

# 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

04 January 2005

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 181 countries.

For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org>

### In Brief

**Appeal No:** 01.88/2004

**Programme Update no. 2,** Period covered: 01 July to 22 December 2004

**Appeal coverage:** 85% taking into consideration the core budget

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 198,339 (USD 165,000 or EUR 127,140)

[<click here for live contributions list>](#) (also available on the website).

**Appeal target:** CHF 1,322,259 (USD 993,059 or EUR 851,148)

The Appeal budget was not revised. However, operational budgets have been reviewed to adjust to the income received so far.

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Middle East Region (AP01.89/2004), Algeria - Boumerdes Earthquake Appeal (AP14/03), Morocco – Al Hoceima Earthquake Appeal (AP06/04) [<click here>](#)

#### **Programme summary:**

##### **Relief operations/Minor Emergencies:**

Algeria: follow up of the rehabilitation programme (Boumerdes earthquake operation), Floods in South Algeria (September), Gas explosion East Algeria (December)

Egypt: Closing of Borders between Rafah and Gaza, main crisis end of July but operation repeated several times during the last few months; Bomb attack in Tabah, North Sinai in October

Morocco: Rehabilitation programme (Al Hoceima earthquake operation), disaster management (DM) camps, post disaster evaluation

Tunisia: Floods in Kelibia in November

Several tremors in Algeria and Morocco in similar locations affected by precedent earthquakes, creating panic effects among populations (October-November-December).

##### **PanAfrican Conference – Algiers (September)**

**Signature of MOU with Algerian RC (September) and Moroccan RC (December)**

**General Assembly Algerian RC (December)**

##### **Regional Events**

Active celebration of the RC/RC Days (youth, first aid, HIV/AIDS, volunteers)

Regional Youth Camp in Tunisia (August 2004 for the International Youth Day)

Regional Focus on Volunteerism in Tunisia (jointly organised with UNDP country office)

Regional launch of the World Disaster Report 2004 in Morocco (jointly organised with Ministry of Land

Management, Water and Environment, and UNDP country office).

### **Regional Planning meeting**

The second North Africa (NA) national society (NS) leaders meeting did not take place as planned during the second half of the year. However, several side-meetings with NA NS leaders were organised at the time of the regional conferences and events. Meetings and discussions were enriched by the presence of North Africa main donors/supporters. Country planning were regularly discussed, reviewed and completed during head of delegation (HoD) country visits.

Regional health meeting (Tunis in July), Plan of Action 2004-2006 follow up by networking meeting (HIV/AIDS, community based first aid, CBFA, psycho-social support, PSP ...etc.) and country visits from regional health delegate (Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco).

Regional disaster management, meeting (Casablanca, December) following regular country visits from regional DM delegate.

**Regional networking:** CBFA (MENA Network, 2 sessions in Amman, Tunisia); HIV/AIDS (MENA – Lebanon); FedNet (North Africa, Tunis); Gender (MENA, Amman), PSP (Algeria, Morocco, Egypt)

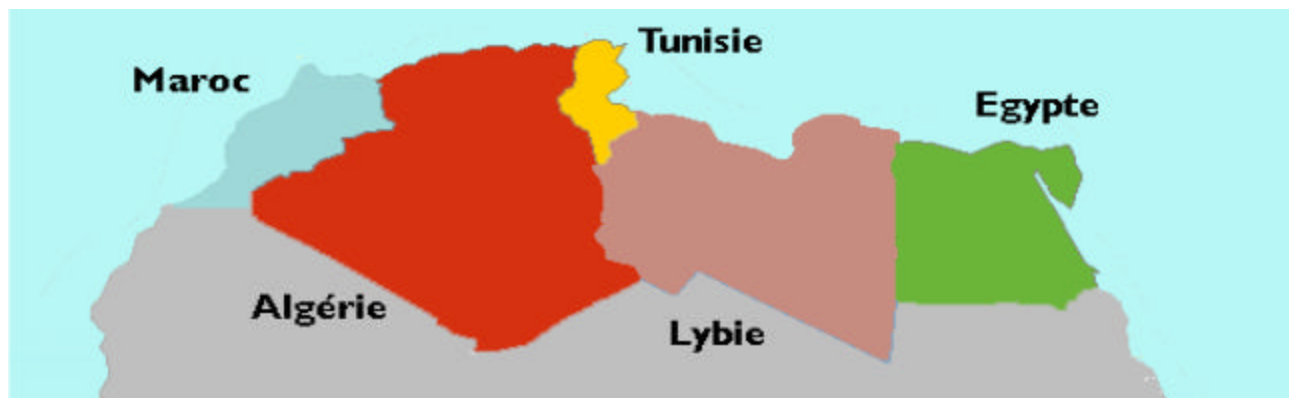
**Capacity Building:** Project Planning Process (regional – 2 sessions in Amman in Arabic), Leadership Course (3<sup>rd</sup> Module, Tunisia); Review of Governance Training material by MENA Representatives (Tunisia); OD workshop (Geneva). International workshops, Forum and Conferences attended by North African NS staff (HIV/AIDS, Health - DM)

**Country workshops:** Information/Communication (5 sessions: 3 in Algeria, 1 in Tunisia, 1 in Morocco); Logistic (2 sessions: Algeria, Morocco, Assessment in Egypt); Reporting (2 sessions in Morocco)

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*



## Operational developments

### Health and care

#### Programme Goal

The national societies in North Africa contribute to improving the health of and care for the vulnerable in the communities through efficient, needs responsive and focused programmes.

#### Programme Objective

The national societies in partnership with the stakeholders have built a sufficient capacity to enable vulnerable groups to reduce susceptibility to diseases, accidents/injuries, to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crises.

