

ANNUAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

NORTH AFRICA

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Overall analysis of the programme w

Year 2002 marks the third year of existence of the International Federation's regional office for North Africa. Based in Tunis it was set up three years ago to cover Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, because the Secretariat recognized the need to offer a broader spectrum of services and bring them closer to the National Societies of the region. According to the regional assistance strategy (RAS) the Federation was to assist the societies to build their capacities in an integrated way, focusing on two main areas: disaster preparedness and institutional and resource development.

If the focus during the first two years was on gathering information and building contacts and trust, the agenda of 2002 programme activities was quite full. The main achievements were in the domain of disaster preparedness/disaster management (DP/DM) as well as HIV/AIDS prevention training. The North African leaders met for a historical first joint planning meeting, and the future leaders' training continued in cooperation with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) gender network started activities, including a gender website for the region. Thanks to the multiple training and other events organized on regional basis the North African societies are now much more familiar with Federation policies and practices, and have acquired a positive regional identity enabling them to share experiences and knowledge.

The most important constraint was the capacity of the office itself, which since three years has consisted of one Federation's representative and one or two administrative staff, and has had to cope with persisting problems of covering core costs. During this period the national societies' interests and demands grew as they became more aware of their own needs and of the possibilities of the Federation's support. For this reason a decision was taken to strengthen the Tunis office as of early 2003, putting in place a team consisting of a head of delegation and two technical delegates, one for disaster management (DM) and one for organizational development (OD). With such a team the perspectives of supporting the North African societies look very encouraging.

Among major external factors were the most serious floods in a decade affecting Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. After several years of drought, flooding occurred during the winter months of 2001 in Algeria, and during 2002-2003 in Morocco and Tunisia. This prompted the societies to run disaster operations and also influenced their thinking regarding disaster preparedness (DP). The violence in Algeria has not subdued, and continues to claim victims and pose security risks. Hundreds of people, most of them civilians, were killed in acts of violence related to the confrontation between religious fundamentalist groups and the military.

The events of September 11th continue to influence life in the region. The economic consequences for the tourist industry in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt remain important, affecting employment and business. The impact on Tunisia was aggravated by the fatal explosion on Djerba island, known for its holy Jewish sites. The uncertainty that common people experience in face of a possible war with Iraq is coupled by the apprehension of governments regarding public reactions.

However, there are also more subtle constraints to building capacity, as eminently illustrated by a

recent study of the UN's Development Programme (UNDP) on the MENA region, carried out by a group of distinguished Arab scholars (Arab Human Development Report 2002, UNDP together with Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, June 2002). The report concludes that while significant progress was made in fields such as health, housing and education, there are important 'deficits' in three areas: freedom (including good governance), empowerment of women, and knowledge. The barrier to better performance is not necessarily a lack of resources but a "poverty of capabilities and poverty of opportunities" which undermines human development. It manifests itself in various ways, such as high illiteracy rates (especially among women), economic disparities, desire to emigrate (especially among young people), declining work productivity and low Internet connectivity. The report calls for investment "in Arab capabilities and knowledge, particularly those of Arab women, in good governance, and in strong cooperation between Arab nations." Translated into Red Cross/Red Crescent language this reaffirms the importance of capacity building, good governance, gender awareness and regional cooperation.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints w

Disaster Response w

At the time of writing the Appeal for 2002 there were no ongoing disaster operations in North Africa that would require outside assistance. In case of need the Federation's office in Tunis was prepared to respond in close cooperation with the Secretariat's disaster response and management unit and the regional delegation in Amman. This objective was achieved. In fact, such response was needed on three occasions during 2002. The flash floods that occurred in Algiers late in 2001 required ongoing operational support from the Federation during much of 2002; in February a train fire in Egypt killed 377 persons leaving many more injured and in need of assistance, and finally in late November flooding in Morocco killed 89 people and affected some 20,000 families, who were left either homeless or without food stocks and other belongings.

