

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

MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

29 December 2004

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.

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In Brief

Programme Update no. 3; Period covered: June to December, 2004

Target: CHF 267,715 (As per the programme budgets summary in the Programme Update no.2 at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/mda1.pdf)

Coverage: 102 % (To view the contribution of donors to this Federation programme , please click here)

Programme summary:

The decision to open a Federation office in Israel was taken in 2000 as part of a programme to enhance operational cooperation between all components of the Movement and Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA). It coincided with the work on adoption of a Third Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions and MDA's status as a national society pending recognition and admission to the Federation.

The relationship between MDA and the Movement has undergone a period of intense change and growth in the recent years, including, as a result of the strategic decision of the Federation, to open an office in Israel. MDA has forged closer ties with sister national societies and is incorporated in Movement activities in the humanitarian field. It has developed its international, tracing and disaster management departments and expanded its work in the field of dissemination. It is developing new programmes in disaster preparedness (DP), is committed to sending delegates on international relief operations with the Movement, and is training staff for this purpose.

During 2004, high level contacts between MDA and the Federation included discussions on MDA's integration into the Movement, health and blood services, disaster response and preparedness, and cooperation projects with other National Societies. In the field of organizational development, there have been discussions on review of MDA's statutes and the National Society Self-Assessment (NSSA), with a view to re-commencing work on the statutes and carrying out the NSSA in 2005.

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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>

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Operational developments

The situation in Israel significantly affects the national society, MDA, the national provider of ambulance and blood services. Ongoing violence in Israel since the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000 has required MDA to be on a high level of alert, and has diverted significant resources to the response capacity required to cope with multi-casualty incidents, including suicide bombings.

During 2004, high level contacts between MDA and the Federation included discussions on MDA's integration into the Movement, health and blood services, disaster response and preparedness, and cooperation projects with other national societies. With the assistance of the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), MDA is developing new activities going well beyond its traditional ambulance and blood service role. For example, a series of earthquakes in the region, including in Israel in February and July 2004, has led to an increased awareness of the risk of earthquakes and the need for proper disaster preparedness. The authorities are currently examining the level of preparedness in Israel and developing a national preparedness and response plan which will involve MDA in its national society role, in conformity with Movement resolutions and decisions. Following two successful disaster management workshops organized by MDA with the support of the Federation, the ICRC and national societies, MDA is now playing an active role in Israel's National Earthquake Steering Committee and is looking at its own role in national earthquake preparedness plans.

Due to practical difficulties in obtaining technical support from within the region, it has been agreed that support for the Federation work with MDA will be drawn also from the Regional Delegations in Ankara and Budapest, and the Federation's Geneva-based headquarters. The Federation will also see that MDA has access to regional events and meetings in Europe.

In November 2004, MDA's Council elected a new Chairman of the Executive Committee and a new Vice President (the position of President is vacant at present).

Health and care

Goal: Enable MDA to contribute its expertise in medical care and training to the Movement, deploy health professionals on missions with the Movement, and broaden its understanding of the Federation's approach and programmes in health and care in the community.

Objective: Contribute to work of the Federation's Health Commission, collaborate with the Federation and National Societies in the fields of blood safety and blood donor recruitment, develop cooperation projects with other National Societies, and share its expertise in emergency pre-hospital care and first aid training.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

MDA has a long history of providing effective medical services consisting of first aid services and training, and ambulance and blood services. With the development of ties between MDA and the Movement, the Federation has encouraged MDA to contribute to Movement work in the fields of health and care. The immediate past President serves, in his personal capacity, as a member of the Federation's Health and Community Services Commission. MDA Blood Services contributes its expertise on issues such as blood safety and volunteer blood donor recruitment.

The Federation has continued to support MDA's integration into Movement activities and relief operations in the health sector by finding places for MDA delegates on training courses such as the Basic Training Course (BTC), Emergency Response Unit (ERU), and Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT). This year, two people from MDA completed the Norwegian Red Cross BTC. MDA now has a core of personnel qualified to be deployed on mission with the Red Cross, and the Federation Israel office will work with MDA and with the Movement to find suitable deployments in 2005.

The Federation Israel office will also continue to support exchanges, projects and training programmes where MDA can share its expertise with other national societies. MDA has provided instructors for courses on response to mass-casualty incidents for staff of the Kenya Red Cross Society, and is looking at offering a follow-up course in 2005. MDA and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) are looking at the possibility of cooperation in a number of areas, including establishment of a first aid training centre for URCS and training of first aid instructors. The first course is

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scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2005. MDA is also working with the Bulgarian Red Cross Society, providing advice and assistance on establishment of an ambulance service in Sofia.

