

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Zone

Appeal No. MAA80003

28/05/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008.



In 2008, 800 women benefited from the courses given through the psycho-social support programme of the Iranian Red Crescent.

In brief

Programme purpose: The overall goal of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) zone office is to encourage, mobilise and coordinate contributions towards the achievement of the International Federation's Global Agenda (GA) Goals. The strategy of the zone office focuses on key areas where National Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Societies can make a tangible difference by utilizing and sharing regional resources and expertise and engaging in a strategic dialogue on humanitarian policies and practices. The International Federation in MENA has build its ambitions on the auxiliary role of National Societies in their countries and local and regional partnerships to maintain and create technical and operational excellence in delivering community based services.

Programme summary: In 2008, the MENA zone continued its coordination and facilitation role to support the National Societies in the region in disaster management, health and care, organisational development, and Humanitarian Values programmes. A new vision and operational strategy for 2009-2011 was developed in disaster management along with a disaster management network. Technical support was given to the MENA National Societies in disaster management planning with partnerships and trainings aiming to support the capacities of the staff in disaster preparedness, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), contingency planning, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and road safety. The health and care programme focused on building on regional networks, along with concentrating efforts on the psycho-social support programme (PSP) and human pandemic preparedness. The organisational development programme also worked on developing networks of MENA National Societies through a youth network meeting and put attention on the development of the operational alliances (OA) in the region and planning for 2009-2010. The Principles and Values programme in MENA focused on migration issues, along with strengthening partnerships with Arab media outlets and RC/RC Movement partners with regards to communications.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget was revised from CHF 2,800,990 (USD 2,655,722 or EUR 1,871,569) to CHF 1,514,696 (USD 1,436,139 or EUR 1,012,091), of which 144 percent was covered. The target was revised based on implementation rates and donor response to the Appeal.

The zone Appeal includes Iran programme components and budget in the amount of CHF 498,594 (USD 472,735 or EUR 333,151). The total funding for Iran for 2008 was CHF 840,416 (USD 796,829 or EUR 561,550) and the expenditure was CHF 348,120 (USD 330,065 or EUR 232,607). Therefore, some of the income earmarked for Iran will be carried forward to 2009 to cover the activities in the new calendar year.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

To have a complete picture of the role of the International Federation in MENA, please refer also to other reports from the MENA region on the International Federation's website at www.ifrc.org - specifically the country reports on Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen; the regional report for North Africa; operations updates for the Iraq Expanding Response to Humanitarian Crisis Emergency Appeal and the Population Displaced from Iraq Emergency Appeal covering Jordan and Syria. For reports on the Gaza humanitarian crisis, please go to the Palestine Red Crescent Society website at www.palestinercs.org.

No. of people we help: In the absence of a systematic methodology to gather information on the number of people reached, each National Society collects and calculates the figures differently. For example the Palestine RC has respective beneficiary figures for its programmes in 2008 in addition to 2,008,405 people benefiting from the programmes financially or technically supported by the International Federation under the Palestine RC Plan for 2008. Lebanese Red Cross refers to the figures on the activities implemented with the support of the International Federation. In 2008, the National Society covered 194,389 first aid missions and 74,319 medical consultations; delivered 16,817 blood units; targeted 35,000 youth through public campaigns and 1,450 beneficiaries through the prison programme. Yemen Red Crescent provides figures on a yearly average basis, serving up to 30,000 to 35,000 beneficiaries every year in primary health care (PHC) services. The International Federation supported programmes in Iran refer only to the direct beneficiaries, reaching 40,600 people in 2008.

As the majority of the activities supported by the International Federation in the North Africa region focus on organisational development, identifying direct beneficiaries at the regional programme level is a challenge. Currently, the differences in the figures provided by the North African National Societies are very high to make a comprehensive analysis; but support is being given by the International Federation's regional representation in order to establish an adequate system to gather accurate data at country level.

On the zone level, the support to all National Societies in the region was provided through convening technical networks to strengthen the collective vision and programme implementation skills of National Society technical directors in disaster management, health and care and capacity building/general management.

The people reached through the above mentioned operations of the International Federation in MENA can be found in the respective reports under the MENA page of the International Federation's website. Throughout the 2010-2011 planning cycle, the International Federation's newly developed guidelines on the "number of people reached" is expected to standardise and systematise the collection of these figures.

Our partners: The National Societies in MENA and the zone office work with a reliable group of partners from the International RC/RC Movement and other organisations. The partners that have multilaterally contributed to the MENA wide Appeal (including Iran) in 2008 have been Spanish Red

Cross, Australian Red Cross and government, Norwegian Red Cross and government, Finnish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and government, Belgium Red Cross (Flanders), Japanese Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and government, Hong Kong Red Cross, American Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, and New Zealand government. In addition, German Red Cross, French Red Cross and Danish RC have regional representation offices in Jordan, and a number of partner National Societies (PNSs) have representatives bilaterally supporting National Societies in the MENA region. The zone and the National Societies of the region have been working closely together with all engaged PNSs, independent of the fact if they have representations in the region or if they steer their cooperation directly from their headquarters.