Algeria floods:

The Federation response to the devastating floods that took place in Algiers and surrounding areas in November 2001 killing more than 750 people involved a field assessment and coordination team (FACT) until end of that year. The follow-up during 2002 was assured by placing a project coordinator in Algeria to monitor distribution of remaining donations as well as to assist the Algerian Red Crescent in upgrading its disaster preparedness capacity. (Please refer to the Final Report from 27 January 2003 on the Emergency Appeal no. 35/2001 "Algeria: Storms and floods").

Egypt train accident:

Early morning on 20 February, fire swept through a crowded passenger train on its way from Cairo to Upper Egypt, carrying passengers home for the El Aid religious celebration. It was the worst train disaster in Egypt's history, with a death toll of 377 and more than 200 injured. The victims were mostly poor people living in villages along the Nile River. The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) was the first to arrive at the site of the disaster. It was actively involved in providing first aid to the victims, in ensuring their transport to hospitals as well as in helping families to identify their dead. Nine Red Crescent branches from along the Nile River mobilized hundreds of volunteers to provide food, blankets and clothing to the injured and to the families of the victims, as well as psychological support. The Federation released CHF 30,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to cover immediate needs, and the Federation's representative worked with the ERCS to produce two information bulletins and to assess needs for further support.

The ERCS decided to embark on a rehabilitation programme, in which priority is given to families who lost their breadwinners. The programme consists of income generating projects, financial assistance, vocational training and sustained psychological support. In view of important local contributions the ERCS decided not to launch an international appeal. (See Information Bulletins no. 1 of 21 February and no. 2 of 25 March 2002.)

Morocco floods:

Since 17 November Morocco was affected by heavy rains, which resulted in the worst flash floods in 30 years. Some 89 people were killed, most of them when their houses, built on riverbeds, were swept away by flood waters. The rains affected up to 100,000 people across the country, and some 20,000 needed immediate assistance. Hundreds of head of cattle were also lost, and damage to crops and infrastructure such as roads and railways was extensive. The most seriously affected provinces are Settat, Fez and Kenitra.

The Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) mobilized around 100 volunteers to help evacuate families, clean thick mud out of homes, and provide psychological support to people who lost relatives. Tents, blankets, tarpaulins and warm clothes were distributed to those made homeless.

The Federation immediately released CHF 40,000 from its DREF and its delegate, based in Algeria to support the ARCS after floods in that country, was made available as of 28 November to assist the Moroccan Red Crescent in needs assessment and in carrying out the operation. On 29 November an appeal was launched for CHF 580,000 to support the Moroccan Red Crescent in the provision of food, shelter and warm clothes to 5,000 families who lost all their belongings. The operation continued well into 2003 with support from the Federation's delegate and the Tunis regional office. (See Information Bulletin of 26 November, Appeal 32/2002 of 29 November, and Operations Update no. 1 of 10 December 2002).

Disaster Preparedness w

As described above, the North Africa region is vulnerable to various types of natural and man-made disasters, even if they may not occur frequently. Periods of drought (last in 1999-2001) alternate with flooding. Most recent floods took place in Morocco (2002, 1995), in Algeria (2001) and in Egypt (1994); earthquakes happened in Algeria (1994) and Egypt (1992). In addition, there is a risk of health disasters, technical disasters and mass accidents like fires (Egypt 2002) and road accidents, as well as disasters related to violence (Algeria and Djerba, Tunisia 2002) and declining socioeconomic conditions. The disaster programmes of the region's National Societies (NSs) need updating and strengthening, and their role in relation to the authorities needs to be clarified.

Objective 1: To adapt existing disaster preparedness strategies of National Societies through an integrated approach, focusing on local vulnerabilities as per Strategy 2010.

Achievements: In order to follow up the engagements made in the fall of 2001 by all five North African Societies to undertake a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) pilot project in their countries, a sub-regional training workshop was organized in Mehdiya, Morocco on 6-9 May 2002. The purpose was to train the persons responsible for VCA pilot projects in their National Societies on how to carry it out in practice. Each society sent two persons to the workshop: one from the national or headquarters level and one from the regional or local level. The programme was held in Arabic, facilitated by the Federation's staff from the regional delegation in Amman and Geneva's DP department. It consisted of clarifying the concept and explaining the process of VCA, emphasizing its participatory nature and the importance of working in partnerships with local authorities and other organizations. Initial planning for a VCA was done by each National Society's representatives.