#### 1/ HIV/AIDS & Other Infectious Diseases

The response of the national societies to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases (e.g. polio) is developed and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

**Expected result:** The national societies have significantly scaled up their involvement in the HIV/AIDS youth peer education

#### Progress/Achievements

- Egyptian RC, thanks to the continuous support the Finnish RC is completing its HIV/AIDS awareness programme, with a special focus on peer education. A training of trainers (ToT) workshop was successfully conducted in December. TV spots were designed, discussed and developed with the Ministry of Health representatives. Production should be completed by the end of the year and broadcasting on TV is planned for the first quarter 2005. These spots will also be used for awareness activities in the branches and during celebration of RC/RC days.
- Moroccan Red Crescent (MRCS), thanks to DFID and Finnish RC funding, could successfully complete its peer education programme. The second workshop was organized in November (*full reports, CD and photos are available from the Regional Office upon request*). A total of 48 HIV/AIDS coordinators were trained in 2004 as trainers and will form the basis of MRCS HIV/AIDS and health team network. Additionally to these coordinators, journalists, members of OPALS (a Moroccan NGO focusing on HIV/AIDS, supported by French RC) were invited to join the workshop and to support the MRCS health team in the implementation of their activities. The aim was also for MRCS to open the society to other partners and to raise its profile.
- Tunisian Red Crescent (TRCS) was involved in a series of HIV/AIDS workshops organized by UNICEF/UNAIDS on peer education. TRCS organizes regularly lectures and discussions on health topics including HIV/AIDS with students in university residences. End of November, all regional HIV/AIDS coordinators attended a workshop to discuss plans and actions. An opportunity was also taken to discuss the planning and the organization of the International AIDS Day.
- Regional cooperation: despite good attempts and a sincere willingness expressed in several forums, no concrete projects have been formulated. The regional office continues to support and to facilitate the development of these projects. Lack of adequate health structures in most of the national societies concerned is slowing the decision process. As a logical consequence, national societies are concentrating on the formulation of a national health strategy and the establishment of structures to support the implementation of the strategy in the branches. This process may require time and adequate support.

**Expected result:** Networking and exchange of experiences in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) have been reinforced through a dynamic, well functioning regional network and increased collaboration between the national societies in the region;

#### Progress/Achievements

- The regional office supported the participation of the President of Health Commission of Moroccan RC to the 15<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference in Bangkok in July 2004, accompanying the Moroccan MoH delegation and joining the Federation Team (Secretariat staff, Delegate and other NS participants).

- The first regional health meeting for North Africa national societies took place end of July. The regional health delegate as well as the psychological support coordinator based in the regional office for the Middle East in Amman have attended the workshop and briefed the NA representative on the: regional health approach developed; latest secretariat initiatives and positions; and the recent International Aids Conference. Representatives of each NS gave an overview of their health programmes and outlined their priorities for the next two to three years. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting were particularly useful for the preparation of the 2005 Appeal. The five NS representatives have outlined the importance and the need for more cooperation within the region. However, mechanisms and political/strategic willingness is not yet in place.
- The first MENA HIV/AIDS network was launched in Beirut in September. Three thematic working groups were established (stigma and discrimination, mass media and communication, partnership for people living with HIV). Tunisian RC was designed as focal point for HIV/AIDS and related issues for North Africa. Interesting discussions on possible joint projects and cooperation between Libyan and Tunisian RC are still under discussion.
- Representatives from Egyptian and Moroccan RC were invited to attend a seminar organized in Dubai

The emergence of networks (CBFA, PSP, HIV/AIDS, Gender, Youth, etc.) focused on themes of interest needs to be closely supported and nurtured. As such, networks can potentially play a critical role, serving as forums for skill/knowledge exchanges. These networks need to be expanded to include other key players. Regional standards of quality can be set. Advocacy for vulnerable groups will be increased as well as changes of policy initiated. This process can guide future strategies and set guidelines for implementation.

**Expected result:** The five national societies have established/strengthened formal partnerships with their national AIDS; authorities as well with other partners such as UN agencies and NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Egyptian RC, Tunisian RC, Algerian RC and Moroccan RC are all part of the HIV/AIDS thematic groups lead by the UN agencies (UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA).

- Partnership with the MoH - Global Fund for Tuberculosis, Aids, Malaria Programme (GFTAM)
  - Egyptian RC: due to the low incidence of HIV/AIDS in Egypt, no grant was allocated and the coordination committee is not as active as in other countries. However Egyptian RC joined that committee recently as he was not part of it yet. The main focus is placed on awareness and Egyptian RC contribution is highly recognized in this area.
  - Algerian Government has received a grant from the Fund but the Algerian RC has not yet benefited of it as a partner.
  - Tunisian RC has been identified by the Government as a Partner and was invited to support in the preparatory work for an application to the Fund. De facto, TRCS is an active member of the Coordination Committee.
  - Moroccan RC is part of the Coordination Committee: the project proposal submitted to the Ministry of Health received a positive response: A grant of USD 60,000 has just been allocated to MRCS for a two years period (2005-2006) to support their HIV/AIDS programmes in 6 large regions (covering at least 25 provinces) focusing on peer education and awareness. The success of this application resulted largely from the support provided by the Finnish RC during the last past years. It was made possible by the establishment of a structure, a large network of health coordinators who can now spread their knowledge and work at local level. This funding is very welcome to continue the work initiated and to strengthen the local structures. Hopefully the 2005 Finnish RC pledge will be used to develop the same project in the other needy regions of Morocco.
- As mentioned above, North African Red Crescents have developed close contacts and partnerships with their respective health authorities (MoH, family planning, youth), with most of the UN Agencies involved in health work (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS) as well as with local NGOs dealing with AIDS (OPALS, Pan Arab HIV/AIDS Network, AUB). Four of them are active members of their National AIDS committees and thematic working groups.

**Expected Result:** Sustained campaigning against discrimination and stigmatization of HIV/AIDS affected people has been supported by the five national societies to include special events for RC/RC Day and International AIDS day.

### **Progress/Achievements**

- Regional initiatives: contacts were made with Women Associations (Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR, Headquarters in Tunisia); Association des Femmes Africaines pour la Recherche et le Développement (AFARD) and its country branch, Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement (AFTRD); United Nations Program for Women (regional office in Morocco). Discussions were held on possibilities to jointly organize in 2005 together with the Red Crescent Societies anti stigma and anti discrimination campaigns targeting specific groups of vulnerable. Good feedback and interesting perspectives expressed by these associations. Further contacts will be made with ministries (women, family, youth, health ...etc.). HIV/AIDS still remains in most of the societies a sensitive topic, a taboo and despite the fact that the Governments have clearly recognize the importance of prevention and the need for public awareness programmes, it is yet difficult to organize focused campaigns or to work directly with People living with Aids (except in Algeria where a strong association of people living with HIV/AIDS is very active).
- International AIDS Day was well celebrated by the Red Crescent in the region. The media kit prepared by the secretariat's media service was extremely useful for the societies. Some societies used it extensively, some preferred to tailor it according to their country. However, most of the societies have expressed their satisfaction for such quality product and tools which help them to position and raise the profile of their societies and the RC/RC Movement in their country.

In most countries, the organization of the International AIDS Day was well coordinated with the country UNAIDS Office as most of the North African Red Crescents are part of the HIV/AIDS thematic groups.

