in co financing the establishing of Moroccan Red Crescent socio-educational centers for women and young people. These multi-purpose centers will be addressing illiteracy, providing vocational trainings to include computer literacy courses, hosting basic health posts thus ensuring reach out health education activities (HIV/AIDS, first aid, psychological support and prevention of diseases related to Diabetes). Centers will be involved also in the risk reduction programmes, targeting especially women, children and young people. This integrated community based approach that involves all stakeholders deserves attention, encouragement and support from donors.

### *In relation to first aid activities:*

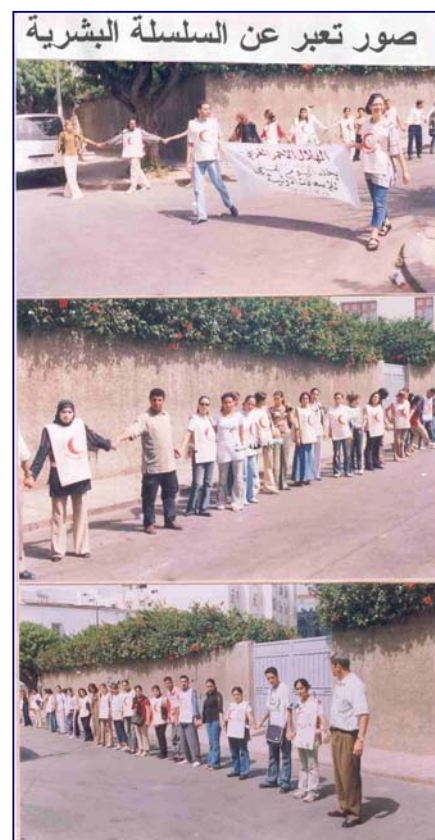
All five North African Red Crescent societies run first aid programmes. Ordinary people and volunteers-often non professionals-are the main target group for training. Once trained, these individuals are able to provide the initial help that can make the difference as much in the everyday life as in time of crisis (disasters, epidemics, armed conflicts, etc.). The Red Cross/Red Crescent first aid education is about instilling that vital confidence to act and change behavior.

Also, in Algeria the Red Crescent volunteers continue to provide a psychological first aid to the victims of the devastating earthquake.

World First Aid Day was marked in different ways by the five North Africa’s societies. The Algerian Red Crescent decided to carry out the majority of the activities around the area that was hit by the earthquake earlier this year because many first aiders and volunteers are still working in the camps constructed in the area. A long human chain with many participants to include representatives from the Civil Defense, NGOs, ministries and bilateral partners was formed with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of the first aid.

The Egyptian Red Crescent implemented a variety of activities including 15 first aid training courses organized both at the society’s headquarters and in the branches for Egyptian Red Crescent youth, volunteers, and factory and company workers as well as for drivers in the public transport.

During the day, Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers distributed first aid kits and books to drivers and the public at large. A ‘Red Corner’ was established in the libraries of the youth clubs, where volunteers were providing information related to the first aid to all interested. In addition, the National Society invited volunteers and representatives of emergency and ambulance services, Ministry of Health and public authorities to participate in the “human chain of help”.



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The Morocco Red Crescent organized various events including the 'human chain' which ran across many different branches. Other events included the signing of partnership agreements between NGOs and commercial and industrial sectors on the provision of first aid training, beginning of a training programme for ambulance workers and training sessions in schools and various professional arenas. Many similar activities took place at the regional level as well. (Kenitra, Rabat, Casablanca, Agadir)

In addition a conference on the International Humanitarian Law and the Red Cross/ Red Crescent was organized to emphasize the principles and values of the Movement.

The Tunisian Red Crescent has marked the World First Aid Day through a variety of activities organized at regional and local levels. Prior to the Day itself, the Red Crescent organized a media campaign to sensitize the public. The activities took place across all 24 regional branches. In Tunis, the activities started at 9am in one of the main city streets where Red Crescent volunteers have distributed 1,500 leaflets highlighting the National Society's activities and the World First Aid Day. At 11am, the volunteers formed the 'human chain of help' to symbolize solidarity and attract the attention of the public. This was followed by a competition between volunteers and those passing by on abilities to make a bandage. The winner was signed up for a first aid training session and first aid certificates were distributed to those who completed the training. In collaboration with the National Telecom operator, one million SMS messages were sent to people with mobile phones to draw attention to the World First Aid Day and the activities of the Tunisian Red Crescent. In addition, an agreement was signed between the Tunis and Bizerte branches (committees) to improve cooperation in the field of the first aid.