The zone office has been promoting more and closer relations with the United Nations (UN) agencies, US Department of State – Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The National Societies of MENA and the zone office are active members in several regional interagency networks including shelter networks, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), humanitarian action networks inspired by the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) and Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB). The zone office was also engaged in governmental and inter-governmental meetings such as the World Health Organisation's (WHO) ministerial meetings and the meetings of the foreign ministers of neighbouring countries to Iraq. Development of National Societies in the region have been originating from regional networks and technical support provided by the International Federation Secretariat.

Context

The MENA region continued to be affected by man made and natural disasters in the course of 2008. The main ongoing chronic emergencies were related to Iraq, displaced Iraqis in Jordan and Syria, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Algeria bomb explosions and internal disturbance in Lebanon were the other man made disasters within the year. The region also experienced natural disasters ranging from floods across the sub regions - specifically affecting Palestine and Yemen in the Middle East and Morocco and Algeria in North Africa - to an earthquake in Iran and rockslides in Cairo.

The International Federation supports the National Societies in the MENA region through strengthening the community based health programme components; focusing on disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities of the vulnerable communities; on the organisational development of the National Societies through capacity building and institutional development initiatives; as well as on promoting diversity and human dignity through the Humanitarian Values programmes. National Societies in the MENA region are increasingly assuming a lead role in the humanitarian field at the national level as a recognised auxiliary to their public authorities.

A high level policy forum – the MENA Strategic Dialogue of the Movement – was held in Cairo on 25 and 26 November, 2008 bringing together 13¹ presidents and/or secretary generals of the region. The significance of a platform where all the three components of the International RC/RC Movement can dialogue in a transparent manner on humanitarian issues related to MENA region and Movement policies was underlined. Specific topics like humanitarian challenges, image and relations with media, and opportunities of the Movement in MENA were discussed, along with the Code of Good Partnership and the International Federation's Strategy 2020. The opportunity to further benefit from the human, material and financial resources of the region and to share these in a more effective and efficient manner in crisis and long term development work was highlighted. In this regards, a follow up mechanism including technical working groups were recommended to take specific thematic issues further in the region.

¹ The representatives were from the National Societies of Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunis, Yemen, along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO).

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results

- Disaster management planning is improved.
- Disaster relief and preparedness capacities within a country level disaster management and risk reduction plan is improved.
- Disaster response capacity is improved.
- Community preparedness and ownership for risk reduction is improved.
- Iranian Red Crescent has improved its capacity to mitigate the impact of disasters using local resources and knowledge and is able to cope better with disasters.
- Self-reliance of communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters has improved.

Achievements

In 2008, the zone disaster management unit focused on four priorities:

Developing a vision and strategy for disaster management excellence in the MENA region:

The MENA zone - along with seven disaster management professionals from the National Societies of Qatar, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco - worked to develop a new vision and operational strategy for 2009-2011. The operational strategy consists of five strategic objectives, a new structural implementation model and critical activities for a three year workplan. It is important to note that the MENA zone has designed the prototype of a knowledge management approach, a disaster management centre of excellence based on the results of the recent global disaster management improvement programme and in line with the International Federation's global three-year disaster management operations strategy. The zone office and a new disaster management steering committee, in close cooperation with the existing MENA-wide disaster management-network, will implement the strategy and pilot the new approach.

The five strategic objectives highlight the need for better programme integration in planning efforts; improved development of existing and new tools; investment in all human resources from professional staff to volunteers; a willingness to better coordinate and cooperate with internal and external stakeholders and the urgent need to better advocate, communicate and mobilise resources from within the MENA region with the help of partners.

The new disaster management centre for excellence reinforces the lead role of MENA National Societies and promotes a disaster management portfolio combining rapid response with long term community based risk reduction. National Societies are overseeing and guiding the implementation process through a steering committee, in close cooperation with all MENA National Societies and PNSs. Selected National Societies will become focal points and, where relevant, reference centres for the development of excellence in selected disaster management competencies.

Leading a MENA disaster management network

Supported by the Norwegian and Swedish RC, the zone disaster management unit held one network meeting in Morocco in April inviting the disaster management directors/focal points of all MENA National Societies. The agenda included building a country level DRR framework by mapping the National Societies' activities related to risk reduction, training on the new International Federation wide contingency planning guidelines and contributing to the global disaster management improvement project through a qualitative focus group mechanism.