While the workshop familiarized the NSs with a local level of DP and vulnerability assessment (objective 1) it also promoted cooperation with local and national authorities in view of identifying a proper role for the Red Crescent in each country's disaster preparedness plan (objective 2, see below). The training definitely raised awareness on both issues, but several NSs requested that individual national VCA workshops be organized. The first one to do so was the Moroccan Red Crescent. However, due to the flood operation in which the MRC was engaged from end of November onwards, this training event was moved to early February 2003. The experience of the flood operation greatly motivated and strengthened the MRC to engage more fully in DP/DM.

Constraints: Plans were developed with the Algerian RC supported by the Federation's project coordinator and the regional delegation in Amman. A VCA process was expected to take place in the whole country, carried out by the 48 *willaya* committees of the ARCS. A VCA workshop for project focal points and a training team was initially planned to take place in December, but due to the floods in Morocco and preparations on MENA level for an eventual crisis associated with Iraq, the technical personnel was not available. This will be followed up in 2003.

Objective 2: To strengthen each National Society's capacity to cope effectively with small, local disasters as well as with large national disasters, and to clarify its role in the country's overall preparedness plan.

Achievements: The existing operational capacities of National Societies and their ability to cope with established disaster patterns and future trends were studied in Algeria and Morocco during and in the aftermath of the respective flood operations. As the operation in Morocco continued into 2003, the follow-up will be done this year. Training in disaster management was organized on two occasions: in March in Cairo for the Sphere standards, inviting mainly North African Societies, and in Teheran in December, covering the whole MENA region. Both contributed to a better understanding of the need to identify the roles of NSs, governments, UN and other organizations in DP/DM.

In Algeria a Federation's delegate was in place to work with the ARCS on upgrading the society's disaster preparedness since early 2002. Together with the ARCS, a plan of action for DP was produced for the period of June 2002-December 2003. It follows the North African appeal 2002 priorities, and has two main components: 1) replenishing the ARCS emergency stocks throughout the country based on an assessment of needs by using the VCA-tool; and 2) ensuring good management of stocks by strengthening equipment and human resources. The equipment is destined for the two existing warehouses in Diar Saada and Shaiba, which will also be rehabilitated by improving ventilation and isolation. Stock management software is included as well as hiring of a stock manager. Furthermore, a generator will be purchased for the headquarters due to frequent electricity cuts, and English lessons offered to staff. So far, a first stock needs inventory was done, and some of the equipment purchased, but the VCA assessment is foreseen for 2003. A stock manager was hired and is undergoing training by the delegate.

The Sphere standards workshop, organized in Cairo, Egypt on 9-11 March, 2002, aimed at giving those responsible for emergency response in their respective societies an opportunity to discuss effectiveness of humanitarian response in their countries and in the region, and to get familiar with the Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response and the Humanitarian Charter. This was the first time such a workshop was organized in Arabic, using the newly translated Arabic version of the handbook. The workshop was facilitated by an Arabic speaking Sphere trainer, assisted by a staff on loan from the Syrian RC. The 21 participants, who were mostly staff members or volunteers responsible for disaster management, came from the Red Crescent Societies of Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco in North Africa as well as from Jordan and Palestine. The main outcome was an increased understanding of the importance of quality disaster response and of the need to act in a coordinated way in international operations.

Objective 3: To improve regional cooperation and coordination among the National Societies in the field of disaster preparedness and response.

Achievements: While regional cooperation plans in DP/DM do not yet exist among North African Societies (foreseen for 2003) the representatives of NSs met on different occasions for training and planning. Until recently there was very little communication and hence coordination between the technical people of North African NSs was low, but opportunities to meet contributed towards beginning a network of experts. The Sphere standard workshop organized in Cairo was a chance for those responsible for emergency response to start networking on a regional level, and this was further enhanced during the Teheran DM-workshop.