Many other provincial branches have developed similar programmes (Ben Arous, Gabés, Sfax, Monastir) .

### **Impact**

Following the regional HIV/AIDS youth peer education training that has been organized in 2002, the five national societies started to conduct HIV/AIDS educational events in the branches. There has been a significant increase in the number of such events in Morocco as well as in Tunisia. This new activity is an important development not only in terms of direct benefits for the communities but also because the national societies are opening up to the cooperation with specialized organisations. Through the process, the national societies have learned to work with partners thus increasing potential funding opportunities for their programmes and activities.

It is also important to note that the five societies are increasingly confident and comfortable in dealing with HIV/AIDS issues that not long ago, were yet considered as a taboo.

### **Constraints**

Far reaching effects of the war in Iraq delayed the implementation of many projects and activities. However, considering the limited funding available, the North African Red Crescent Societies managed to remain active, continue their programmes and fulfil many of the planned objectives.

Without the support of the Finnish Red Cross and DFID it is likely that the programmes would have to be interrupted. The effective support of the Regional health unit in Amman was essential in initiating activities in North Africa. This region remains unfortunately largely ignored by donors despite the great needs of its population.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Goal:**

**The adverse effects of disasters are reduced through participation of North African national societies in assessing vulnerabilities in their countries and preparing communities and volunteers for effective action together with respective authorities.**

### **Objective:**

The National Societies of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt have improved Disaster Management (DM) capacities in utilising human and material resources for risk reduction, preparedness and response on local, national, regional and international levels.

### **Disaster Response**

#### Morocco Floods

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In November 2002, heavy rains severely affected the Willayats (provinces) of Mohammedia, Settat, Skhirat-Temara, Kenitra, Fes and Chichaoua, killing 89 people and hundreds of cattle, destroying villages, crops and the infrastructure.

The Federation launched an Emergency Appeal seeking CHF 580,000 to assist the National Society in meeting acute needs of the most vulnerable, such as children. The relief operation consisting in the procurement and distribution of food and non food relief items and the provision of the basic health care was efficiently handled by the Moroccan Red Crescent and supported by the Federation Office in Tunis and the project coordinator based in Algeria. The Appeal was well covered through donations in cash and kind and the final report is available on the Federation web site ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)).

### Tunisia Floods

The cold wave and heavy rainfalls, the worst the country have witnessed in ten years have hit Tunisia in January and February of 2003, affecting directly some 5,500 families. Local Red Crescent branches immediately mobilized their volunteers to provide first aid and distribute available food and non food items to the affected population. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 was released to support the immediate relief efforts. An International Appeal seeking for CHF 308,000 was launched on 5 February 2003 to enable the Tunisian Red Crescent to cover the needs of 600 most vulnerable families among the affected in the hardest hit provinces of Jendouba, Mannouba and Bizerte. The relief programme consisted of distribution of basic food (rice, couscous, tomatoes, oil and sugar) and non-food items (blankets, mattresses, and warm clothing and hygiene items) and was implemented in two phases. Despite generous contributions, the Appeal was not fully covered and therefore, not all of the objectives were fulfilled. The flood operation in Tunisia was completed in September 2003.

### Bomb attack in Casablanca, Morocco (16/05/2003)

Emergency teams of the Moroccan Red Crescent were immediately mobilized to assist victims of 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2003 deadly bomb explosion in the country's largest city of Casablanca. Forty one people were killed and one hundred others injured in the five blasts that have hit the Moroccan commercial capital. The targets of the bomb attacks included a Jewish community centre, a busy Spanish restaurant and social club, a five-star international hotel and an Italian restaurant close to the Belgium consulate.