Technical support for disaster management planning, training and tool development

Earthquake preparedness training

MENA zone organized an earthquake preparedness training for Palestine RC, Magen David Adom (MDA) and Jordan Red Crescent in Ankara during 8-12 August 2008. The training was facilitated by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and supported by American RC. A tentative technical agreement was reached among the participants on building up a joint earthquake contingency plan between Palestine RC and MDA.



The National Societies of Palestine, Jordan and Israel were present at the earthquake preparedness training held in August in Ankara, Turkey.

Training of trainers (ToT)

As part of the strategy to build up human resources of the National Societies in the MENA zone, a ToT was organized in Amman focusing on developing local staff's capacities to conduct country level contingency planning, DRR planning and positive group dynamics in trainings. 17 staff and volunteers were trained as high level trainers and the participants developed a plan of action for each National Society. The training was in many ways groundbreaking since it was held by trainers from the region; namely Qatar, Syria and Morocco.

Water and sanitation equipment training

At the Morocco disaster management network meeting, the participants decided that there was a need to equip the MENA region with two water and sanitation kits for small to medium scale disaster response operations and organize a specialized training for the National Societies. The two kits arrived in Jordan and with support of the Belgian RC, the MENA zone organized a specialized practical training for nine National Societies in the region in December. The training was facilitated by the water and sanitation department in Geneva, a trainer from Austrian Red Cross, MENA disaster management department, and regional trainers. As a result of this training, a small technical MENA water and sanitation group was established and a plan of action for deployment of the equipment in disaster response operations was developed. A MENA water and sanitation focal point will be recruited to build a regional water and sanitation programme portfolio.

VCA trainings

The zone organised branch level trainings in Dair Elzour (Syria) and Tripoli (Libya) to train staff and volunteers in VCA and to subsequently identify micro projects at community levels. This initiative also lead to an increased participation of targeted communities in building up local DRR plans. Both trainings were supported by the MENA zone disaster management coordinator while the training in Syria was co-facilitated by the DRR working group members of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Libya training by the Algerian Red Crescent coordinator and a member of Syrian Arab RC. As a result of these trainings, there is a roster of VCA trainers that the zone can depend on to support new DRR initiatives in other National Societies.

Contingency planning

The MENA zone supported the Jordan RC and the Palestine RC in the development of their contingency plans. Jordan RC printed and disseminated its contingency plan to all National Societies in the region, as well as to the Higher Council of Civil Defence in Jordan.

DRR

MENA zone took several advanced steps to build a DRR programme with selected National Societies and international partners. New partnerships were developed with the WB as concept papers were submitted to the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) for funding for Iran, Yemen and Jordan. In corporation with the UNISDR, the Iranian RC and the International Federation worked with

the WB and Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) to get new funding to implement the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) project in the provinces of Hamedan, Kermanshah and Lorestan. After integrating all comments from the WB into the proposal, the final revised proposal and budget was sent to the WB in May and several meetings and regular talks were held with representatives of the WB, Japanese embassy and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop the proposal focused on undertaking the DRR activities in Iran.

The zone, along with UNISDR, organized the first DRR platform for community based organisations in Cairo bringing together civil society members from West Asia and the MENA region to develop a preliminary draft plan for joint action. Syria and Morocco RC Societies were further selected to be the first two countries to join the International Federation's Global Alliance for DRR which will be officially launched in early 2009.

Al-Mashriq road safety programme

Five National Societies participated in the Doha road safety workshop organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). The Qatar Red Crescent disaster management coordinator represented the International Federation at this workshop by presenting the zone approaches on road safety as an integral part of DRR. As a result of the workshop, a MENA plan of action and an agreement with the global road safety programme (GRSP) was signed by the International Federation to launch a road safety programme at the zonal level through the appointment of a road safety focal point.

Support to disaster response operations

In 2008, Algeria, Yemen, and Morocco were hit with floods and Egypt with rockslides. The end of the year also coincided with the start of the Gaza conflict. For the more local disasters, the MENA zone response varied from providing technical response through the deployment of a field assessment and coordination team (FACT) to support in developing disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) supported disaster response operations and Emergency Appeals to ensure financial support for the National Societies.

In response to the floods in Yemen, the International Federation mobilised regional resources to incorporate into the FACT, including the regional disaster management coordinator from Amman, and logistics delegates from the Lebanon and Jordan representations. With the National Society's request, the International Federation also established contact with representatives such as the Yemen ambassadors in Geneva and Amman.



During the Gaza conflict, the Rafah crossing point was equipped with ambulances in order to facilitate the entry of medical supplies and the transportation of wounded people from Gaza to Egypt.