- Tunisian RC organized a posters exhibition in their Headquarters as well as in the local committees. A jury was invited to agree on the best posters. Prizes were provided to the first 3 winners. Those posters will be duplicated and produced as promotional material for future work. Tee-shirts and armbands were produced with HIV/AIDS logo and used by the Red Crescent Volunteers in public awareness demonstrations all around the country.
- Moroccan RC used the opportunity of their peer education workshop to brief their HIV/AIDS coordinators on the organisation of the Day. As funding for the celebration was limited, nine important regions particularly exposed to HIV/AIDS, three large cities (Tangier, Casablanca, Marrakech) were selected to conduct events. Promotional material (T-shirts, bags, posters) was produced, some of it by external partners (pharmacists, industrials) to support the events. At Headquarters, the President of the Health Commission was invited together with its staff to participate to the 4 thematic workshops organized by UNAIDS
- Egyptian RC had organised some activities focusing on HIV/AIDS awareness in close coordination with the MoH and UNAIDS activities.

### **2/ Community Based First Aid (CBFA)**

The mandate of the five Red Crescent Societies in first aid is strengthened within the civil societies of their respective countries. Capacities are reinforced to ensure adequate designing and implementation of community based first aid (CBFA) programmes empowering communities and preparing them to respond more efficiently to their specific needs.

**Expected result:** First aid curricula have been reviewed, increasingly standardized, tailored to the needs of specific groups that may be exposed to particular risks (children, volunteers, taxi drivers, women, etc.) and integrated into a disaster preparedness programme; Effective collaboration and experience sharing between national societies have been established through active networking;

### **Progress/Achievements**

The CBFA Network has been active during the reporting period. The North African Red Crescents were particularly active in the development of the CBFA manual. The draft was adopted, additional modules were completed. Thanks to a common effort from Federation delegations and regional offices in the Middle East, and a recent contribution from Finnish RC, the printing and the distribution of the manual will be possible.

The second CBFA Networking meeting was conducted in Tunis, gathering the focal points from 14 MENA NS. The main purpose was to discuss modalities of improving training and services related to CBFA and plan how it can be implemented.

A MENA CBFA review was organized by the regional office for the Middle East. A consultant visited Moroccan RC to assess their programmes and interviewed Tunisian, Egyptian and Algerian RC. A full report will be soon available.

**Expected result:** The national societies have been offering first aid training courses based on the common core curriculum and regionally agreed and recognized certification;

### **Progress/Achievements**

Training material, regional certifications are now available. National societies during the last CBFA meeting in Tunis in December have outlined their commitments to implement these new programmes in 2005.

The Egyptian RC has submitted a project proposal for the establishment of five new First Aid Centres. The Regional Office for North Africa managed to secure funding thanks to some Norwegian RC contribution for two centres and is seeking for additional funds for the three other centres.

**Expected result:** First Aid Day has been marked by the five national societies.

### **Progress/Achievements**

The day was celebrated officially in Algiers during the Pan African Conference. A special message from Algerian RC to the representatives of the 53 African NS as well as to the RC/RC donors' representatives and other partners was given.

Tunisian RC, Egyptian RC and Moroccan RC branches have also been particularly active in the celebration of the First aid Day through public demonstrations, exhibitions and lectures. Country documentation is available upon request at the regional office for North Africa. In Tunisia, the NS has developed some partnerships with phone companies in order to send by SMS RC/RC messages to the public. Large numbers of RC volunteers were mobilized for the day. The regional office participated to the celebration supporting NS with promotional material and equipment for the production of the material (camera, colour printer, copier).

**Expected result:** Risk reduction public campaigns to include road safety have been conducted as part of regular activities.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Tunisian, Moroccan and Algerian RC are conducting regular and annual programmes on road safety, especially during specific periods (summer time, when migrants are coming back from Europe; during Ramadan). Most of these activities are organized in partnership with the Civil Defence.

Moroccan RC has signed a convention earlier this year with the National Committee for Road Safety. The programme was extended to other provinces and continues successfully. Other areas of collaboration are being explored. Tunisian RC is also actively working in partnership with the National Association for Road Safety and schools are targeting children.

The new CBFA curriculum has now integrated fully a module on road safety which will be used in 2005 to train NS volunteers and general public.

The regional office supports and encourages the development of networking within North Africa as road safety is being identified as an emerging priority for the NS in the region. Contacts were made with the regional EU office to explore possible funding for these programmes.

### **3/ Psychosocial Support Program (PSP)**

Adequate psychological support services are provided through programmes which have been established in the national societies thus enhancing individual and community capacity and resilience to respond to present needs and cope with possible emergencies.

**Expected result:** Four national societies have initiated contacts with other stakeholders and have worked on a harmonized and complementary psycho-social support approach;

#### **Progress/Achievements**

Algerian, Egyptian and Moroccan RC have outlined the importance of the psycho-social support programme (PSP) and have integrated progressively the PSP component into their core programmes and regular activities. This approach was clearly highlighted during the North Africa health planning meeting held in July in Tunis.

- Egyptian RC is working on a PSP Plan of Action addressing psychological needs based on the importance of rebuilding people's emotional wellbeing following stressful and/or traumatic events. During the reporting period, Egyptian RC twice deployed their RC teams to provide support to the affected and traumatized population. The first event was the closing of the borders between Rafah and Gaza at the end of July where more than 2,500 people on average were stranded per day. The second event, more dramatic was the three Bomb attacks in Tabah targeting tourists near the Israeli border. Thanks to the 2003 Finnish RC contributions, used to train volunteers on PSP and stress management, ERCS volunteers were ready to assist in those difficult events. In addition to this approach, Egyptian RC is interested to develop a PSP component to accompany some of their activities in their five blood banks and more specifically to support psychologically the children affected by thalassemia (a blood disease affecting children with a very high incidence in Egypt). A staff on loan from Egyptian RC was sent to Amman to support the PSP regional coordinator to complete the PSP ToT module.
- Algerian RC has large experience of PSP programmes, targeting specifically women and children affected by violence/terrorism. The ARCS has developed a strong network in partnership with psychologists and MoH. The society is the most advanced in North Africa in PSP and is ready to offer support to the other NA societies. Algerian RC has been active in the development of the new "stress management module" integrated in the updated version of the CBFA Manual. The ARCS is integrating PSP in its first aid activities, working closely with the French RC and wishes to develop further this work within their disaster management activities.
- Moroccan RC, following recent events and disasters (floods, bomb attack, earthquakes), has been working on the integration of the PSP module in its DM programmes and first aid curriculum. 16 regional coordinators were identified and trained to provide PSP support at time of a disaster/crisis. A national PSP intervention team was created and integrated in the National Disaster Response Team. An advanced training is planned for the PSP teams. Another PSP approach is developed within the HIV/AIDS and road safety programmes.