Experienced volunteers administered first aid to the wounded and helped to transport others to the hospitals. A task force comprising representatives of the Civil Defense, Government authorities and the Moroccan Red Crescent was immediately activated. During the 48 hours following the disaster, volunteers remained on duty helping people affected by the blasts to contact their families and/or offering comfort and psycho-social support.

The population in Morocco was left in shock. Their needs for psychological support have therefore increased tremendously and the Red Crescent teams felt that they were insufficiently prepared and trained to meet those needs.

The Moroccan Red Crescent response was very much appreciated by the public and the authorities who also expressed their gratitude to the Federation for providing the National Society with adequate disaster management training, earlier in February.

### Earthquake, Algeria (21/05/2003)

An earthquake measuring 6,7 on the Richter scale struck the northern Algeria in the evening of 21 of May 2003. More than 2,200 people have died and around 9,000 have been injured in the country's worst quake for 23 years. Hundreds of Red Crescent volunteers and staff members took part in search and rescue efforts, administering first aid to the injured and transporting them to hospitals. As a part of its response, the Federation deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) within the 24 hours following the disaster to help evaluate the needs and coordinate the Movement's assistance. Specialized emergency relief units (ERU's) in health, water and sanitation and logistics were quickly mobilized by the national societies (French Red Cross for the logistic and WatSan ERUs, Spanish Red Cross for the Health Units) and dispatched to Algeria.

A DREF allocation of USD 155,000 was immediately released, and an International Appeal was launched on May 22 seeking international assistance worth USD 1,5 million. Once the search and rescue phase was completed the Algerian Red Crescent supported by the Federation continued to address the needs of 5,000 of the most vulnerable families (approx. 30,000 persons) among an affected population of 175,661 living in the camps. The majority of the affected people are expected to be re-located from tent shelters to temporary pre-fabricated housing while the construction of permanent housing will be undertaken. The Algerian Red Crescent supported by two Federation delegates has retained its position of the leading humanitarian agency, particularly since many international

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agencies have now departed Algeria. With the presence of French, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies that operate bilaterally and the ICRC, the RC/RC Movement is effectively providing relief support to the affected population and focusing on the forthcoming relocation process. For more details see the Algerian Red Crescent web page: ([www.cra-dz.org](http://www.cra-dz.org))

### Flash Floods in TanTan , Morocco (12/08/2003)

The southern Moroccan province of Tan Tan, located between Agadir and Layoune was severely affected by torrential rains. In two hours only, 92 mm of precipitations were registered in this usually arid region. Damages caused by the floods were therefore important: several “oued” (rivers) over-flooded destroying houses and the infrastructure (roads, bridges, phone and electricity lines) and cutting off access to the villages.



Volunteers and staff members of the local branch of the Moroccan Red Crescent intervened immediately. Despite severe difficulties in accessing the affected areas, Red Crescent volunteers managed to reach the affected population, started to evacuate their houses and to accommodate them in temporary shelters. A so called “census commission” was formed immediately to assess the damage and register the victims.

In conformity with the national disaster repose plan and in cooperation with local authorities, the National Society decided to assist the flood victims with food parcels composed of oil, flour, sugar, tea and rice as well as with blankets and clothing. Some of the items were taken from the stocks, others were purchased locally. The Federation released a DREF allocation worth CHF 20,000 to support the Moroccan Red Crescent in its relief work.

Each stakeholder had a clear role and mandate: the Civil Defense was responsible for pumping the water, clearing the affected zone and re-establishing the traffic together with the staff of the Ministry of Equipment; the Red Crescent was in charge of distributing food and non food relief items and administrating first aid to victims if and when needed.

Moroccan Red Crescent staff and their national counterparts efficiently managed the operation. Most of the volunteers who were involved had been previously trained in disaster management and took part in simulation exercises. The National Society recognized publicly the benefits from the training.

### Flash Floods in Tunis, Tunisia (17-20/09/2003)

Three days of torrential rains flooded the governorates of Grand Tunis, Zagouhan, Nabeul and several other coastal areas, killing in total 10 people. For the first time since several years, the 110mm of rain registered in one night only was five times superior to the monthly average usually recorded in the region. Powerful torrents moved mud, trees, vegetation and stones inundating entire areas and causing important damage (land slides, destructions of walls and pavements, flooding of houses, cutting roads and paralyzing traffic). The traffic was interrupted; hundred of cars were carried away by the force of water. In some areas, electricity and phone lines were damaged as well.