Related to the Gaza conflict, the International Federation took the lead in providing support to the Egyptian Red Crescent. The focus particularly concentrated on the Rafah crossing point in order to facilitate the entry of medical supplies and the transportation of wounded people from Gaza to Egypt. This lead role was agreed through a coordination committee including high level representatives of the Egyptian RC, the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition, two coordination meetings were held under the Emergency Committee for the Coordination of Assistance to Gaza (ECCA), composed of the UN agencies², the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the RC/RC Movement

² The UN agencies in ECCA were OCHA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and the World Food Programme (WFP).

components (Palestine RC, the International Federation and the ICRC). The International Federation also supported the Egyptian RC in updating its contingency planning. Additional support was provided through the International Federation's zone office by the head of zone, coordinators of disaster management, health and care and psycho social support, and logisticians from Jordan and Lebanon representations.

Disaster Preparedness - Iran

The Iranian RC implemented the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) project to better prepare and enable the disaster-prone communities for future potential disasters in Kerman province and its neighbouring areas. Disaster prone communities of Khanuk in Zarand City, Dashtkar in Bardsir City, Sirch in Shahdad City and Esfikan in Bam City were selected after a joint assessment by the National Society and the International Federation. The CBDP central committees formed in December 2007 recruited and formed relief and rescue teams in the communities in 2008. Four induction training workshops were organised in all four communities in February, March, April and June 2008 respectively. In addition, two training workshops on community based disaster management for Iranian RC youth members were organised in Tehran in July.

Constraints or Challenges

The development of a database for specialized disaster management personal needs more efforts from the disaster management coordinators of the National Societies. Most National Societies have their own contingency plan, which needs to be updated based on the International Federation's contingency planning guidelines which will need an advocacy role of the zone. In addition, cross border contingency planning will need more support from National Societies' leadership.

The integration and acceptance by the National Societies of the regional teams established under the disaster management strategy are crucial.

Health and Care

Outcomes/Expected results

- Health and care management planning is improved.
- Capacities of National Societies to meet community health needs as major civil society contributors to achieving country level Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are improved.
- Capacity of National Societies to focus on delivery of priority health needs is improved.
- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection and public awareness.
- Iranian RC has enough trained staff to provide psycho-social support to disaster victims.

Achievements

International colloquium on the recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors (VNRBD).

In coordination with the International Federation's health and care department (blood focal point) in Geneva, the Egyptian RC and WHO-Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), the MENA zone office organized the 11th international colloquium on the recruitment of VNRBD. The colloquium was held in Cairo, Egypt, during 12-18 January 2008. One of the short-term goals of the colloquium was to consolidate existing partnerships and establish new working relationships between those who are tasked with the recruitment and motivation of VNRBD. The longer term goal is related to partnerships in a much broader sense, and refers to partnerships for human development. The zone office prepared a database on the involvement of the MENA National Societies at all levels of blood service delivery.

Regional health and care network meeting



The regional health and care network meeting allowed the MENA National Societies meeting to assess the general health situation in the region and identify the prevailing major health priorities and operational challenges in the MENA zone.

Following the Iranian RC proposal in May for hosting the regional health and care meeting, health coordinators from some sister National Societies as well as the International Federation zone office got together in July to have a preparatory meeting in Amman. The actual network meeting held in October gathered health practitioners of ten sister RC/RC Societies from MENA, the International Federation secretariat and zone office as well as the ICRC representatives from the headquarters to review the health and care work in the region and to concur on the plan of action for health activities in 2009. The meeting was able to assess the general health situation in the region and identify the prevailing major health priorities and operational challenges in the MENA zone. The participants were able to draft the health and care strategic objectives of the zone for 2009-2010.

PSP

The regional programmes of the MENA zone maintained their focus on strengthening the operational capacities of the RC/RC Societies through the regional thematic networks in order to promote knowledge sharing, coordination and cooperation among the National Societies. Special emphasis was put on activating and developing the regional PSP network, which was able to organize two successful network meetings in Libya (April) and in Jordan (November). The meetings aimed at empowering the PSP of MENA National Societies and the main outcomes were the development of a MENA regional PSP model, establishment of a MENA regional PSP core team and the development of a MENA zone plan of action for PSP. The PSP focal points of National Societies received earmarked trainings to develop and improve their capacity to deliver quality psycho-social support services to the beneficiaries.

The capacity development shifted also towards country level support to National Societies, while maintaining its regional focus on priority and cross cutting issues. In collaboration with the National Societies in the region, psycho-social support trainings for volunteers was organized in Syria, Libya, Qatar and Jordan resulting in 134 volunteers being trained on psycho-social support in the MENA zone. The Iranian RC also sustained its PSP to meet the psycho-social needs of the people in Bam who were suffering from the stress caused by the slow recovery process and the existing unemployment rate. In total, 1,600 people (800 women and 800 men) benefited from the courses during the project ran by experienced facilitators.