The disaster management workshop in Teheran, organized on 13-23 December, 2002, by the Amman RD together with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat's DM department, was important for the cooperation between the NSs of the whole MENA region. It also updated the societies on the Federation's procedures in situations of a major international crisis, including the use of FACT teams, ERUs and international personnel. This was the first time the MENA societies were invited to be part of regional intervention teams. The relevance of this training was accentuated by the growing tension in the region, with a possibility of a war within weeks or months. Two persons from each of the North African NSs participated in this training.

Due to recent flood operations in three neighbouring North African countries, Algeria (2001), Morocco (2002) and Tunisia (early 2003), it was suggested that common lessons be drawn and plans be produced based on these experiences. This will be followed up during a meeting of leaders of NSs in the first part of 2003.

Constraints: While the North Africa DP programme was part of the annual appeal in the past three years, activities were limited since some of the critical assumptions were met partially. These include availability of adequate human and financial resources for the Tunis office as well as National Societies' willingness to seek the Federation's support for DP-related activities along the lines of Strategy 2010. Due to the fact that, with the exception of Algeria, there was no technical person available to work with the North African Societies in disaster preparedness, progress in some areas, such as defining the roles of RC societies in their governments' plans, was modest. This should, however, be corrected in 2003, as a DM delegate will be assigned to the Tunis office.

Humanitarian Values w

The Appeal 2002 approach to humanitarian values was to link advocacy with health/youth activity, with an aim to reduce the risk of an HIV/AIDS epidemic in North Africa by addressing youth through public media. To this end a TV-spot competition on culturally appropriate messages on AIDS/HIV was planned. The programme had two objectives: to facilitate a debate about HIV/AIDS in the North-African socio-cultural context, and to contribute to behavioural changes by using culturally sensitive messages about abstinence, fidelity and methods of prevention.

This programme was not implemented due to the fact that the person central to executing the programme was no longer available. However, within the Health and Care programme (see below) many activities were launched by the National Societies promoting both debate and change of behaviour among youth regarding HIV/AIDS.

Health and Care w

The general goal of this programme for 2002 was to develop the health and social services of North African National Societies in line with the Federation's Strategy 2010, focusing on health and care in the community and on preventive aspects of health care thus enabling the societies to strengthen their activities on local levels. Furthermore, support towards social welfare activities, in particular in favour of disadvantaged women, was foreseen. These objectives were partly met. The first objective, promoting community level health activities, was not fully realized due to lack of human and financial resources. The second, focusing on Youth HIV/AIDS, is well on target, and the third related to social services was not implemented because of external factors.

Objective 1: To encourage and support National Societies to work on a community level in an integrated way, helping them to train volunteers in community-based first aid (including community-based water and sanitation), health education and disaster preparedness and response, with a view of improving knowledge of common health threats in local communities and ways to cope with them.

Achievements: Through the VCA training (see Disaster Preparedness above) the concept of working with local communities was promoted with all five societies. Furthermore, the Egyptian Red Crescent was provided support for its role in a polio eradication campaign in September-December 2002, when 900 volunteers were available to assist the authorities in visiting families in local communities, and the Tunisian Red Crescent was supported through the Empress Shôken Fund in acquiring an ambulance for the society's first-aid and social welfare activities. The Algerian Red Crescent participated in the work of the MENA Psychological Support Network.

Constraints: Limitation of technical expertise and funding. Some societies do not have a tradition of working with communities, hence more guidance and support is necessary to help them find their role in community level work.

Objective 2: To contribute towards prevention and stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS in North Africa by involving National Societies in this activity.

Achievements: Societies were encouraged and supported to start pilot projects in prevention of HIV/AIDS with young people, using the new Arabic translation of the Federation's training manual. They developed a clearer picture of HIV/AIDS situation in their countries and defined their own role together with respective authorities. Most are members of their national HIV/AIDS commissions. Critical to the success of this programme was the good cooperation with the Amman regional delegation's health delegate in organizing two youth HIV/AIDS peer education training of trainers (ToT) workshops, the first hosted by the Libyan Red Crescent in April and the second hosted by the Lebanese Red Cross in October 2002.