The Tunisian Red Crescent mobilized rapidly its volunteers and centered its action on the poorest districts affected by the disaster. An emergency cell was activated and rescue teams helped the victims to evacuate and to re-locate in temporary shelters (public building/schools). The National Society released its stocks and distributed blankets, clothing as well as food parcels (the total disbursement from the Tunisian Red Crescent amounts to CHF 60,000). Representatives from the society, the army, the Civil Defense, and security forces were gathered in a task force group set up by the authorities to monitor developments.

## **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

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The National Societies are gradually empowered through a range of capacity building programmes and projects and provide better services to their direct beneficiaries. This has been clearly demonstrated in the flood operation in Morocco at the end of 2002. Having benefited from regional trainings in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Disaster Management (DM) earlier in the year, the Moroccan Red Crescent was able to mount an efficient relief operation, which continued into January 2003. Furthermore, in the course of the operation, the National Society realized some weaknesses in its disaster management systems, and requested further assistance to reinforce these systems. Consequently, a disaster management workshop for the Moroccan Red Crescent was organized in February, and additionally a comprehensive training programme aiming to establishing national and local disaster preparedness and response teams was conducted in July. The Tunisian Red Crescent experienced a similar situation, when floods had hit the country. With the knowledge gained at the regional disaster management training as well as at the Leadership course, the National Society was able to mobilize an assessment team and carry out distributions to the disaster victims.

- *National Societies in Algeria, Libya and Morocco have developed respective plans of action to carry out specific VCA studies in selected governorates in order to strengthen their respective disaster management structures.*

After completing the VCA process, the Moroccan Red Crescent started seeking funding to implement projects based on the recommendations of a study. So far, these fundraising efforts have not been fully successful but the society is determined to pursue them. The Algerian Red Crescent initiated the VCA process by selecting six pilot locations and appointing the VCA coordinators. Unfortunately the process had to be postponed due to the earthquake and the related relief operation but it will be resumed next year.

The Libyan Red Crescent expressed an interest to start with the training in VCA methodology in the Benghazi branch.

- *Disaster response structures and systems of the national societies are strengthened and volunteers trained in disaster interventions in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.*

The Moroccan Red Crescent and the Federation participated in the first ever national workshop on disaster management on 26/27 of February. The “Rabat meeting”, called by the Ministry of local development, environment and water resources, brought together 150 representatives from government, local authorities and the scientific community. The National Society presented to the audience an overview of its disaster response experiences, including the 2002 flood response. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the positioning of the Moroccan Red Crescent in the emerging national disaster preparedness strategy. The participants called for a strategy to strengthen disaster management capacity of all relevant national players, and for improving the coordination mechanisms.

Several training workshops took place during the reporting period. In February, the Federation trained 50 volunteers of the Moroccan Red Crescent in disaster management. In July, three consecutive workshops were conducted: a training of 15 trainers’ in disaster response, logistical training and the nine day long simulation exercise gathering over 150 employees and volunteers from 73 offices of the Moroccan Red Crescent and representatives from the Civil Defense, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, army and other partners. Following main topics were covered through practical exercises: camp management including building and erecting tents; water and sanitation; search and rescue; assessments; working with the media; relief health; psychosocial support; water rescue; humanitarian values; conflict preparedness (conducted by the ICRC regional cooperation delegate).

Eighty six participants were selected to become members of the national response team. As an output of the workshop, the Moroccan Red Crescent has developed a detailed plan in coordination with the Civil Defense, Ministries of Health and Environment respectively, the Royal Guards and the army.

Trainings seem to have paid off almost immediately since a real rescue action did happen during the workshop and three lives were saved. Less than a month later, some of the participants were involved in the relief operation in TanTan.

The simulation training attracted a huge interest of the national societies in North Africa and will be replicated in Algeria, Egypt, and Libya.

