

# OPERATIONS 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

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**Appeal No. MDR81001  
20 December 2006**

*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Operations Update no. 6; Period covered: 11 October to 30 November, 2006**

**Revised Appeal target: CHF 5,036,998 (USD 4,075,135 or EUR 3,190,770).**

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

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary emergency appeal launched on 21 July 2006 for CHF 1,329,000 (USD 1,000,000 or EUR 846,000) for three months to assist 50,000 beneficiaries.
- The appeal and budget were revised on 11 August, 2006 (budget increased to CHF 5,036,998) for three months to assist 65,000 beneficiaries. Final Report is therefore due on 11 February 2007.

#### Operational Summary:

During this reporting period, the operation focused on reimbursing the cost of food and non-food items, replenishing stocks and capacity building in disaster preparedness and contingency planning for the National Societies in the affected countries to ensure improved response to future emergencies.

Substantial coverage of the appeal was ensured through relevant and timely in-kind donations by National Societies of neighbouring countries. Taking this into consideration, appeal coverage stands at 99.2 percent.

The operation is a little behind schedule in terms of implementing planned activities. This especially applies to the procurement of ambulances and capital items such as First Aid post tents and generators for Lebanon, which will not be finalized within the time frame of this emergency appeal, which is 31st December 2006.

The balance by close of November is still large. However, a substantial amount from Syria will be booked in December once procurement procedures for the four remaining items- 500 liter capacity water tanks, hygiene parcels, latrines and showers- are complete. With the reimbursement from Cyprus, the overall balance of the appeal will be reduced, but still a substantial amount will remain in Lebanon project and in Israel and Egypt, implementation of the planned activities will take place in early 2007.

In view of the above, the Federation would like to request an extension of emergency appeal MDR81001 to 31 March 2007. The three months extension will allow planned activities to be completed and reports finalized.

The Federation expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors who have supported this humanitarian operation. The generous response to the Federation's appeal allowed not only meeting the emergency requirements of the affected population in Lebanon and neighbouring countries, but also to invest in consolidation and enhancing the preparedness and response capacity of the National Societies which have been directly involved.

**The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission. The Global Agenda Goals:**

- 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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*All International 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.*

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Background and operational developments

More than three months have passed since the cease-fire, but a politically unstable climate in the region persists. The situation demands the National Societies continue to keep a high level of preparedness.

The political environment in Lebanon is becoming increasingly tense and unstable. The failure to reach consensus on a government of national unity through national dialogue led to the resignation of six ministers from the government, mainly from Hezbollah and Amal. These resignations fuelled the already tense situation amid calls from the opposition for street demonstrations to bring down the Government. The opposition led by Hezbollah put their threat into action and the demonstrations and sit in started on 1st December.

The assassination of the Minister of Industry and Member of Parliament, Pierre Gemayel, on 21 November had delayed street demonstrations. With this assassination the government had lost a third of its members and became unconstitutional, but was saved by Minister Hassan El Sabeh withdrawing the resignation he had offered 10 months ago, after the attacks against the Danish embassy in Beirut.

The political instability is promoting a general feeling of insecurity among the population, and continues to increase the damage to a very fragile economy. The most affected communities by this economic crisis are those worst affected by the conflict, like farmers, owners of small family businesses and the homeless/displaced people.

With the starting of the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase, the Lebanese Red Cross returned gradually to its normal routine with focus on developing its strategy, logistics services and Disaster Preparedness plan to better respond in case of increased tensions or conflicts. This process is taking more time than expected because of the fragile constituency of the Lebanese Red Cross, newly elected board members and fragile situation in the country.

The Lebanese Red Cross developed a plan of action for 2007. The plan focuses on areas that are crucial for improved performance, including Disaster Preparedness, Organizational development (legal base reform, planning and communication) and logistics service. The plan will be discussed with the Governance of the National Society.

In Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC) focused on finishing the building of its new headquarters. The utilities are being installed, with a move expected by end of December or early January. The new headquarters is situated on the northern outskirts of Damascus close to its warehouse.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presented its Real Time Review of its response to the emergency in Lebanon and Syria. The review gave reference to the After Action Review of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Federation noting similar problems in communication and coordination within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Syria and Lebanon. It recommended steps to be taken to improve knowledge sharing and communication between the UNCT and partners in the two countries. A separate review was also conducted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact**

**Goal: The suffering of the people fleeing the armed conflict in Lebanon and those crossing to neighboring countries has been alleviated.**

### **Objective 1: Health and care**

**The health situation of the targeted beneficiaries is maintained at satisfactory level within the emergency period of three months.**

#### **Progress/achievements**

##### Lebanese Red Cross

- With support from the Danish Red Cross and the Federation, the Lebanese Red Cross organized a two day training on Psychological Support debriefing techniques.
- With the support of the Federation, the Psychological Support Programme (PSP) organized debriefing sessions for over 150 volunteers who worked in the front lines and with internally displaced people during the conflict.
- More than 250 volunteers were trained on organizing activities for and with children affected by the war. The trained volunteers reached out to local communities in the most affected areas and organized activities for children. More than 500 children participated in those activities.
- The Federation PSP coordinator is providing continuous individual counseling interventions for more than 15 persons affected by the war.
- Offers have been received to develop blood donor and stock database for Lebanese Red Cross blood banks.

##### Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

The tendering for procurement and purchase of 1,000 hygiene kits under this Emergency appeal was completed. SARC has submitted supporting documentation to the Federation to cover reimbursement for the balance of 5,000 kits included in the appeal, and this is expected to be approved following the visit of the Amman Regional Office-Finance Officer to Damascus on 26 November, with purchases of the contingency stock completed by mid December.

Red Cross on Cyprus and Egyptian Red Crescent: No further activities during the reporting period.

### **Objective 2: Water and sanitation**

**The water and sanitation situation of the targeted population in the countries neighbouring Lebanon is maintained at satisfactory level within the emergency period of three months.**

#### **Progress/achievements**

Lebanese RC, Red Cross on Cyprus and Egypt RC: No activities

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC): Requests for quotations to supply 150 showers, 150 latrines and 100 water tanks (500L) as contingency stock were received, and purchases will be completed by the end of December.

### **Objective 3: Emergency relief (food and non-food)**

**Displaced persons/evacuees and host families, in countries surrounding Lebanon have access to adequate shelter, food and other appropriate emergency support services.**

### **Progress/achievements**

#### Lebanese Red Cross

- A 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> warehouse was rented with the support of the ICRC and the Federation. The Lebanese RC started the process of moving its stock which is dispersed on tens of small storage areas all over Beirut.
- The development of the warehouse and stock management procedures is on-going by adapting Federation procedures to fit within the Lebanese RC context.
- Four vehicles (4\*4) have been purchased to increase the capacity of the Lebanese RC fleet.
- The purchase of minibuses is in process to be finalized by December.

#### Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

- Financial reports were submitted for reimbursement of costs of food and non-food items (NFI) to SARC branches. Requests for quotations have already been sent and received for the balance of NFI emergency stock, with purchases expected to be completed by mid December, once transfer of funding is confirmed.
- Restocking for disaster preparedness, including provision of support to volunteers is in process. A contract has been signed for the manufacture of 1,000 uniforms and 700 vests for SARC volunteers, and production is underway, with delivery expected by 20 December.
- Mini-buses for SARC's National Intervention Team (NIT) support have been ordered locally, following standard procedures and in consultation with the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Dubai, with delivery expected early 2007.
- Quotations have been accepted for the provision of the additional Operations Room (mobile caravan) which is expected to be delivered by 10 December. Through funding made available under the Emergency Appeal, SARC has already procured one mobile Operations Room, parked at the new Headquarters.
- A 1 x 30 KVA generator is in use at the Headquarters, with the balance 4 units (5 KVA) for the warehouses expected to be delivered early December, along with computer software for the regional warehouses. This will be complemented by the provision of four desk top computers for the SARC regional warehouses as part of ICRC Cooperation budget.

Red Cross on Cyprus: Technical assistance from the Finance Officer from the Federation Regional Office in Amman was provided to the Red Cross on Cyprus in early December. Assistance focused on sorting out financial claims for re-imburement of the cost of food and non-food items, as well as logistical support and staffing costs resulting from the services provided by Red Cross on Cyprus to evacuees during the first two weeks of the crisis.