Human Pandemic Preparedness

With the support of the International Federation and the USAID, the Egyptian RC launched a humanitarian pandemic preparedness (H2P) programme to develop a contingency plan, as well as a well-functioning network within the context of the national pandemic plan. This plan will be capable to support the community and household levels in order to minimize morbidity and mortality, massive social disruption, and related sufferings caused by a severe pandemic. These plans are specifically aimed at strengthening community resilience in the focal areas of public health, food security and livelihoods, as well as at strengthening the capacities and competencies of staff and volunteers of civil society organizations to carry out community level pandemic preparedness activities.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Societies in the MENA region are very strong in the provision of traditional health services. It is important to build on this approach and also focus on community based health services.

The adaptation of global programmes to the culture of the Middle East is a challenge; especially in topics such as HIV and AIDS.

Capacity Development

Outcomes/Expected results

- A shared vision and direction for the future is set in order to ensure that National Societies become reliable civil society partners.
- Planning, performance, and accountability are improved.
- Effective programmes and services are delivered.
- Resources in support of National Society and RC/RC Movement work are mobilised.
- Iranian RC and other relevant managers from Iranian government have better understanding of how to cooperate with the International Federation and ICRC.
- Iranian RC's capacity to effectively and efficiently train and render services to the vulnerable, especially breadwinners of families, is strengthened.
- Volunteer development is enhanced.
- Branch development is enhanced.
- Strategic planning and legal base is increased.
- Governance and management development is enhanced.

Achievements

In 2008, MENA zone office support to National Societies for organisational development, youth and Principles and Values activities was provided either by the respective country representatives or by consultants due to the delay of the recruitment of an organisational development coordinator.

The 3rd MENA youth networking meeting took place in Amman in July 2008. A plan of action was developed based on the discussions and recommendations of the National Societies in the region. The plan of action is expected to be verified by a more in depth study of youth and volunteer programmes in two-three National Societies with a proven track record in community service delivery through youth members.

In governance and management development, a presentation of the Movement to the newly elected leadership of governorates in Algerian RC was held in April. With regards to strategic planning and legal base, a one week workshop on project planning was conducted for Yemen RC in May by an external consultant.

In Yemen, a management review of Yemen RC was conducted by an external consultant in September 2008, drawing a complete picture of the National Society with its strengths and weaknesses. The recommendations were well received by the Yemen RC and will be implemented in 2009. In addition, the intensified capacity building (ICB) proposal for Yemen was approved and the implementation started in September 2008 focusing mainly on branch and volunteer development.

With the support of the Norwegian RC, a new strategy was developed by the Lebanese RC. The strategy focuses on community development and strengthening other key areas of work of the National Society including disaster management, social development and working with the community.

A study on the International Federation's organisational development role in the zone was conducted by an external consultant in September 2008 in order to give recommendations on what should be the zone approach and strategy for 2009-2010.

Throughout 2008, support was given to the OAs in Palestine and Yemen. The OA in Palestine became a model at the International Federation level. Tools were developed with the National Society to improve planning, budgeting and harmonisation of support to the National Society. All partners working with the Palestine RC benefited from the partner mapping tool developed by the International Federation representation as well as the technical coordination meetings.

A number of meetings related to the planning cycle for 2009-2010 were organised in the course of 2008. A meeting was held in Geneva in April to make sure the zone planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) focal points are acquainted with the new secretariat planning and resource mobilisation guidelines. Based on the information gathered, the guidelines were shared with the representations in MENA zone, in order for them to prepare their plans, budgets and resource mobilisation plans for the MENA planning meeting in June, which aimed to bring together the staff of the zone (20 people) and technical departments in Geneva (nine people) in order to discuss strategic issues and plans for 2009-2010. A final meeting within the zone team was conducted in August in order to finalise the set of documents needed. In November, the plans and budgets for Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, MENA zone (including Iran), and North Africa were launched on the International Federation's website.

MENA zone has contributed to the reference group aiming to review and revise the International Federation's guidance and training materials on project/programme cycle management. The revision is part of a process to look into the possibility of developing common guidance and training modules with the ICRC's Ecosec unit.

In terms of National Society capacity building, PMER tools used by the International Federation were shared with Qatar RC during a visit to Doha on 5-6 July. The aim of the meeting was to bring together the key staff of the Qatar RC and discuss the points the MENA zone can support the National Society in these technical areas.

