

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

5 July 2004

MENA GENDER NETWORK

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: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.91/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January-June 2004; Appeal coverage: 2.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 310,505 (USD 251,260 or EUR 204,560). [Click here to go directly to the contributions list.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 318,930 (USD 258,170 or EUR 210,090)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Middle East/ North Africa Gender Network Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/019104.pdf

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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>

Latest developments

There has been little support to the appeal and as such there has been no substantial implementation of activities. Nonetheless, some activities have been implemented within the regional organisational development (OD) appeal in that gender is often considered as part of an OD process in a wider context. To view the latest update on this programme, please click below:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01890401.pdf

Highlights of the MENA gender network programme in the first half of 2004 include:

- A working group from five national societies (the Red Crescent Societies of Jordan, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Morocco) reviewed progress made since the 3rd regional MENA conference in Tehran, in 2001, which called on all MENA national societies to address the challenge of gender analysis/mainstreaming as an important area. The group also developed a plan of action for 2004, which this appeal supports.
- As part of the plan of action for 2004, the Federation's global gender training manual has been translated into Arabic and Farsi to facilitate training within the region.
- A questionnaire/check-list has been produced to help the national societies review the nature and level of gender mainstreaming in their organization /management as well as in programming.

The prospect for the second half of 2004 seems brighter as the Norwegian Red Cross has in their recent allocation included the MENA gender network appeal as an area of interest. Accordingly, some allocation should be made to work towards the plan's priorities. As such, more activities should be implemented in the coming months towards the below goal, objective and expected results.

Goal: The role of women both as participants and beneficiaries (important stakeholders) at all levels of the Red Cross/Red Crescent organisation and management, programmes and services is substantially improved.

Objective: The MENA national societies are able to respond effectively to the needs of women/men through effective services and stronger capacities including human resources, communication/information and a sustainable resource base.

Expected results and achievements :

- The MENA gender network initiative has been progressing according to the plan.

Progress is limited, due to insufficient funding response to the appeal. However, important activities have been carried out in terms of the 2004 plan of action development with direct inputs from selected national societies, translation (into Arabic and Farsi) of the Federation's gender training manual and development of questionnaire to guide the national societies in their effort to review their status in terms of gender mainstreaming.

- The role of the MENA gender network has been more specifically defined with clear terms of reference to be reviewed and approved by national societies at the next MENA conference (in Bahrain in April).

A progress report was presented by the Iranian Red Crescent Society regarding the implementation of the MENA gender network activities as per the recommendations from the 3rd MENA conference in Tehran, June 2004. Although the 4th conference in Bahrain was also expected to review and approve the draft terms of reference for a regional gender network monitoring with National Society (NS) participation, this was not achieved due to lack of time.

- Knowledge sharing among the MENA national societies has been facilitated through the MENA Gender Network. This is supported by motivated and well trained human resources: volunteers and staff from the national societies including a gender focal point appointed in each national society.

Work in progress is to improve the contribution of NS gender network focal points based on clearly defined and standardized terms of reference, which is currently under preparation.

- Reliable communication capacities and information systems including a regional database to facilitate information sharing on gender issues has been set up and is periodically updated.

It is expected that the implementation of the gender questionnaire, currently under review, will go a long way in strengthening the development of the data base to facilitate information sharing on gender issues.

- The network has been playing an active role in creating employment (income generating) opportunities for women in dire need of assistance.

The enhanced role the network plays in creating employment (income generating) opportunities for women is planned to be achieved within the medium to long term perspectives based on the rate of implementation of the key aspects such as training of trainers on gender and related areas of focus.

Impact

The limited activities started during the reporting period pave the way for increasing impact in terms of raising NS awareness and practice leading to a more effective organization/management with improved services addressing community needs with a higher degree of gender sensitivity.

Constraints

Within the MENA socio-cultural context, the process of gender mainstreaming requires a sustained effort at all levels. However, the actual support to the process falls far short of the requirement as reflected by the very low level of response to the 2004 appeal of the MENA gender network.

Coordination

The planning and implementation of the MENA gender network appeal is carried out in coordination with other agencies dealing with gender and gender related matters.

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