Disaster management

Goal: Define and develop MDA's role as auxiliary to the authorities in disaster response and preparedness within the State of Israel, and promote understanding within Israel of the role to be played by the national society in the event that Movement assistance would be sought in a natural disaster.

Objective: Organize disaster management workshops for MDA staff and volunteers, establish links with the authorities responsible for disaster/earthquake response in Israel, participate in Israel's National Steering Committee for Earthquake Preparedness, and consider developing education or other activities in disaster response and preparedness in accordance with Strategy 2010.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

At the International Red Cross Conference in December 2003, MDA pledged to continue to develop its activities in disaster management. MDA held a disaster management workshop in July 2004 on the approach and activities of the Red Cross Movement in disaster management and response, with a special focus on earthquake preparedness and response in Israel. Participants at the workshop included MDA's senior management and volunteer leaders (headquarters and regions), representatives of the Israel Health Ministry, Defence Force, Police, and Home Front Command, and members of the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (IsraAID), the Federation and the ICRC in Israel, and disaster management experts from the Federation's Amman and Ankara Regional Delegations, and the American and Finland Red Cross Societies.

Access to Federation expertise in disaster management, and workshops with strong Movement participation, have assisted MDA to raise its profile and increase contacts with the authorities. In 2004, MDA has had meetings with the Ministries of Health and Defence, and the National Steering Committee for Earthquake Preparedness, to discuss MDA's coordinating role and cooperation with the Movement in the event of an earthquake in Israel. MDA now participates in the medical response, international assistance, and public education sub-committees of the National Earthquake Committee. MDA has also started to work with the Health Ministry to develop working protocols for immediate pre-hospital medical response following an earthquake. The next step will be to work with the Health Ministry and Economic Emergency Board on longer-term response in the event of an earthquake.

In the second half of 2004, MDA started preparing a training module on earthquake preparedness and response, which will be included in courses for MDA staff and volunteers and the general public in 2005. This material has been prepared based on materials provided by the education sub-committee of the National Earthquake Committee, the Federation and American Red Cross.

Organizational development

Goal: MDA, as a well-functioning National Society as defined in Strategy 2010, increases its involvement in Movement activities, and benefits from Federation expertise in strategic planning, communications, fund-raising and delegate recruitment procedures to expand programme and service delivery in Israel, and contribute to international relief operations of the Movement.

Objective: Undertake National Society Self-Assessment, continue review of the MDA Statutes, attend Red Cross Fundraising Skillshare and look at ways to develop domestic fund-raising capacity, and raise MDA's profile through an active communications strategy, including an English-language website.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

MDA has started developing a new website, which will be available in English as well as Hebrew, and which will feature a new section on the Red Cross Movement and on MDA's activities with national societies, the Federation and the ICRC. The Federation Israel office has been providing advice on content and style of the new website, particularly the section on the Movement.

MDA has begun developing new procedures to select and train personnel for Red Cross training and missions.

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MDA started a process of reviewing its statutes in 2000, but suspended further work on this when the Diplomatic Conference to consider the Third Protocol to the Geneva Conventions was postponed. In 2004, the need to revise the statutes has been put back on the agenda. This question was canvassed during the visit of MDA's Executive Chairman and the Director of MDA's International Department to the Federation in Geneva, and discussions have continued in Tel Aviv with the Federation Representative in Israel. In November 2004, there have been changes at senior level in MDA, and it is hoped that work on the statutes will be able to commence in earnest in 2005. The Federation office will have a role consulting MDA on the harmonization of its statutes with those of the Movement so that the process can be completed without delay.

Discussions about MDA's domestic fund-raising capacity have been underway for some time. MDA recognizes that it needs a stronger domestic base, and has been looking at ways to develop this, but little concrete progress has been made. In 2003, MDA's Executive Board took a formal decision that MDA should explore domestic fund-raising possibilities. In 2004, MDA has been examining the services proposed by different telemarketing companies. The Federation had planned to support MDA in sending a delegate to participate in the 2004 International Fundraising Congress and the Red Cross Fundraising Skillshare, but lack of a fundraising manager or programme at MDA made this impossible.

Humanitarian values

Goal: Expand MDA programmes for dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) and raise awareness of the work of the Red Cross Movement and the Movement's fundamental principles among MDA volunteers and staff, and the wider public.