Constraints or Challenges

Not all activities under the organisational development section of the zone plan for 2008 were implemented, due to the absence of a coordinator. With the recruitment of the coordinator, as well as the studies carried out by consultants and the organisational development strategy, in 2009, support will be given to National Societies in strategic planning, revision of statutes, volunteer and youth development, branch development, governance and management issues and Principles and Values mainstreaming. Having organisational development delegates in the International Federation's MENA structure will also be re-evaluated in accordance with the objectives and priorities for 2009-2010.

Field visits to National Societies, facilitation of networking and sharing of best practices through regional forums in organisational development and Principles and Values could help the National Societies understand each other and develop a more systematic and strong cooperation between themselves. Encouraging National Societies to apply for the ICB is also a way to address organisational development issues in a more holistic way to condition that the process is lead by the National Societies themselves. Leadership development should be one of the main focuses in the region as organisational development processes can be successful with support from the leadership. Strategic dialogue meetings will help initiating the discussions.

Humanitarian Values

Outcomes/Expected results

- Communications and advocacy for vulnerable and/or marginalized populations is improved.
- National Societies' information/communications capacities to strengthen the image of Movement and RC/RC brand, including humanitarian Principles and Values in the region, are increased.
- The role of National Societies in reducing discrimination and increasing respect for diversity including promotion of gender based initiatives is improved.
- Capacity to provide services to beneficiaries due to migration and displacement is improved.
- Capacity to effectively communicate, build brand recognition and mobilize resources is improved.
- Iranian RC staff members and volunteers are trained on humanitarian values and encouraged to disseminate the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law (IHL) within provinces.
- Iranian RC and International Federation's profile in Iran is strengthened resulting in further support and more familiarisation.

Achievements

One of the most significant programmes under the Humanitarian Values component in 2008 was related to the migration issue in North Africa. Migration related programmes were considerably increased in scale throughout the year - specifically in Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria - through partnerships with the EU and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and several migration platforms and networks. The North Africa regional representation - along with the International Federation Secretariat's migration team, the Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, and National Societies' leadership - gave support to the advocacy efforts undertaken by National Societies in relation to migration.

The International Federation's North Africa regional representation and MENA zone supported the National Societies to participate in International Federation meetings on migration such as the regional migration and gender conference held in February in Palermo, Italy, and the Africa inter parliamentary conference on migration held in Morocco in June 2008.

In addition, in 2008, two grants were provided by the EU/AENEAS³ (for Morocco Red Crescent to fight against racism and xenophobia) and by the EU/cooperation thematic programme on migration and asylum seekers (for the National Societies of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco). The North Africa regional representation supports North African RC Societies in addressing the humanitarian concerns generated by international migration through focusing on the importance of reducing intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion as well as to promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

The MENA zone was presented in the global communications forum held in Washington D.C. during 29 April-1 May 2008 through the National Societies of Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Qatar, and zone representatives. Approximately 60 National Societies across the globe were in the forum, along with external audience including PNSs, media outlets and international organisations.

In July and September, meetings with two significant Arabic media outlets - Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabia - were arranged to explore the possibility of trainings to be provided by the channels to the International Federation; to seek opportunities for the possibility of future collaboration regarding front line stories; and to discuss the possibility of seconding a counterpart from the channel to support the development of a media strategy for MENA zone. The importance of having news related to the activities of the International Federation broadcasted on the channels is high, taking into consideration the significance of them as a stakeholder in MENA in reaching the people of the region and the Arabic speaking audiences.

The MENA zone was present at two significant Movement meetings - held in September in United Arab Emirates and in November in Kingdom of Bahrain. The meetings aimed to explore the ways to work better as Movement partners in communications and media issues, and discuss the opportunities and challenges faced in the respective offices in communications.

With direct support from the MENA zone office and the International Federation's secretariat in Geneva, the Iranian RC formed a media team of six people to develop a Bam media tour plan in December. The media team from the National Society and the International Federation took a trip to Bam and filmed video footage on the performed activities and achievements of the RC/RC Movement. A DVD; a photo gallery for the International Federation's public website; a press release; two web stories for the International Federation, CNN, Spiegel and Iranian RC websites; and good quality photos and captions for the publications, brochures and other materials were prepared to mark the 5th year anniversary of this devastating earthquake.