- *First Aid services of the national societies are upgraded to include a disaster preparedness / response module.*

There was no progress against this expected result during the reporting period although it remains an important objective. The period was burdened with disaster response activities with practically no time left for reflecting and updating the methodologies.

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- *Disaster Preparedness stocks and procedures are upgraded in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.*

The process of upgrading stocks and logistical procedures is ongoing in Algeria and in Morocco. Training was provided to both National Societies with the special focus on Federation standard procedures and mechanisms. Following the earthquake, the Algerian Red Crescent had received an important quantity of relief goods through local and international donations. It was decided therefore to appoint a logistic delegate for a period of 10 weeks to support the National Society in establishing adequate tracking mechanisms, to identify strength and weaknesses of the current system and on the basis of these findings to design a training module tailored to the specific needs of the Algerian Red Crescent. The training for branch staff involved in disaster management took place in October. Skills in managing disasters at the national and international levels have been improved through an increased understanding of the procedures and the importance of the coordination. Activities in Tunisia were put on hold due to a lack of resources.

- *Relief monitoring and reporting skills are enhanced in all national societies with a special focus on Algeria.*

One of the tasks assigned to a short term logistic delegate was to develop understanding of the relief monitoring schemes and propose systems suitable for tracking and monitoring the movement of goods in the specific context of Algeria where many of the activities are done jointly by the National Society and the Civil Defense. Now, the National Society has to ensure a proper follow-up and refresher courses.

The appointment of a new staff member in charge of reporting was a good sign for strengthening the capacities of the Algerian Red Crescent in this technical area. However and prior to the training that was planned to be carried out by the Regional Reporting Unit, the new staff member was reassigned to another department in the national headquarters.

- *The Red Crescent role in national Disaster Preparedness plans are clarified and strengthened in Tunisia and Libya.*

The process started slowly in Tunisia in connection to the International Disaster Response Law research. The Tunisian Red Crescent Society and its Government's counterparts engaged into an exchange of information on possible legal solutions that have proved their efficiency in other countries and could be used as references in Tunisia. In that context, contacts were made with the French Red Cross as most of the French speaking countries have adopted the French model of a so called *Plan Organisation Secours-ORSEC*. The reference documents from Morocco were shared as well.

The Libyan Red Crescent has not notified possible developments on the issue but the launch of the *World Disaster Report 2003* in Benghazi was used as a starting point for discussions.

- *Networking among the national societies in the region is continuing.*

The Secretary General of the Morocco Red Crescent and the Vice-President of the Algerian Red Crescent met in Tunis for the launch of the *World Disaster Report 2003* and shared their recent experiences in responding to the emergencies caused by the earthquake and floods/terrorist attacks respectively. Productive discussions continued in the Regional office with the aim of sharing views on programmes implemented by the societies, common concerns, and forms of support the Federation could provide. It was decided to re-activate the regular, twice a year meetings of the national societies' leaders and to reinforce the regional cooperation.

Another example of a regional cooperation was the willingness to organize a joint meeting on psychological support in Algeria. As this area of support is rather new for both the Tunisian and the Moroccan societies, they expressed interest to benefit from the large experience of Algerian Red Crescent.

A visit of an Egyptian Red Crescent delegation to Algeria has been discussed with the Algerian Red Crescent leadership with the aim of sharing a valuable experience which the Egyptian Red Crescent gained after the 1992 earthquake. In fact, the national society still runs strong and sustainable community based programmes which were developed more than ten years ago to respond to the needs of people who lost their homes and were re-located in areas where neither social services nor infrastructure were available. As the Algerian Red Crescent is currently facing a similar situation, it was considered that an exchange of experiences and lessons learned would be beneficial.

### Impact

Several consecutive disasters that have affected the North African countries provided an opportunity to the national societies concerned to evaluate the impact of their assistance and coordination mechanisms with the authorities and therefore to assess capacities and identify strengths and weaknesses. These findings and related recommendations could be used as a basis for developing programmes aimed at reinforcing the capacity to deliver

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better services when needed, and to be better prepared to respond to disasters whenever they strike. It was also an opportunity for the authorities and other national partners in the disaster management to realize the importance and advantages of the national societies especially in mobilizing their major resource: volunteers at the community level.