### **Objective 4: Shelter**

**Adequate shelter facilities are maintained for the targeted population for the emergency period of three months.**

**Progress/achievements:** No activities as there is no need after the displaced people returned home.

### **Objective 5: Capacity building**

**National societies in the region are better prepared to respond to man-made and natural (including epidemics) disasters.**

### **Progress/achievements**

#### Lebanese Red Cross

The generous funding response allowed the Federation and the Lebanese RC to look into upgrading the service delivery capacity of the National Society. The following activities reflect recent developments in this field:

- The Norwegian Red Cross, the Federation and Lebanese Red Cross organized several trainings to enhance the preparedness capacity of the Lebanese RC:
  - Three field (South, North and Beirut) and one central training sessions on fleet management with practical driving tests for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) drivers and logistics staff were conducted.
  - Three trainings on warehousing and building and disassembling Rub hall.
  - Three First Aid trainings for the EMS volunteers.
- The process of developing a basic information system to improve the fleet management in the National Society was started.
- The director of the logistics department and the Federation logistics assistant participated in the Regional Logistics Training workshop held in Tunis (19-24 November). The workshop was organized by the Federation Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai.
- Two offers were received from consultancy firms for the assessment of the Human Resources and Finance development in the Lebanese RC.
- A plan of action to develop the IT infrastructure has been developed.

#### Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

- With assistance from the Federation Representative, SARC prepared its presentation for the Resource and Capacity Building Working Group at the Asia Pacific Conference in Singapore, focusing on SARC's response to the crisis in Lebanon 13 July - 14 August. Three SARC representatives, including the President, participated in this conference.
- With technical and financial support from the British Red Cross, SARC organized and successfully concluded a four day Disaster Management workshop (31 October – 3 November).
- SARC will provide a facilitator and nominate three participants for the Regional SPHERE Training of Trainers workshop (4-12 December) to be organized by the Middle East Regional Office in Amman
- The Finance Development training workshop was held in Damascus (26-30 November). Finance staff from all 14 branches and Headquarters participated in the workshop. The Finance Officer from the Regional Office in Amman assisted in the implementation of this training.
- SARC has requested that the Organizational Development senior programme officer from the Regional Office to pay a working visit to Damascus (5-7 December) to help ensure that capacity building initiatives from the Movement partners provided harmonized and coordinated support to SARC develop its strategies.

Red Cross on Cyprus and Egyptian Red Crescent: No activities.

### **Objective 6: Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

**Support the National Societies to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations.**

#### **Progress/achievements**

##### Lebanese Red Cross:

- With the support of the Federation, the Lebanese RC issued its quarterly newsletter.
- A draft website map was developed for the Lebanese RC. A consultant was hired to assist in developing this website.

##### Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

The second SARC newsletter “Solidarity” was published in Arabic and English, with concluding remarks and stories on its response to the crisis in Lebanon. Copies were delivered or mailed to all partners, counterparts and stakeholders who assisted in the response to this emergency.

SARC Headquarters has circulated press briefings to the national news agencies on its work in response to the flood relief in the North East of Syria. The information was published on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) of the International Federation.

SARC made a photo-presentation on its activities at the Asia Pacific Conference in Singapore, in addition to presentation of its two Working Papers on Disaster Management and Resource and Capacity Building.

### **Capacity of the Federation and coordination**

Lebanese Red Cross: The Federation Office in Lebanon has increased its capacity to be able to support the Lebanese Red Cross particularly in support areas of relief systems, logistics, finance, planning, communication, IT development, volunteers' management and psychological support programme.

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC): The Federation provided technical assistance to SARC on procurement procedures, stock management, financial procedures and general logistics service. Assistance was also provided to ICRC in the implementation of its Cooperation Agreement with SARC Headquarters which focuses on strengthening SARC logistics capacities.

#### **For additional information about this operation, please click here to see appeal and operations updates:**

- DREF Bulletin, 19 July, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR81001.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR81001.pdf)
- Preliminary appeal, 21 July, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR81001p.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR81001p.pdf)
- Operations update 1, 27 July, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100101.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100101.pdf)
- Operations update 2, 3 Aug, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100102.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100102.pdf)
- Emergency appeal, revised, 11 Aug, 2006: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDR81001revised.pdf>
- Operations update 3, 23 Aug, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100103.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100103.pdf)
- Operations update 4, 22 Sept, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100104.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100104.pdf)
- Operations update 5, 18 Oct, 2006: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100105.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDR8100105.pdf)