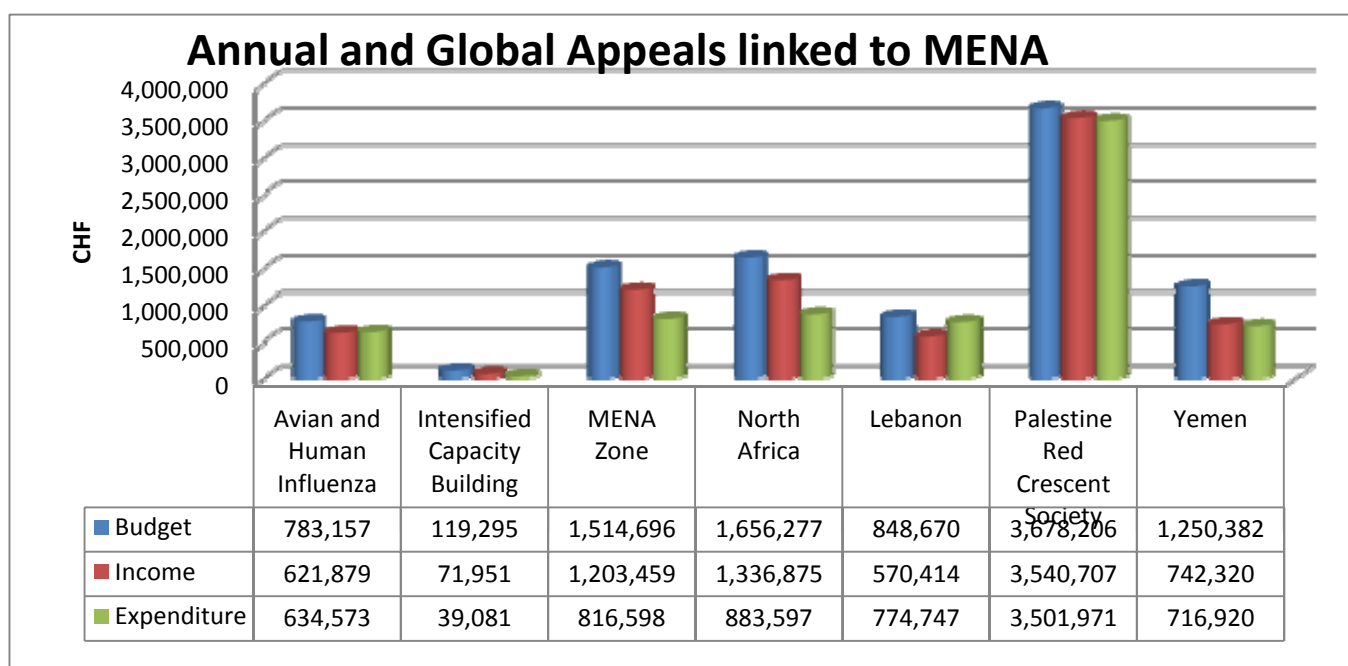
³ European Union/financial and technical assistance to third countries in the field of migration and asylum

Constraints or Challenges

The zone has not had the necessary staffing support to ensure a more ambitious agenda. It is planned to put a larger regional effort into better defining the strategy for Principles and Values. The zone will organize a region wide Principles and Values conference in 2009 to address the specific focus and strategy for a better foundation of work in the MENA context.

Financial Overview

Annual and Global Appeals linked to MENA



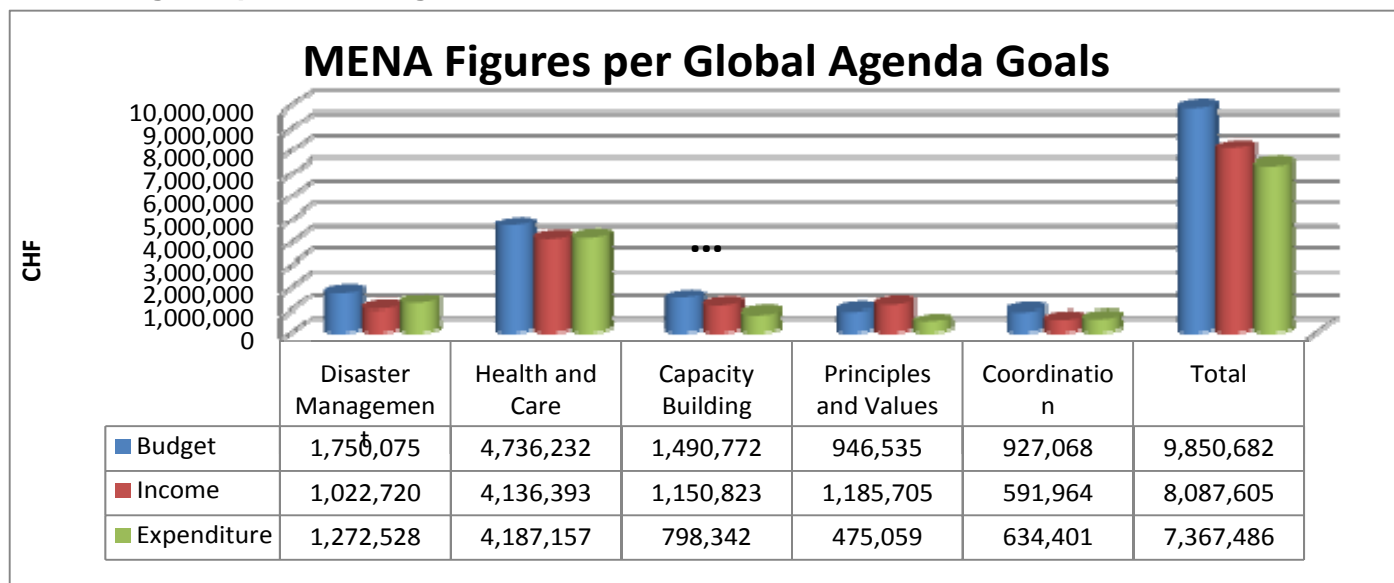
The above table includes expenses related to Annual and Global Appeals linked to the MENA region. The figures include only the income received in 2008. Overall, it can be observed that the Appeal budgets received in 2008 are around CHF 8,087,605 - corresponding to 82% of the budgets (CHF 9,850,682). 91% (CHF 7,367,486) of the received income was spent and the remaining funds will be carried forward into 2009 in accordance with the individual pledge requirements.

