

ANNUAL REPORT



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

2 May 2005

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.91/2004; Period covered: January - December 2004

Appeal target: CHF 318,930 (USD 265,940 or EUR 206,675)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

MENA Gender Network Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/019104.pdf

MENA Gender Network Annual Appeal 2004 - Programme Update no.1. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01910401.pdf

MENA Gender Network Annual Appeal 2004 - Programme Update no.2. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01910402.pdf

Programme highlights:

A working group from five national societies (Jordan, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Morocco) reviewed progress since the 3rd regional MENA conference in Tehran, in 2001, which called on all Middle East North Africa (MENA) national societies to address the challenge of gender analysis/mainstreaming as an important concern. The group developed a plan of action for 2004. Progress was on two fronts:

- The Federation's global gender training manual has been translated into Arabic and Farsi to facilitate training within the region.
- The Arabic version of the manual was reviewed and approved by the gender focal points from the national societies (NS) of Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Yemen

There is no separate appeal for the MENA Gender Network in 2005. The 2005 regional appeal for the Middle East (05AA081) includes a programme on promoting the MENA gender network to build on the work in 2004 (For the Middle East Regional Appeal 2005, please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA081.pdf

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The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project. Please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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 progressed according to plan.

The global gender training manual has been translated into Arabic and Farsi. NS focal points from Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Yemen reviewed and approved the Arabic/Farsi version of the manual in a meeting held in December 2004. The review was necessary to ensure that the material reflects the required level of cultural sensitivity in terms of language and content. The group also prioritized the topics to be used for training in 2005 to raise gender awareness and training of trainers. The manual is now being refined with technical support from the UN development fund for women (UNIFEM) Office in Amman

The gender focal points meeting in December 2004 also reviewed progress of pilot projects implemented by the Iranian Red Crescent, which include the following:

- Gender communication network with a focus on disseminating the culture of humanity including raising awareness of housewives, volunteers and staff.
- Gender mainstreaming workshops for both men and women exploring the concept and practice of gender mainstreaming at the level of both policy making and programming.

In discussions after the presentation by representatives of the Iranian Red Crescent, the following points were emphasized:

- Gender mainstreaming initiatives cannot succeed without commitment from the top leadership of the NS.
- To ensure adequate follow up, the engagement of full time officers or focal points is an important factor that can ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels.
- It is important to reactivate the MENA gender communication network so that all NS in the region and other users can follow the progress of gender and gender related activities.

The meeting of the gender focal points also provided a forum for exchange of experiences. The gender focal points from the Iranian and Jordan Red Crescent Societies, who attended the training organized by INTRAC, the International NGO Training and Research Centre (October, 2004) shared their experiences with the participants.

The discussion helped to shed light on the following:

- The dynamic relations between gender and development,
- Understanding the meaning of empowerment, equality and equity, and
- Gender analysis and mainstreaming in development practice

Furthermore, a representative from the UNIFEM Office in Amman made a presentation on the orientation in the practice of gender planning and analysis. The discussion focused on the following topics:

- Theory and methodology of gender planning,
- Integration of gender planning into programmes,
- Evolution from WID (women in development) to GAD (gender and development) methodologies of gender work,

- Setting projects in a gender sensitive way, and
- Checklist for women participation in development projects

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 (Bahrain April 2004).

A progress report was presented by the Iranian Red Crescent regarding the implementation of the MENA gender network activities as per the recommendations from the 3rd MENA conference (Tehran, 2001) 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 NS participation, this was not achieved due to lack of time. The approval of the terms of reference (ToR) for monitoring of gender and related activities requires the consensus of all NS and may be concluded during the next MENA Conference, Morocco, 2006.

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 is in progress to improve the contribution of NS gender network focal points based on clearly defined and standardized terms of reference which is currently under preparation
- Efforts are being made to encourage exchange of experience among NS. Preparations are under way to enable the focal point from the Jordan Red Crescent to work with the focal point in Yemen in order to organize/conduct a gender awareness training for the leadership and management of the Yemen Red Crescent

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 database to facilitate information sharing on gender issues. The Iranian Red Crescent is following up on this as part of the pilot package.

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, based on the rate of implementation of the key aspects such as training of trainers on gender and related areas of focus

Impact

There are some signs that NS leaders and managers are gradually increasingly their interest in supporting gender and gender related initiatives. 11 out of the 18 NS in the region have designated focal points to follow up on the planning and implementation of NS gender initiatives. The pilot projects being implemented by the Iranian Red Crescent enjoy the full support of NS leaders.

Constraints

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

Lessons learnt

- Tapping into the experience of other agencies such as UNIFEM contributes to the process of selection and standardization of training material on gender
- Leadership commitment is a key factor that contributes to the success of gender awareness and mainstreaming.

Approach 2005

In 2005, the MENA gender initiatives will be implemented as part of the regional OD process within the Middle East regional appeal. This will help consolidate efforts in terms of follow up and resource mobilization.

The financial report is attached below. Please [click here](#) to return to the title page and contact information

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA091
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Budget (A)					318'930	318'930
Opening Balance (B)					0	0
Income						
Cash contributions						
Norwegian Red Cross					36'500	36'500
Swedish Red Cross					8'450	8'450
Cash contributions (C1)					44'950	44'950
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)					44'950	44'950
Total Funding (B + C)					44'950	44'950

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)					0	0
Income (C)					44'950	44'950
Expenditure (D)					-6'288	-6'288
Closing Balance (B + C + D)					38'662	38'662

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)							318'930	318'930
Capital Expenditure								
Computers & Telecom	13'500						13'500	
Total Capital Expenditure	13'500						13'500	
Personnel Expenditures								
Regionally Deployed Staff	6'700						6'700	
National & National Society Staff					937	937	-937	
Total Personnel Expenditures	6'700				937	937	5'763	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	43'100				2'880	2'880	40'220	
Total Workshops & Training	43'100				2'880	2'880	40'220	
General Expenditure								
Travel	45'000				1'600	1'600	43'400	
Information & Public Relation	63'400				462	462	62'938	
Professional Fees	59'000						59'000	
Financial Charges	67'500						67'500	
Total General Expenditure	234'900				2'062	2'062	232'838	
Program Support								
Program Support	20'730				409	409	20'322	
Total Program Support	20'730				409	409	20'322	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	318'930						6'288	6'288
VARIANCE (C - D)							312'643	312'643