*[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)*

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDR81001 - HUMANITARIAN CRISIS - MIDDLE EAST

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/7-2006/11
Budget Timeframe	2006/7-2006/12
Appeal	MDR81001
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
A. Budget		5'036'998				5'036'998
B. Opening Balance		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		593'750				593'750
Australia - Private Donors		1'385				1'385
Belarusian Red Cross		6'165				6'165
British Red Cross		143'618				143'618
Canada - Private Donors		2'169				2'169
Canadian Red Cross Society		1'109'387				1'109'387
Danish Red Cross		12'598				12'598
Finnish Red Cross		200				200
Germany - Private Donors		785				785
Japanese Red Cross Society		159'950				159'950
Luxembourg - Private Donors		198				198
New York Office		30'705				30'705
Norwegian Red Cross		289'350				289'350
On Line donations		65'325				65'325
Saudi Arabia - Private Donors		836				836
Switzerland - Private Donors		300				300
Ukrainian Red Cross Society		3'400				3'400
United States - Private Donors		88'380				88'380
C1. Cash contributions		2'508'501				2'508'501
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
OPEC Fund For International L		1'448'400				1'448'400
C2. Outstanding pledges (Reval		1'448'400				1'448'400
Inkind Personnel						
British Red Cross		30'033				30'033
Finnish Red Cross		2'934				2'934
C5. Inkind Personnel		32'967				32'967
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		3'989'868				3'989'868
D. Total Funding = B + C		3'989'868				3'989'868

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		3'989'868				3'989'868
E. Expenditure		-918'514				-918'514
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		3'071'354				3'071'354

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Interim financial report

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Reporting Timeframe	2006/7-2006/11
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**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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		5'036'998					5'036'998	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	86'500						86'500	
Clothing & textiles	556'100		63'654			63'654	492'446	
Food	1'017'470		192'020			192'020	825'450	
Water & Sanitation	6'865						6'865	
Medical & First Aid	16'346						16'346	
Utensils & Tools	440'450		534			534	439'916	
Other Supplies & Services	829'188		114'497			114'497	714'691	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>2'952'919</b>		<b>370'705</b>			<b>370'705</b>	<b>2'582'214</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles	559'800						559'800	
Computers & Telecom	212'250		21'284			21'284	190'966	
Office/Household Furniture & Eq	93'550		7'496			7'496	86'054	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipme</b>	<b>865'600</b>		<b>28'780</b>			<b>28'780</b>	<b>836'820</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	43'900		51'819			51'819	-7'919	
Distribution & Monitoring			13'702			13'702	-13'702	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	126'202		21'360			21'360	104'842	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>170'102</b>		<b>86'881</b>			<b>86'881</b>	<b>83'221</b>	
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Delegates Payroll	121'500		30'204			30'204	91'296	
Delegate Benefits	74'250		75'319			75'319	-1'069	
National Staff	106'320		34'199			34'199	72'121	
National Society Staff	78'246		38'850			38'850	39'396	
Consultants	55'000		20'646			20'646	34'354	
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>435'316</b>		<b>199'217</b>			<b>199'217</b>	<b>236'099</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	167'000		14'267			14'267	152'733	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>167'000</b>		<b>14'267</b>			<b>14'267</b>	<b>152'733</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	72'961		39'651			39'651	33'310	
Information & Public Relation	7'650		6'862			6'862	788	
Office Costs	16'679		21'962			21'962	-5'283	
Communications	21'266		9'670			9'670	11'596	
Financial Charges	100		551			551	-451	
Other General Expenses			972			972	-972	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>118'656</b>		<b>79'669</b>			<b>79'669</b>	<b>38'987</b>	
<b>Federation Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>								
Cash Transfers National Societi			13'584			13'584	-13'584	
<b>Total Federation Contributions &amp;</b>			<b>13'584</b>			<b>13'584</b>	<b>-13'584</b>	
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	327'405		59'564			59'564	267'841	
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>327'405</b>		<b>59'564</b>			<b>59'564</b>	<b>267'841</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions			65'847			65'847	-65'847	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>65'847</b>			<b>65'847</b>	<b>-65'847</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>5'036'998</b>		<b>918'514</b>			<b>918'514</b>	<b>4'118'483</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>4'118'483</b>			<b>4'118'483</b>		