Avian and human influenza expenses were related to North Africa countries; namely Egypt, Tunis and Morocco. The North Africa Appeal (MAA82001) spent all the earmarked funding for 2008. There is a balance to be carried forward into 2009 related to late arrival of funds and pledges being received in November and December 2008 but earmarked for 2009.

On country basis, Yemen spent 96% of the received income, Palestine spent 99% per cent, and Lebanon spent more than the amount received in 2008 by using funds carried from 2007.

The Middle East (MAA81001) and Israel (MAAIL001) Appeals were integrated into the MENA zone Appeal (MAA80003) and the remaining funds from 2007 were fully spent in 2008.

MENA figures per Global Agenda Goals



The main difference between income and expenditures was under Goal no.4 - Principles and Values. This was related to the income received from European Union in December 2008, but mostly earmarked for 2009. The unspent organisational development funds are also related to cross-year earmarked pledges to be partially spent in 2009.

As can be seen in the above chart, workshops and trainings represent 33% of the total expenses and personnel costs represent 35%. This expense distribution clearly indicates the zone's coordination and facilitation role. For the zone office programmes, the unspent funds are enough to implement the initial activities planned for 2009 although further funding will be sought in line with the 2009-2010 plans.

For Iran programmes, all funding available for the organisational development programme was spent, while disaster preparedness and coordination programmes will have enough funds to carry on their planned activities for 2009.

Working in partnership

The MENA zone has been active in supporting the OAs in Yemen and Palestine where innovative approaches to better working together under a framework of joint planning and pooled resources has led to increased quality plans and more effective implementation.

In the area of DRR, the zone has co-launched a regional initiative with the UNISDR, aiming at scaling up risk reduction activities of community based organizations in the region. Similarly, the MENA zone has brokered new funding partnership with the WB Global Facility for DRR and the JSDF aiming at establishing a long term relationship with two leading organizations in community based risk management.

Partnerships with UN agencies and inter-governmental agencies have been developed throughout 2008. High level coordination meetings including chief executive officers or heads of regional offices of UN agencies were held with regards to the Gaza conflict. The MENA zone was also present in high level WHO ministerial meetings and the meetings of the foreign ministers of neighbouring countries to Iraq.

Contributing to longer-term impact

A core zonal issue to ensuring higher impact is initiating focus on and raising of adequate resources for a longer term excellence programming which allows continuous support of the technical cadres in the National Societies while building a larger base of highly skilled professionals, brokering strategic partnerships around programme initiatives and introducing creative incentives on all levels to guarantee increased programme impact.

The zone's largest contribution to programme impact will be by facilitating a clear path for excellence which is based on a strong authoritative support by the regional National Society leaders and collectively defined in the annual policy dialogue meetings. Donors must come together and support this critical zonal initiative more strategically and the zone has to invest in the champions of excellence, National Society technical directors, branch directors and volunteer leaders in new and creative ways, ensuring long term excitement and incentives to implement the plans of action where it counts most: local communities.

Looking ahead

Up to the end of 2008, the location of the zone office is not clear; affecting recruitment of staff. This reality is challenging for the zonal team to function on its highest level and to its stated ambitions. Despite this unfortunate start into a new structure for the MENA region, the zone was able to make significant inroads with the National Societies' leadership and with the technical directors and has been able to establish the necessary relationships to further a larger collective vision of technical and operational excellence. The resources in the region and in National Societies are there to greatly increase programme quality and scale. The zone management is confident that in 2009 it will continue to see significant changes in working towards a collective vision, increased programme quality and additional resources.

How we work	
<i>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 (Sphere) in delivering quality and accountable 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</i>	
The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".	Global Agenda Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
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