Objective: Establish a dissemination unit and/or recruit a dissemination officer to organize activities and programmes to raise awareness of IHL, the Movement and the fundamental principles, develop and/or translate new Hebrew-language dissemination materials, and participate in relevant Movement courses.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Since 2003, MDA has included materials on IHL, the Movement and the fundamental principles in its training courses for staff and volunteers (e.g., youth volunteers, blood bank, ambulance drivers, and paramedics). In 2004, with ICRC support, MDA revised and republished a booklet named "International Humanitarian Law", with information on IHL, the Movement and MDA. In the period covered by this Programme Update, the Federation Israel office has translated the Federation's course materials, "Principles to Action", into Hebrew. In 2005, the Federation Israel office plans to work with MDA to develop and organize courses for MDA staff/volunteers based on these materials.

The ICRC and the Federation are encouraging MDA to further develop its dissemination programme, and would like to see MDA appoint staff to work in this field in 2005.

International representation



Goal: MDA participates actively in international and regional meetings of the Movement, strengthens its bilateral relationships with individual National Societies, and deploys staff on mission with the Movement.

Objective: MDA holds an international youth camp in 2004, creates a pool of personnel qualified to fill ICRC or Federation delegate positions, or for deployment in National Society ERUs.

MDA achieved the objective of organizing an international youth exchange with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the first time

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Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation Israel office keeps MDA abreast of developments on the emblem and membership issues, works to integrate MDA into Movement activities, seeks and promotes contacts and opportunities for exchange, supports MDA in its efforts to develop and strengthen its relationships with other National Societies, and assists MDA in preparations for international and regional meetings.



MDA participated in the Federations's Regional Disaster Response Team training in Istanbul

The Federation Representative in Israel works to ensure that MDA has increased access to regional activities of the Federation and national societies. In November 2004, a six-person team from MDA participated in the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training in Istanbul – organized by the Ankara Regional Delegation for national societies from Turkey, the Caucasus, Central Europe, and Israel. MDA will be integrated in future regional training courses and response teams as appropriate.

The Federation Israel office also supports MDA in its efforts to increase its ties with the Movement, giving practical assistance and advice on programme/project development and access to Federation and national society expertise from around the world. In July 2004, MDA held its

second international workshop on disaster management, with Federation experts from Amman and Ankara, and national society experts from American and Finland Red Cross. In September 2004, MDA held its first international youth camp with youth delegates from the red cross/crescent societies of Bulgaria, Denmark, Jordan, Norway, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and MDA in Israel. The theme of the workshop was "Protecting Human Dignity: Youth Responses to Disasters".

The Movement continues to give high priority to securing a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblem on the basis of the proposed draft Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions. The Council of Delegates and 28th International Conference adopted resolutions on this issue at the end of 2003. The President of the new Standing Commission elected by the 28th International Conference regards this as an urgent priority for the Commission, and visited Israel in February 2004, meeting with MDA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, and a second time in October 2004, to give a presentation on progress in MDA's integration into the Movement to the annual meeting of IMDAC (International MDA Committee). The Federation Representative in Israel also spoke at the meeting, presenting the growth in activities and relationships between the Federation, MDA and other national societies. The Chairman of the new Emblem Working Group of the Standing Commission, accompanied by the Secretary of the Standing Commission, visited Israel in April 2004 for discussions with MDA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Ambassador to Israel. In May 2004, the Standing Commission mandated the Chairman to continue his consultations with the various parties and the Swiss Government with a view to encouraging the adoption of the proposed draft Third Protocol as soon as circumstances allow.

The Federation Israel office has also maintained relations with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs to keep them up-to-date about its work with MDA and the Federation's work more generally.

The Federation appreciates the contribution of donors, who have supported the cooperation between MDA and the movement. For details of the contributions, please refer to annex 1, below.

Annex 1

The contribution of donors to the Federation programme for operational cooperation with MDA

Donor	Amount of contribution in the donated currency	Amount of contribution converted into CHF
Swedish Red Cross	SEK 50,000	CHF 8,450
German Red Cross	EUR 5,000	CHF 7,705
American Red Cross	USD 50,000	CHF 60,025
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK 121,000	CHF 22,264
British Red Cross	GBP 15,000	CHF 32,955
Danish Red Cross	CHF 19,000	CHF 19,000
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR 15,000	CHF 22,747
Department for International Development (DfiD)- Reallocated from Middle East Regional Appeal to Israel	CHF 30,000	CHF 30,000
Balance carried over from 2003	CHF 70,000	CHF 70,000

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