

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

North Africa

MAA82001

30 November 2010

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.



In April 2009, a community based health and first aid event brought together the societies of North Africa.
IFRC

In brief

Programme summary: The regional representation continued supporting the five Red Crescent Societies of North Africa, guided by the plan for 2009-2010. Addressing the migration issue through the programme supported by the European Commission, Europe Aid is by far the largest project both in terms of financial support as well as its multi-year aspect that the representation is managing. The expectation is that, in addition to bringing benefit to the communities it addresses and the vulnerable people it will reach, it will also contribute significantly to better planning and follow up through monitoring and evaluations.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 2,137,435, revised from the original CHF 2,151,333 (USD 2,032,447 or EUR 1,461,056), of which CHF 879,517 (41 per cent) covered (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 865,243 of the budget.

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

No. of people we have reached: The North Africa representation supports five National Societies and much of its work is institutional strengthening, targeting the staff and volunteers that in turn will reach the communities through the knowledge gained and better service delivery. Except for specific response to emergencies (not reported under this programme update), identifying the indirect beneficiaries at country level remains a challenge.

Our partners: The North African National Societies benefit from solid partnerships with their ministries of health, interior/civil defence, education and solidarity, but are also well connected to local thematic and regional networks including the Arab Secretariat of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, PanAfrican Group, and Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, as well as the MENA reference and thematic working groups (disaster management, disaster risk reduction, pandemic

preparedness, psycho-social support, and community based health and first aid) contributing effectively to the strategic dialogue initiated in 2008 by the MENA zone.

Good relations and collaboration is maintained with the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), etc. – as well as with the European Union (large Principles and Values programmes in four countries). Increasingly, the National Societies are also looking at new types of partnerships with the private sector (oil companies, Coca-Cola, and food companies).

On bilateral basis, both French Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross are present in Algeria and in Morocco. The National Societies from the Gulf (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia) are also increasingly supporting at time of disasters. Good cooperation is maintained with the regional ICRC Delegation based in Tunis and the three country offices in Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

European Commission and Europe Aid, Norwegian government and Norwegian Red Cross, Department for International Development (DfID) and New York Office have been the main contributors to the plan during the reporting period.

Context

Sharp price rises on imported foodstuffs brought an outburst of social and economic discontent to the region. Higher incidences of poverty and malnutrition have been noted in addition to disruptions, and health systems are struggling to cope. As this touches the constituency of the Red Crescent Societies, monitoring these effects and approaches to responding have been set in place.

Challenges are observably growing from environmental stresses, and 2009 has seen flooding, cold waves and other weather-related incidents. Exacerbated by population pressures from high birth rates and urban growth, pollution and climate change future, and even present security and stability of the region is at stake. While not as pressing as other parts of the wider Middle East and North Africa zone, water scarcity could soon become an increasing reality for people.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Achievements against the planned outcomes:

- The flood preparedness initiatives, supported by the funding of the Norwegian government channelled through the Red Cross, were held in September. Both the Algerian and Tunisian Red Crescent Societies took part to reinforce and build upon the experiences they were going through at that time with severe seasonal flooding in the border area between the two countries. This called for both societies to mount operations to assist those affected. As reported in programme update 1, the National Societies of North Africa had need to put into practice much of the contingency planning that had been built into this regional plan, and results had a positive impact of disaster affected populations.
- The annual safe summer programme ran in July with the Libyan, Algerian, Tunisian Red Crescent Societies, supported by UNHCR, reinforcing messages to their communities on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its values. Materials and equipment that could be used by volunteers for each society were produced, and a focus on road safety which is a notoriously high killer across the region blighting many lives not just of those involved but their families too.

- In line with the approach of the regional representation to support National Societies to raise their standards to international standards, a regional SPHERE workshop in November brought practitioners together to build up awareness and integrate into programmes and operations.
- A simulation exercise held in Libya gave the National Societies of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia the chance to apply theory to practice.

Constraints or Challenges

- Funding for the plan in this area ran to 22 per cent, meaning priorities had to be set from among the components planned. Criteria for doing this endeavoured to be those activities that would naturally lead to others if and when further funding materialized, the most urgent of priorities for the National Societies or the donors.
- Weather-related disasters led to National Societies mounting emergency operations, partly supported through the International Federation's DREF, notably in the earlier months of the year. This inevitably placed a strain on staff and volunteer resources and checked progress in other avenues.