Flood operations in both Morocco and Tunisia had a capacity building effect on the National Societies. Systems have been strengthened and volunteers have received on-the-job training. The Moroccan Red Crescent assisted by a Federation delegate has put into practice the elements of the lessons learned from past, similar experiences and the knowledge gained at the VCA-training.

The regional disaster preparedness stocks of the Tunisian Red Crescent were completely depleted during two consecutive operations and have to be rebuilt now.

The Emergency Appeal for Algeria contains a large capacity building component to include technical training for Algerian Red Crescent staff and volunteers in relief, logistic, disaster preparedness, financial management, planning and reporting.

### Constraints

In general terms, this core area of RC/RC activities which has been especially important in a disaster prone region such as North Africa suffered from a shortage of funding with the only exception being the contribution of the Finnish Red Cross/Government. The Red Cross/Red Crescent community is very generous in responding to crisis but has to prove yet its commitment to the *Strategy 2010* by investing in the prevention and mitigation of disasters. In order to bridge the funding gap, it was decided to include systematically capacity building components into emergency relief operations. However, this is insufficient in terms of ensuring longer term planning and proper management of the programme.

Disaster management programme in North Africa is cost effective with some of the societies (Libya, Morocco) contributing to regional activities from their own funds and fund-raising proactively thus showing commitment to developing their national societies.

Donors are encouraged to contribute and support the programme by securing adequate funding for the strengthening of the regional expertise through the recruitment of a regional disaster management delegate and for selected regional activities such as networking, reinforcement of regional cooperation, support to the staff exchange, coaching.

## Humanitarian Values

### Goal:

**To promote understanding and use of the Fundamental Principles within the Red Crescent Societies of North Africa in order to reduce discrimination and promote a culture of non-violence.**

### Objective:

To support the work of National Societies and their interaction with authorities and other community actors in promoting Fundamental Principles at grassroots' level by using and sharing best practices to reduce discrimination and violence in the community.

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

*Promotion of Humanitarian Values* pilot workshop for 25 participants mainly from Tunisia was organized in September in Tunis. It was agreed that if the initiative proves to be successful, the workshop would be replicated across the region. This is why two representatives from the Moroccan Red Crescent and another one from the Algerian Red Crescent were trained and able to share the concept and the methodology within their respective societies.

The workshop was organized in cooperation with the "Principles and Values" Department at the Secretariat and was meant to be the foundation and the first step for designing national, regional or local actions aiming at reducing discrimination and violence in the communities. The objective was to provide the key actors from the Movement (national society's staff, ICRC, Federation staff) who are involved in the promotion of the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and humanitarian values, with an opportunity to discuss the issue of discrimination under a theoretical but also a practical approach, to identify problems in their own specific context and to agree on

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projects to be implemented in their communities. It was also intended to provide input to the global action led by the Secretariat to reduce discrimination and violence in the communities. One of the expected outcomes was to review existing Red Crescent programmes with the view to integrate whenever and wherever possible the issue of discrimination at both national and local levels. This was achieved with many representatives from the local branches (committees) proposing on the spot specific actions to address the issue of discrimination within the frame of their regular activities.

The workshop was very much appreciated by the participants (Red Crescent staff but also representatives from the Ministry of the women and family, and NGO's) who actively participated in all group works. An evaluation of the workshop will be carried out in the second quarter of 2004. In the meantime, neighbouring national societies have expressed interest in replicating the initiative and the similar workshop will be organized in 2004 for Egypt and Libya.

## Organizational Development

### Goal:

**The North African national societies can make a stronger contribution to the civil society through service delivery and advocacy based on a clear direction and vision regarding their role, and supported by strengthened human and material resources.**

### Objective:

All North African NS have skilled human resources at different levels of the organisation, supported by an improved and diversified financial base; they have efficient systems and procedures that are in line with Federation gender policy.



### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Very few activities were implemented during the reporting period due to the workload in disaster management.