The Regional PSP coordinator has been meeting the French RC to discuss their approach in North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) in order to harmonize work and to look for complementarities. The French RC is mainly addressing the PSP component in FA and more specifically at time of emergency/disasters. Discussions resulted in constructive collaboration, to the benefit of national societies.

**Expected result:** National societies have gained knowledge and exchanged experiences and best practices in the technical field of psychological support thus assisting the communities to be better prepared to cope with stress and reduce risks.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

Information is regularly shared through different regional meetings, forums and networks. The regional health meeting and regional disaster management meetings are two such gatherings. The PSP programme is being integrated to the regional disaster preparedness programme, supported by the Swiss Government in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. This has enhanced the capacity of Red Crescent societies to respond effectively to the psycho-social effects of natural and man made disasters. The three Red Crescent societies have tailored their approach according to their country specific needs and situation. Another forum was the HIV/AIDS Network

meeting in which the regional PSP coordinator was invited to present the importance of PSP when working with people living with HIV/AIDS or with their families and colleagues. The sharing of best practices has been highlighted as crucial and much appreciated, providing new opportunities and working perspectives for national societies.

#### **4/ Community based social programme**

Focused and effective community development projects in the field of education (literacy programmes), social welfare (vocational training), health promotion, first aid, and disaster preparedness are adequately supported to respond to acute vulnerability.

**Expected result:** The Red Crescent Societies in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco have reached an increased number of vulnerable people through their integrated community services covering first aid, psychological support and disaster preparedness activities;

#### **Progress/Achievements**

Due to limited funding, no progress is reported on this objective. Fortunately, the support of bi-lateral RC/RC societies is very valuable. French RC is present in Algeria and Morocco supporting community based programmes. Netherlands and Belgium RC are also planning to support community based programmes in northern Morocco. National societies are actively looking for local partnerships to ensure the sustainability of long term development projects. Egyptian RC continues to manage successfully their community development programmes.

**Regional Office initiatives:** Faced with the lack of documents available in French and Arabic, the North Africa Office decided to support the translation, printing and reproduction of health documents. For the sake of cost effectiveness, this initiative was shared and discussed with the Federation health department in Geneva and with the health unit in the regional office for the Middle East

<b>Documents translated</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Arabic</b>
ARV Manual	Available from Federation Secretariat	Available from Federation Secretariat	<b>X</b>
FA Harmonized techniques and tools	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Document Printed</b>			
ARV Manual	2,000 copies	5,000 copies sent to 18 MENA NS	2,000 copies to be shared within the MENA region

**Others:** The second regional meeting with EMRO (WHO regional office for eastern Mediterranean countries), UNICEF (regional office based in Cairo) was held in Tunis in December. A regional programme review, sharing of information and a follow up on the signed MOU were discussed, as well as planning for 2005. Recommendations on better cooperation, closer involvement of partners and resources sharing were high on the agenda.

#### **Impact**

The increased consultation process, the continuous mapping of NS health needs and the different health reviews (HIV/AIDS, CBFA, and PSP) have had an impact on the following domains:

- Increased communication and information sharing with the regional offices (Middle East and North Africa);
- Increased confidence, awareness and use of Federation tools and techniques developed by the secretariat; increased demand from the NA NS to be supported in the development of their health programmes
- Increased interaction within the region and strong willingness and ability by the NS to express their position and to lead their development
- Better planning and increased ownership of regional approach
- Increased number of partnerships developed

## **Constraints**

- Despite the large number of health activities implemented in the five societies of North Africa, national health strategies remain weak. They will need to be reviewed and strengthened to be more focused and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Lack of NS health structures, poor resources/staffing
- Poor funding available for health issues
- Federation re-structuring in Headquarters and in the field

## **Conclusion**

National societies in North Africa possess remarkable talent and face many challenges. Natural disasters are frequent, population needs are ever increasing, and resources are often limited. A critical issue lies in the ability to ensure continued focus on such programmes given the short cycles typically presented within appeal frameworks, which often result in changes in personnel, intensity of activities, and funding.

## **Disaster management**

### **Programme Goal:**

The National Societies in North Africa are well prepared to contribute in a timely, efficient and coordinated response to the needs of the vulnerable population affected by disasters; thus reducing the impact of the emergencies.

### **Programme Objective:**

The North African Red Crescent Societies have strengthened their position as key humanitarian actors in disaster management to prevent and alleviate suffering of vulnerable communities through effective response, preparedness and mitigation.

**Expected Result:** Disaster management structures have been established in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt to implement plans of action and coordinate DP/DR activities.

### **Progress/Achievements**

- While Morocco and Algeria have not yet established formal disaster management units, due to the organisational issues which have not yet been addressed, both national societies were active during the past months with the training of staff and volunteers. The Algerian Red Crescent responded to the floods in Adrar and Timimoun during the summer.
- The Algerian Red Crescent was due to convene its General Assembly at the end of the year. This should take the process of confirmation of the organigram one step closer.
- In the case of the Tunisian and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies, they too are yet to have disaster management structures. Nonetheless, they were also involved in response activities during this reporting period. The Egyptian Red Crescent was also involved in the response to the bombing in Taba'a, as well as the crisis situation in Rafah, which resulted from the closing of the border with Israel in July. Its staff and volunteers were also involved in the response efforts after the crash of the Air France flight off the coast of Sharm El Sheik. The Kelibia committee of the Tunisian Red Crescent was also involved in responding to the tornado which ravaged the area, leaving 9 dead and some 70 persons injured.
- The Egyptian Red Crescent is keen to increase its disaster management capacity, and has been provided with technical assistance by the regional office to prepare a project document in this regard.
- Staff and volunteers of the Algerian and Moroccan Red Crescent Societies received logistics training during this reporting period. They were also provided with technical support in the development of their warehousing and other procedures. Further trainings are planned for 2005.
- The Greater Casablanca Committee has obtained land for the construction of a regional warehouse, with the support of the Wali of the Wilaya. This will significantly boost the warehousing and response capacity in general for Morocco, as this town with its extensive port and airport facilities played a major role in the reception and dispatching of supplies in response to emergency events.