Health and Care

Achievements against the planned outcomes:

Programme update 1 covering the first half of 2009 details much of the work that was done by the National Societies in the region towards the plan. Key activities in the remainder of the year were:

- the humanitarian pandemic preparedness (H2P) meeting in July
- the community based first aid event staged by the Tunisian Red Crescent in August
- First aid day for the Tunisian Red Crescent was held in September, again supported by DfID
- a psycho-social support workshop in Egypt
- support was given to the Moroccan Red Crescent for marking HIV day.

Constraints or Challenges

- Several of the outcomes achieved under the health programme were booked financially under disaster management, reflecting the strong links that exist and are encouraged between these two programmes.

Organizational Development

Achievements against the planned outcomes:

- The organizational development programme was well supported by donors in 2009, thanks also to a large carry forward from 2008. The Algerian Red Crescent held a youth workshop supported by the Norwegian Red Cross that prepared the youth for their roles in delivering services within communities and acting as agents for change. More details are in programme update 1.

Working in partnership

All National Societies in the region have long term established partnerships with their respective governments and local partners support their work with the most vulnerable groups of society.

Several partner National Societies are also working bilaterally supporting various programmes and activities. The Norwegian Red Cross and the United Kingdom's department for international development (DfID) have been the main supporters of the North Africa regional plan in the areas of disaster management, health and social services and contributing to the National Societies developing themselves.

In 2009 an important initiative with the European Union is addressing the migration issue in the North Africa region through programmes that the National Societies engage with the communities that are

affected. This is by far the largest project both in terms of financial support as well as its multi-year aspect, and it will be interesting to monitor its effects into future, with the expectation it will contribute significantly to better planning.

The pandemic preparedness programme, approved earlier in the year for Morocco (CHF 350,000) supported by DfID through the Geneva secretariat global programme. Several other funding components were approved for H1N1 projects in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. Moroccan Red Crescent has been accepted in the disaster risk reduction Global Alliance and a UNHCR project was signed for the cross border programme in Tunisia, Libya and Algeria.

The regional representation also supported the twinning programme established between the societies of Libya and Tunisia in six branches focusing on thematic approaches like road safety, HIV and youth.

Looking ahead

The achievements of 2009 will be the basis for building up and developing the disaster management network and following up on disaster risk reduction roles. The disaster management programming approach will continue to be further integrated with health related issues, increasing the participation of communities with sustainable community-based projects. Introducing disaster management response tools to National Societies, especially the field school and national intervention teams, will also take a leading priority. Contingency planning workshops, a core outcome of this regional plan, will reinforce the relationships with governmental agencies and NGOs that have been forged; the value will again be seen when disaster strikes and the societies mount operations together with their partners.

In organizational development, devising and modifying tools and resources that National Societies can use will be put to the fore, along with the standard work of enhancing internal policies, systems and procedures. Funding support for the organisational development programme is required to help National Societies' leadership and management to promote and strengthen peer to peer support within the region.

Following the Solferino events, North African youth departments have committed to debrief their respective units on the youth as agents of behavioural change (YABC) concept and to train peer educators to test the YABC techniques. A delegate has joined the regional representation to work with and support National Societies in these efforts.

<p>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
<p>Contact information</p> <p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact: (text in Arial 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Algeria: Dr. Hadj Hamou Benzeguir, President, Algerian Red Crescent Society, Algiers; phone: + 213 21 633 155; fax: + 213 21 633 690; email: president@cra-dz.org 	

- In Egypt: Prof Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent Society, Cairo; phone: +20 22 6703979; fax: +20 22 6703967; email: erc@egyptianrc.org
- In Libya: Dr. Solayman Eleghmary, Secretary General, Libyan Red Crescent Society, Benghazi; phone: + 218 61 909 52 02; fax: + 218 909 58 29; email: libyan_redcrescent@libyamail.net
- In Morocco: M. Abdeslam Makroumy, Director General, Moroccan Red Crescent Society, Rabat; phone: + 212 37 650 898; fax + 212 37 65 32 80; email: crm@menara.ma
- In Tunisia: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Secretary General, Tunisian Red Crescent Society, Tunis; phone: + 216 71 325372; fax: + 216 71 320151; email: hilal.ahmar@planet.tn
- In North Africa Regional Office: Anne LeClerc, Head of North Africa Office, Tunis; phone: + 216 71 862485; fax: + 216 71 862971; email: ae.leclerc@ifrc.org
- In MENA Zone: Mr.Tenna Mengistu, Adviser, policy, strategy and planning, Amman; phone: +962 6 797002035; and fax: + 962 6 5694556; email: tenna.mengistu@ifrc.org.
- In Geneva: Carmen Corminboeuf, Officer, Zonal Fundraising Support, phone: +41 22 730 4278; fax: +4122 730 0395; email: carmen.corminboeuf@ifrc.org.