1. Basic Training Courses for all branches from Tunisian Red Crescent (four workshops),
2. Leadership course (three modules) organized by Amman OD Unit, attended by Moroccan, Tunisian, Libyan, Egyptian RC senior staff;
3. Capacity Building:
  - PPP courses (organized in Amman and attended by Egypt, Moroccan, Libyan RC staff)
  - FACT training (Moroccan RC staff)

The Iranian Red Crescent, acting as the focal point for the gender network, launched the MENA Gender Web Site in February, as foreseen in the Operational Framework for the MENA gender network.

### Constraints

Several severe disasters have hit the North African countries during the reporting period. Those disasters were coupled with the imminent threat of the war in Iraq causing a practical halt in activities other than those related to the disaster preparedness and response. When drafting the 2003 work plan, it was foreseen to recruit an Organizational Development (OD) delegate as a part of the strengthening of the Tunis office. The recruitment of the OD Delegate didn't materialize, and consequently the implementation of a number of activities had to be abandoned. However some progresses was noted in 1) designing training modules for branch development and; 2) Working with the Moroccan Red Crescent in defining their organizational development priorities.

Three joint workshops for branches were organized by the Tunisian Red Crescent in collaboration with the ICRC and the Federation. The objective of these workshops was to provide the basic Red Cross/Red Crescent training to leaders of regional (provincial) and local branches of the Tunisian Red Crescent. Similar workshops will be organized in Algeria and Morocco early next year while the detailed schedule for the same type of training is yet to be determined in Egypt.

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The Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process has not started yet in Morocco as some prior steps need to be addressed particularly in terms of the strategic planning. It is planned however to introduce the process early next year and to use initially the expertise of the staff from West and Central Africa regional delegation.

With regard to the gender issues, the former Federation Representative in Tunis had a special role in supporting developments in this area for the entire Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region. This was mainly due to her background and resulting specific interest and skills in this field. This is also the reason why gender activities for the whole MENA region were included in the current Appeal for North Africa. Due to operational constraints encountered during the reporting period and described above not much support has been provided to the national societies in relation to the Gender network. The Iranian Red Crescent launched the MENA Gender website in February, but more efforts need to be invested to encourage the MENA societies to actively contribute to the network as well as to the website. Recently, it was decided that the organizational development delegate based in Amman will act as a Federation focal point for gender issues in MENA.

### **Coordination**

#### **Goal:**

**All human and financial resources mobilized by the national societies in North Africa and their partners are optimally used to improve societies' capacities to deliver high quality services and effective advocacy.**

#### **Objective:**

The national societies of North Africa are strengthened through regional cooperation and working together with their partners in a coordinated manner.

#### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Issues of common interest and concern in relation to programming in the four core areas are increasingly emerging in the regional context of the North African national societies (psychological support, migrants, road safety, standardized regional first aid curriculum, exchange of staff, experience sharing, etc.).

The regional office is encouraging and facilitating the dialogue and acts as a liaison, by playing a linking role within the region. During the last six months, the new Head of Delegation was able to visit all five National Societies, discuss with the Governance and visit field projects to better grasp and understand the realities and the working environment of each society.

Good working relations and coordination with national societies providing bilateral assistance have been established especially in Algeria. Regular coordination meetings were held. The Regional office maintains also regular contact with partner national societies interested in the region. In this context, desk officers from the French and Swiss Red Cross respectively visited the office to discuss future plans and modalities of cooperation.

A regional Human Resource Pool of Experts has not been established yet. Preparatory work consisting in gathering data from the five North African Societies on staff and volunteers who participated in trainings organized by the Federation during the last three years is underway. The next step will be to develop criteria for the experts / resource persons, so that societies can present their candidates. As no funding has been made available for this project it is planned to submit an application to the Capacity Building Fund in early December.

#### **Impact**

One of the main achievements of the Tunis office during its three years of existence is that the North African societies are now better linked and interested in sharing experiences from each other. This fact has been reflected through the decision to create the Expert Pool, which will allow the societies to make their expertise available on a regional level. Another one is the plan to share experiences from the flood operations and other disasters in order to increase efficiency of the response to national disasters but also to create a cross regional cooperation in disaster management.