**Expected result:** Contingency plans have been formulated in Tunisia and Algeria and harmonized with their respective national disaster preparedness plans.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

- The Algerian government has not yet finalised its disaster plan, contrary to its original intention. It is now expected to be completed by early 2005. However, the Red Crescent continues to be closely involved in the revision process, which will further clarify its role in future disaster operations.
- Further work was done on the disaster management strategy of the Tunisian Red Crescent. It will then be presented to personnel of the regional committees in the coming months, for their review and amendments prior to its adoption.

**Expected result:** National societies have been made fully aware of available Federation disaster management tools and mechanisms.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

- Dissemination of information about the disaster management tools of the Federation has continued. This has led to national societies such as the Egyptian Red Crescent benefiting from the DREF, which enabled it to respond to an emergency situation in July. Other national societies have now requested further training from the regional office on these tools, with a view to developing smaller versions in the near future.

**Expected result:** National societies have improved their capacity in community based disaster preparedness programmes by using the VCA as a tool for better planning and programming at the community level.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

- A VCA workshop was conducted in December for the eleven prefectures (including Mohammedia which experienced serious flooding in 2002) that comprise the Greater Casablanca Committee in Morocco. They will be carrying out the VCA studies in early 2005.

**Expected Result:** VCA studies have been conducted in Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Libya

#### **Progress/Achievements**

The VCA exercises in Morocco and Tunisia have not yet been finalised due to organisational difficulties within these national societies that resulted in a slowing of the process. The Libyan Red Crescent's staff member who attended the Training of Trainers workshop during the summer has not yet organised a workshop in his national society. This will be followed up in 2005.

**Expected result:** Community based disaster reduction projects have been designed to integrate social aspects (first aid, psychological support, educational programmes) and implemented in Morocco, Algeria and Egypt.

#### **Progress/Achievements**



- The projects in Morocco, Egypt and Algeria have continued. The Tunisian Red Crescent has been in close contact with the Ministry of Public Health and other partners to develop its psychological support strategy, which forms part of the community disaster reduction project it is currently implementing with the financial support of the Swiss government. The Egyptian Red Crescent has for many years been involved in these projects, and they are continuing. The national society is also keen to expand its work in this area by targeting vulnerable areas in North and South Sinai, as well as the Red Sea areas of Upper Egypt.

**Expected result:** National Societies in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt have clarified their role with regard to the national response plans and subsequently have increased their coordination capacities with the communities, local authorities and other key partners involved in disaster management.

### **Progress/Achievements**

- The Moroccan Red Crescent, supported by the Tunis and Amman regional offices, as well as the ICRC organised a disaster management camp near Marrakech in July. The more than three hundred participants included representatives from national societies from North Africa, Mauritania and the Middle East, as well as Civil Protection, the Fire Department, and other local personnel.
- The Algerian Red Crescent participated in various activities with local partners, the latest one being with military personnel regarding emergency response procedures. Recently, sixteen of its volunteers also participated in a disaster medicine training in France, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). More than twenty others were also trained in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The Monastir committee of the Tunisian Red Crescent was a major player in the disaster simulation exercise which was staged in the governorate during the summer.
- The Moroccan Red Crescent in collaboration with the Tunis regional office, the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Land Management and the Morocco office of the UNDP organised the launch for the 2004 World Disasters Report on December 15. The launch saw the participation of several local and international partners from Morocco, as well as representatives from the Tunisian and Algerian Red Crescent Societies. The launch preceded a day which was dedicated to reflecting on themes related to disaster management in Morocco.

### **Impact**

- The national societies were supported in either developing their disaster management capacity, as well as in responding to emergencies. The Tunisian Red Crescent also benefited from a small amount of stocks to replenish supplies which were used during the Kelibia operation.
- The activities which were undertaken during these past months have further encouraged and facilitated the networking between and among national societies within the region.
- The national societies are closer to their governments, and have been involved in a number of joint events or activities, which have enhanced their stature as competent and worthwhile partners.

There is increased understanding about the Federation's response tools, which has resulted in more national societies requesting use of them as the needs arose.

### **Constraints**

- The highly centralised structure of the national societies has resulted in unavoidable delays in the implementation of the programme. This has also led to difficulty in providing follow-up to planned activities and training.

### **Conclusion**

Taking into consideration the number of capacity building activities which were undertaken with the national societies, significant progress has been made during this reporting period. While a lot is still left to be done, notice ought to be taken of this progress. The increased human resource capacity which resulted from the support provided to the programme has begun to produce results. The coming year should see the consolidation of these advances, and further development in other areas to complement the work already started.

### **Humanitarian values**

**Goal:** Community concern and responsibility for the most vulnerable is increased with a noted higher respect for humanitarian values, improved mutual understanding and increased tolerance.

**Objective:** Humanitarian values and principles are part of all Red Crescent programmes, initiatives and training. Dissemination and integration is supported by tools and materials available in French and Arabic. Information and communication capacities of the national societies in the region are strengthened thus increasing the visibility of their activities and contributing to the promotion of the humanitarian values.

**Expected result:** The Red Crescent Societies in the region have increased their involvement in advocacy within and outside the Movement. The Red Crescent Societies have been established as a prime source of information relating to natural and man-made disasters in North Africa, through fast response and the provision of news related to the needs of the affected people to media, donors and the humanitarian world.

