

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MENA GENDER NETWORK 15 DECEMBER 2004

Appeal No. 01. 91/2004

Appeal Target: CHF 318, 930

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: July- December 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 14.1 percent

Outstanding needs: CHF274,005 [<click here for live contributions list>](#)

The limited response to the Middle East North Africa (MENA) gender network appeal did not create favourable environment for planning and implementation of the activities according to the appeal. However, some activities were implemented related to training and development of training material

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

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

Progress/achievements

The MENA gender network initiative has been progressing as much as possible taking account of the limited appeal response acting as a constraint on activities.

Training

The gender focal points from the national Red Crescent societies of Iran and Jordan attended the course on Gender Planning in Development organized by INTRAC (UK) from 18-20 October 2004. Based on a wide range of discussion of principles and case studies, the course enabled the participants to deepen their understanding of gender mainstreaming in development including strategies for dealing with resistance to mainstreaming.

In the effort to improve participation of women at all levels of national society hierarchy of decision-making and programming, both participants are expected to apply the knowledge and play a key role in the process of gender mainstreaming within their own national societies. They are also sharing their knowledge and experiences with other national society gender focal points in the region

Translation and adaptation of the global gender training manual

The global gender training manual has been translated into Arabic. During a meeting in Amman, Jordan (27-30 December, 2004), the gender focal points from 11 national societies were to review and enrich the manual with important amendments reflecting the sensitivities of the operational context in the region. The manual will be used as a guide for training national society staff and volunteers in the region.

In addition, the participants of the meeting assessed the progress made and lessons learned from the pilot gender projects implemented by the Iranian Red Crescent. They also reviewed and agreed the plan of action for 2005.

Impact

The national societies in the region broadly support the gender mainstreaming initiative. However, a lot more effort will be needed to back up the support with concrete actions to promote gender mainstreaming in practice.

Constraints

The national societies in the region are increasingly aware of the importance of gender mainstreaming. However, a lot more needs to be done to ensure that the challenge of mainstreaming is addressed as one of the key areas of national society strategic and operational focus. Donor support to the initiative is limited. The appeal coverage during the whole of 2004 was less than 14 percent. During the first half of 2004, it was less than 3 percent.

To address gender mainstreaming priorities with a more flexible and integrated approach, the MENA gender network activities are included as part of the regional OD appeal for 2005.

[<click here>](#)

Coordination

The planning and management of the MENA gender network appeal is carried out in coordination with other organizations involved in gender and gender related functions.