#### **Constraints**

The CAS process with the Moroccan Red Crescent has not started as planned, due to several factors such as flood response operations, arrival of the new HoD and delays in recruiting an OD-Delegate. (See above under the OD section).

## International Representation

### Goal

**The Federation and its policies are better known by the authorities of the five North African Countries as well as by the international community.**

### Objective

The Federation and its member national societies in North Africa will be recognized in an important role in advocating for the most vulnerable

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The representation role of the Federation involves a lot of interaction with Ministries, agencies including the UN and NGO's. During the reporting period, two important agreements were signed in Cairo: the first with the WHO/EMRO office and the second one with the Arab League. The process of translating these agreements into concrete projects and activities and defining cooperation mechanisms is currently underway with the Regional office in Amman and its pool of expertise being important partners.

At the North Africa level, contacts were made with UN agencies (UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF/UNAIDS, the Mediterranean Center for the reduction of vulnerabilities/WHO regional office based in Tunis) but also with several embassies (Swiss, Italy, France, Japan).

The launch of the *World Disaster Report* (as described above) in Libya and Tunisia respectively with the participation of representatives from the Algerian and Moroccan Red Crescent Societies was an important platform to represent the Movement.

The area of Federation international representation needs to be further explored particularly with the view of developing a consistent longer-term strategic approach.

Unfortunately, the Tunisian authorities have not granted yet to the regional office the status agreement. This lack of recognition has a negative impact on the recognition of the Federation Office in the country but also in the region and causes practical problems in the daily management of the office (legal status for the locally employed staff, custom clearance, procurement issues, technical equipment of the office etc.). It is difficult to envisage the reinforcement of the structure in Tunis without being officially recognized by the host country. This is a real constraint that limits the potential of the Regional office especially in operational matters.

## Field Management programmes

### Goal:

**The national societies in North Africa will be fully integrated into and cooperate with the Secretariat and sister societies and will benefit as equal and responsible partners from all the services provided in the region.**

### Objective:

The Federation support to the MENA region will take into account the specific needs and capacities of the North African national societies and provide better tailored support to these societies.

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The volume of tasks performed by the Regional office has increased in line with constantly increasing demands and expectations from the five national societies. At the request of the National Societies' leadership, a new HoD paid visits to each of them (twice in Morocco, twice in Libya, three times in Algeria for the earthquake and the preparation of the PanAfrican Conference, once in Egypt). Furthermore, the new HoD accompanied the Federation Secretary General on a visit to the Moroccan Red Crescent. These visits were needed and extremely useful to follow up on specific issues, to listen and understand the priorities of the North African's societies.

Regular MENA quarterly meetings in Amman provided an excellent opportunity for discussing and planning the technical support provided by disaster management, health, organizational development and communication teams who contributed greatly to the work in the North Africa region. HoD of the Tunis office attended two meetings organized by the Secretariat (HoRD meeting and visit to donors)

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Extensive travelling coupled with various disasters that have hit the region as well as the organization of several workshops has put the poorly resourced office under extreme pressure. With the recruitment of a DM Delegate that was confirmed in November 2003 and the opportunity to use if and when needed, consultancy services from the region or outside of it, the prospects of the Tunis office in terms of managing the volume of tasks will improve.

At the MENA Consortium meeting held in September in Jordan, donors have expressed some interest in the North Africa's programmes while discussions with the Swiss Government for a longer term (three years) support to the disaster management programme focusing on risk reduction projects, psychological support and prevention/awareness projects in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco have been successfully completed at the end of the reporting period. Thanks to the DFID funding that was granted for a three year period as well, it was possible to maintain a degree of continuity for some programmes at least.

### ***For further information please contact:***

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

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

# North Africa sub-regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.92/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	1,422,656	TOTAL COVERAGE	
		36.0%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	10,924		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD (04)	26,500	21.03.03	COORDINATION
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	47,533	EUR	69,565
		19.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	29,063	EUR	42,882
		16.04.03	FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE IN TUNISIA
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	40,000	EUR	61,720
		27.06.03	EGYPT 'HIV/AIDS, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME
SWISS - GOVT/SDC	300,000	04.07.03	BUILDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	511,591	CHF	36.0%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	