### **Progress/achievements**

- Promotion of the RC/RC Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values was ensured through the celebration of different RC/RC events but also through workshops and seminars organized by the regional office for North Africa as an intrinsic part of all communication activities. The regional office made funding available to NA NS for the production of promotional material (posters, leaflet, CDs, brochures, T-shirt, etc.) to be used for specific events. The office is acting as a resource centre for the North African Red Crescents. Serious efforts are made to disseminate to the RC branches a maximum of RC/RC literature in the three languages used (programme policies, health, DM training material, press kits, programmes presentations, leaflets, etc.) and to share within the region the material produced by the NS themselves.
- Communication strategies: a series of information/communication workshops were organized in Algeria, Tunisia and in Morocco
  - Algeria: the Algerian RC has organized three information workshops jointly supported by the Federation and ICRC, covering the training for ARCS staff in 48 branches/w illayas. In addition to ARCS staff, representatives from various media, local journalists and volunteers attended the workshops. The first one was organized in Arabic with the support of the regional information officer for the Middle East. The two others were organised in French with the support of the Federation secretariat officer. Algerian RC has a strong and professional information unit: It was planned to use the ARCS information officer as regional resource: Unfortunately, all attempts to use the person regionally so far have failed.
  - Tunisia: a similar workshop was held focusing on: how to deal with the media during disasters; how to promote NS work on their regular activities; networking and coordination with the branches; writing articles, using internet; developing visibility; and how to mobilize communities and create partnerships. The national society committed to appoint an information focal point to support the network of information officers in the branches and to develop an information/communication strategy.
  - Morocco: following the integrated disaster management approach developed by Moroccan RC, 16 regional information coordinators were identified and trained during the DM camps, organised at the end of July, on information methodology, tools and techniques to be used at time of disasters. These regional coordinators are now part of the MRCS National Intervention Team. An advanced training was conducted with the same group of participants in September to strengthen the team. Print and radio journalists attended the workshop providing a media perspective on how to improve the coverage of NS activities. The workshop was also aiming at creating a national and active network. One of the objectives outlined for the workshop was the drafting of a communication plan to prepare the celebration of the coming RC/RC events (Launch of the WDR, International Aids Day, and Volunteers Day). The strategy and plans were drafted. Unfortunately, no focal point was appointed, no follow up was made and no concrete action was developed. Results were disappointing and the evaluation of the workshop was not positive. Thanks to the efforts of the MRCS secretary general and the good relations with the media, these events were successfully covered at headquarters level but insufficiently covered in the branches.
  - A regional FedNet training was provided by the secretariat FedNet project manager and was conducted in Tunis for the Libyan, Tunisian, Moroccan and Egyptian RC representatives. The purpose of the workshop was to brief the NS representatives on the FEDNET projects, its implementation steps and anticipated role of NS. The selected participants had different profiles: future FedNet editors, technical programmers and programme managers. The participants committed to organize debriefing sessions in their own NS to explain the project and its process. Additional FedNet briefing sessions were systematically included in the information workshops organized in national societies. The regional office is following up on the FedNet network and on the identification of FedNet editors within NA NS.

- Algerian RC and Moroccan RC have emerged as indispensable actors in strengthening civil society. They are increasingly perceived as organisations responding to the as yet un-met social needs of the most vulnerable, able to rapidly mobilize resources needed, nationally and internationally, and to mitigate the suffering of the victims of natural disasters. This shift was particularly noticeable after the recent disasters (earthquakes) that have affected the two countries. The recognition and the promotion of Red Crescent role has reinforced the RC/RC image and profile contributing to a gradual change of attitude to the benefit of the population at large.
- No real progress was made on the creation of new national society websites despite the regional office effort to support both financially and technically these projects in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. The three NS concerned have all initiated the development of their websites and should be completing this communication tool hopefully in 2005. Algerian RC continues to use and develop in a professional way their website <http://www.cra-dz.org>

### **Impact:**

- North African NS are realizing progressively the importance of providing adequate visibility to their own activities, the crucial time factor for the data collection/gathering at time of disasters, and the necessity to establish a strong information officer network in their branches. The role of the media and how they can be considered as precious partners for the Red Crescent, supporting them to profile their image in the society, was promoted as was the Red Crescent's important role as a key source of information.
- Better understanding of the RC/RC Movement which results in an increased promotion and integration of the Fundamental Principles in NS regular activities

### **Constraints :**

- Lack of adequate structures within concerned NS. Difficulty to organize their human resources in an effective set up. Trainings and workshops were important and appreciated by NS staff and helped the Society to become aware of the role of the media and how the Red Crescent societies should position themselves: It has created great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, except for Algerian RC, no follow up was made in other societies as no focal point was appointed to support and coordinate the efforts from the branch. Evaluation was made with the concerned societies, concerns expressed on the relevance of such training. NS commitments need to be followed up and monitored to ensure that the dynamic initiated within the society does not get lost, that the objectives outlined are reached and that the fund spent are properly used.
- Despite efforts made by the regional office for North Africa, promotional material is still needed in Arabic and in French. For better impact, North Africa national societies were requested to participate actively in the design and production of tailored material. It will be done with the support of the regional office for North Africa and with the technical guidance of the regional information unit based in the Middle East and the secretariat technical publication department.

### **Conclusion**

Joint planning and harmonized work with the ICRC regional office will continue and be strengthened in this significant area for the sake of cost effectiveness (NS human resources: information/dissemination networks and coordinators) and to avoid duplication or confusion (media work, promotion of the Fundamental Principles).

### **Organisational development**

**Programme Goal:** Well-functioning National Societies in North Africa are contributing to the civil society through an efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision regarding their role.

**Programme Objective:** Adequate capacities, structures and systems are established in the North Africa's Red Crescent Societies to enable them to carry out a full spectrum of programmes in an effective manner.

**Expected result:** Skills of Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been reinforced in planning, project management, financial management and reporting; The National societies in the region have benefited from financial transparency and accountability and the confidence of donors and other RC/RC partners has consequently increased;

## Progress/Achievements

- A series of workshops (see below table) were proposed to the North African national societies, in close collaboration with the Middle East regional office. After discussions with the concerned NS, it was decided to balance our training approach between country and regional workshops in order to better respond to the NS expectations and create an effective core group of NS trained staff. A database is maintained and will serve as a basis for the development of a regional expert pool. The workshops proposed are meant to be directly linked to the programme implementation. These workshops and training are targeting different audiences, from the leaders and senior management to middle managers, members and volunteers. The main objectives are to develop practical skills improving their performance in project management, and to broaden participants' understanding and knowledge.
- Planning is still high on the agenda. The target to transfer the ownership of the regional and operational planning to the North African national societies is gaining momentum. The regional office has multiplied since last year the opportunities for NS leaders and programme managers to meet, share and discuss issues of common concerns. It continues to encourage the national societies to take the lead on specific themes, to develop and propose concrete regional projects. Positive and encouraging developments and results have so far been noted:
  - Algerian RC has taken the lead in the drafting of a regional module on “stress management” to be included in the new MENA CBFA Manual.
  - Tunisian RC, following the recommendations of the Manama Declaration (Regional MENA Conference) and the Cairo Declaration (Mediterranean Conference) organized a North African Youth Camp in August with participants from Algeria, Egypt and Libya. The main themes were “North Africa Youth: Humanity and Volunteers”. Topics discussed included the role of youth in disasters management, effective youth coordination and priorities for youth in social welfare programmes.
  - Tunisian RC supported by the regional office, organized a one day national workshop on ‘volunteers: status and perspectives’. The workshop was attended by all partners (Government, UNDP, NGOs, Civil Defence, Scouts Association, etc.). Algerian RC, Moroccan RC, Egyptian RC and Libyan RC were invited to attend.
  - Libyan RC was planning to organize a Mediterranean Youth Camp, but unfortunately it had to be postponed. The Society supported financially the translation of the new Sphere Handbook version into Arabic.
  - The regional office (including its country office based in Algeria) is also working on increasingly involving the bi-lateral PNS and ICRC in this planning exercise, aiming at reinforcing this regional cooperation and at offering to the North African NS a comprehensive and coordinated Movement support. Despite the good relations between all the stakeholders, the process is slow and too much a one-way effort. “Working together” is a real challenge.

Planning reviews and discussions on programmes are primarily done through country visits and missions. This consultation process, dialogue and follow up allows the regional office to regularly assess, review and anchor its regional planning on the different and specific country approaches.

National societies in North Africa have expressed their interest in developing their capacity to implement and manage programmes. However, the human resource capacity and the structures within the national societies remain problematic to respond effectively to this increasing demand.

Workshops	Progr.	Country/ Regional	Location	Dates	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
DM Camps	DM	Regional	Morocco	22-29/07	X	X	X	X	X
Sphere workshop	DM	Federation	Alicante Spain	July			X		
Leadership Training Modules (2)	OD			27/09-1/10		X	X	X	X
PPP (Arabic)	OD	Regional	Amman	23-27/08		X	X		
PPP (Arabic)		Regional	Amman	21-24/11		X		X	
VCA Wksp	DM		Morocco	16-18/12	X				

Follow up								X	X
Logistic Assessment & Log. Training	Country				Assessment made in Sept by ERCS			X Sept. October	
Youth Camps	OD/ Youth	Country	Tunisia						North Africa 08-20/08
Financial Management	OD/ CB	Country	Tunis					Staff briefing Oct	On going
Info/Com	P&V	Country	Algeria Tunisia Morocco		Dec (2). X			Sept (1) X	Sept (1) X
Leadership Training Modules (3)	OD	Regional	Tunis	27-30/11		X	X	X	X
Reporting Assessment Training (ToT)	OD	Country						X Dec (3)	
CBFA Network	Health	Regional	Tunis	6-8/12	X	X	X	X	X
Branch Dev. Review ToT	OD	Regional Country	Tunis	17-18/12		X			
OD Workshop	OD	Federation	Geneva	December		X	X		

<b>Planning Meeting</b>									
Health Regional Planning	Regional	Tunis	28-30/07		X	X		X	X
DM regional Planning	Regional	Rabat	16-18/12		X			X	X

<b>Regional Events</b>									
International Aid Conference - PanAfrican Conference	International Africa Depart.	Bngkok Algiers	July 8-13 Sept.					X	
First Aid Day	Country		13/09		X	X		X	X
International Aids Day	Country	Country	1 Dec			X		X	X
Volunteer Workshop	Regional Country	Tunis	5 Dec		X	X		X	X
Launch of WDR	Regional Country	Rabat Maroc	15 Dec		X			X	X

Missions to North African NS Country Planning/activities review	Delegates	Dates	Purpose
Morocco	HoD, Reg DM Team, PSP, Rep. HoD, Reg Info HOD/DM HOD/DM Reg. Health Del	18-25/07 18-22/09 3-8/10 7-17/12 December	DM camps/POA follow up Information/Logistic workshops, SDC, UNDP, Ministries Reporting/Regional launch WDR, SDC, RC Day Casablanca/MOU CBFA review, country visit^, planning
Algeria	HoD HOD HOD DM	August September October November	Planning/PanAfrican preparatory meetings PanAfrican Meeting, signature MOU Planning, programme review SDC, follow up
Libya	HoD Youth Sec Fed	August	Mediterranean Youth Camp, NA NS Leaders (both events cancelled by LRCS)
Egypt	HoD DM	November November	Field visit/Planning: Branch Development/PSP/Hiv-AIDS
Lebanon	HoD	November	MENA Management Meeting

**Expected result:** Youth sections have been better integrated into national societies, playing a crucial role in advocacy and are increasingly and effectively mobilized in programmes such as disaster preparedness and community health.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Youth sections have continued to be very present on the international agenda in 2004. Follow up were made on specific Plan of Action prepared and adopted as recommendations of the Manama and Cairo Declarations.

Tunisian RC organized in August a North Africa Regional Youth Camp focusing on the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, peer education programmes, first aid, regional cooperation in the areas of first aid (standardization, certification) and disaster management (increased coordination) as well as humanitarian and social work. The regional office has supported these initiatives, providing facilitation for the different sessions and making available the necessary material. But it is important to note that all logistical and financial arrangements were made by the TRCS. Travel costs were incurred by the NS themselves and considered as their contributions to this event.

Youth representatives of the North Africa NS also participated to the youth meeting in Lebanon, which was planned as a follow up of the MENA Conference. During the youth working group, the youth decided that there was a need of training young volunteers. Two priorities were identified: HIV/AIDS and road safety. A specific session will be provided for training FedNet editors and to review communication issues.

**Expected result:** Development of strong branches as the key to national societies' ability to respond to the needs will have been fostered.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Translation of new modules for governance training were finalised and shared for proof reading. The training material focuses on branch development, including development of governance and management at branch level. A regional MENA working group met in December in Tunis. Representatives from Qatar RC (representing the Gulf NS), Lebanon RC (representing the Middle East NS) and Libya RC (representing North Africa NS) were selected during the last leadership training modules organized in Tunis, to conduct a review of the new package and training material and to discuss on how best to use it, to decide on the next step to develop a pilot project in the MENA region.

Recommendations were to adopt a flexible approach and to tailor it to the specific needs of each society, according to the level of knowledge of the branches. However, one of the first steps identified will be to train a pool of OD experts/trainers in the region, which will discuss later Plan of Action with their leaders for future branch training.

### **Impact:**

The several visits at headquarters, in the branches, missions and regional meeting contributed to build some confidence, to create an easy dialogue between North African RC societies, the regional office and partners.

Concrete results are:

- the finalization of 2005 country planning for four out of the five societies,
- better understanding of Federation role, support, of the Movement approach and its added value
- increasing demand for Federation support in the core area from NS ,
- Increased openness and confidence to partnerships,
- strengthening of the RC/RC image within the civil society

### **Constraints:**

- NS capacity and structures to absorb these new programmes.
- Reluctance to initiate necessary change process although positive developments can be noticed in some societies. The process will require a long term commitment.
- Federation commitment and funding concern to support this process and to accompany the NS in this process is a real challenge considering the financial constraints and the uncertainty of the Federation structure in the region.

## Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

### Representation, Management and Implementation

**Programme Goal:** The Red Crescent Societies in North Africa have effective partnerships and alliances enabling them to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable and mobilize support to respond to their needs through effective delivery of programmes and services.

**Programme Objective:** The national societies of North Africa supported by the Federation have strengthened their capacities through a well structured regional cooperation and diversified and effective partnerships within and outside the region and are recognized as strong and reliable partners.

These several regional events offered many opportunities for the NA NS leaders to meet and discuss regional issues. For this reason, it was decided not to hold the second NA NS leaders' meeting.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Pan African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took place in Algiers from 8 to 13 September: It brought together some 700 participants, including representatives of all 53 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa, sister national societies, the International Federation, the ICRC, governments, UN agencies, other humanitarian actors and private sector partners. The conference was seeking to review progress made in fulfilling the commitments made by the national societies four years ago in Ouagadougou. The three main themes to be dealt with were:

- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Food Security

Each was looked at in the context of partnerships, social mobilization and resource mobilization. More information on the Pan African Conference can be found on the Federation's website at: <http://www.ifrc.org/meetings/regional/africa/6thpac/index.asap>. The regional office was, together with its office in Algiers and the secretariat team, supporting the preparation of the Pan African in Algiers.



**Expected result:** New partnerships have been developed by the national societies (ie with UNDP, UNAIDS, OPALS, WHO/EMRO, etc.) and funding for selected projects have been secured.

### Progress/Achievements

Visits and meetings were organized with the main actors in the region together with the national societies to present the Movement approach, the Federation regional work and the country programmes and activities developed and implemented by the respective national societies. New partners were contacted in the region. Contacts with the private sector were also developed on basis of the global agreement signed with the Federation.

In most cases, the potential support provided by these partners are not necessarily financial but can be translated into resources person that can support training or share their expertise in some specific areas.

- Interesting new working perspectives with the UN agencies in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt. Most of the African National Societies have existing partnerships with their governments (Civil Defence, MOH, Ministry of Social Welfare, and Youth) and UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP). But after the recent disasters which have affected the Region, new contacts were taken to enlarge the area of collaboration.
- In Tunisia and in Morocco, UNDP, WHO agencies are particularly interested to develop new projects in the Disaster Preparedness area, in Capacity Building offering their expertise and coordination mechanism to support the National Societies. In December, UNDP country office in Tunisia was successfully associated to the celebration of the Volunteers Day. UNDP offered to continue this important work through the creation of a thematic group. UNDP will host future meeting to follow up on the work initiated. UNDP office in Morocco was briefed on this initiative and was very interested to duplicate this event in Morocco and has offered the Moroccan RC to put at the disposal of the Society a UN Volunteer to support them in a Research work and in

the establishment of Volunteers database and management system. Algerian RC Leaders present in the Tunis Workshop will also approach the UNDP Office in Algiers to propose a similar project. Together with UNDP, large associations such as the Scouts, the women associations and the different Ministries involved are ready to contribute within their own capacities to the project.

- The regional launch of the World Disaster Report was jointly organized with the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Environment as well with UNDP Country Office. Costs of the events were shared by all parties. An opportunity was taken to sign a tripartite agreement with the Ministry of Environment, MRCS and the Federation on DM awareness programme. North African leaders were invited to attend this event as well as the secretary general of the Organization of Arab RC/RC. Together with the WDR Launch, the minister took the opportunity to present the Moroccan Government Report for the Kobe International Conference in January 2005 on reduction of risks. UNDP presented their report on reduction of risk and vulnerability. The three presentations were attended by a large audience and the quality of the discussions was high. The day was a success and MRCS was congratulated during an audience organized by the minister for the North Africa delegation.
- In Algeria, the UNDP Office is a long term partner of ARCS and new forms of partnership are also being looked at.
- UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA are keen on developing new partnerships in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and associated to its capacity building and work on good governance.
- Regional and African women associations are also interested to work with the Red Crescent supporting them to address the gender issue, conduct an assessment, review and training.

The regional office continues to implement the Manama Declaration by exploring together with the North African national societies new ways of cooperation that can lead to an effective and sustainable collaboration within the region. It is hoped to identify new type of resources and to diversify funding sources to avoid dependence on a few funding sources, especially governments and institutional donors.

Contacts were made with the regional offices of the Islamic Development Bank, USAID, EU, African Bank of Development. But before developing further, national societies must ensure that they have the adequate capacities, staff and structure to handle such projects.

**Expected result:** Relevant information to external partners has been regularly disseminated through various channels (Federation website, national society websites, RC/RC publications, programmes updates, reports, etc).

### **Progress/Achievements**

Information is channelled through different channels (Al Ittihad, websites, and DMIS) but needs to be shared on a more regular basis. The regional office, as well as the national societies, has not started yet to use the Federation extra net system (FedNet) to post information. Training was provided to a selected group of NA NS representatives.

The first meeting of information officers of RC/RC societies was held in Amman at the end of December 2003. As a follow up of the recommendations from this workshop, three out of the five NA NS have organized in country information officer workshops.

The regional office is also look at recruiting an additional staff. The person will focus on information/communication issues in the three working languages of the region (Arabic/French/English) as well as support to the NS in establishing their communication strategies as well as developing their own websites.

**Expected result:** The Federation has signed a Status Agreement with the government of Tunisia.

### **Progress/Achievements**

No progress was made on this important issue. It was hoped that after the presidential elections in Tunisia, the issue could be re-examined.

The negotiations for obtaining a Status Agreement were initiated 5 years ago. All documents and files were submitted, shared as requested with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Despite several visits from the Federation leaders (secretary general, Didier Cherpitel in October 2002, the director of MENA department, Ali Said Ali in

July 2003), several meetings, exchange of correspondence and visits from the previous Federation representative and the new HoD, no progress has been made.

During the North African Leaders Meeting in February 2004, a visit was organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the “Chargé d’Affaires pour les Affaires Maghrébines”. Mr Ben Hatem received the secretary general of the Federation, Markku Niskala together with a delegation of North Africa leaders (Prof Gabr, SG from Egyptian RC; Dr Badouna, President of Algerian RC; Mr Bensaoud, SG Moroccan RC; Dr Cheniti SG Tunisian RC), Dr Said Ali as well as the Tunis HoD. Positive feedback was given. However, no further development has been recorded.

The absence of a Status Agreement presents major day to day problems for the Federation’s office and it is hoped that this issue will soon be resolved. A major concern is the impact on the Federation’s work (and credibility) with the International Community in the country.