This programme started in June 2001, when representatives of the North African Societies met in Tunis and agreed there was a need for an HIV/AIDS programme in the region, and that the new Federation's HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) youth manual could be used, with some local adaptations, in the Arab-Muslim cultural context. Following visits to each society by the Tunis office's staff-on-loan in the autumn of 2001, all committed themselves to carrying out youth peer education pilot projects in their local branches. During a planning meeting in Benghazi, Libya, on 21-23 January 2002, representatives of the health and DP departments from Geneva, Amman RD and the Tunis office agreed to start training of trainers of NSs in order to prepare them to launch the programme.

The Libyan Red Crescent hosted the first HIV/AIDS youth ToT workshop at the society's headquarters in Benghazi on 21-25 April 2002. All five societies sent representatives. The training focused on the use of the Federation's HIV/AIDS and STD youth manual. The participants produced a preliminary plan of action for their societies/regional committees. A second ToT on youth HIV/AIDS was hosted by the Lebanese Red Cross on 30 September-6 October 2002. The LRC invited five young people from each of the three French speaking North African Societies, namely the Moroccan, the Algerian and the Tunisian Red Crescent Societies. The training was based on the LRC experience, and included practical exercises in organizing youth events and in making presentations. In addition, several representatives of the RC/RC were included among the participants to a seminar on HIV/AIDS, organized by the UNDP in collaboration with UNAIDS in Tunis on 9-13 December 2002. The organizers appreciated the role of the Red Crescent Societies in this activity. The Federation agreed to cooperate with the American University of Beirut (AUB) in a programme of incorporating reproductive health, sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention in youth programmes in the Arab region. From the North Africa region, the Moroccan and Algerian Red Crescents will benefit from this programme.

The ToT workshops and the UNDP seminar were crucial in spreading confidence and enthusiasm among the youth of the North African Societies, where HIV/AIDS remains a very sensitive issue. They helped to start a network among the youth of these societies.

Objective 3: To support programmes of National Societies in favor of disadvantaged women by monitoring implementation on behalf of participating national societies (PNS).

Constraints: This was mainly meant to support the Algerian Red Crescent's occupational training centres, which the Federation monitored in 2001 on behalf of the Netherlands Red Cross. However, Federation support towards this programme has not continued in 2002 mainly due to two reasons: the limited absorption capacity of the National Society, occupied with the aftermath of the flood operation, hence leaving projects started in 2001 uncompleted, and the interest of the French Red Cross to work on this programme in a bilateral manner with a delegate on the spot.

Organizational Development w

The overall goal of the organizational development (OD) programme is to build the capacities of the North African National Societies in line with the Strategy 2010 in order to achieve the characteristics of a well-functioning society by developing their organizational structures and by strengthening their human and financial resources, taking into account the gender perspective. Five specific objectives were established: 1) to assist NSs in producing goals, strategies and action plans; 2) to help them to acquire a solid financial base; 3) to organize leadership training; 4) to build capacities on local level; and 5) to promote gender issues (this in all of MENA region).

Organizational development was included in the annual appeals since 2000, initially under the heading of Institutional and Resource Development (ID/RD). It was seen as one of the main activities of the new Federation's office for North Africa, established in Tunis in early 2000. Funding came from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund and from the Finnish Red Cross, including a commitment of 3+1 years support from FINNIDA. This long-term perspective was crucial in developing the programme, which required both time and cultural sensitivity in the context of the North African tradition.

Constraints: While there are many reasons to be satisfied with the progress, certain constraints limited achievements in 2002. The two most important were the lack of human resources at the Tunis office and a certain caution with which the societies' leaders regard OD-work. With a technical delegate in place, more work could have been achieved especially on the local and regional levels where the societies have requested the Federation's support, and in financial resource development. This will hopefully be corrected in 2003, as the delegate position was advertised.

Objective 1: To assist each National Society in producing goals, strategies and action plans for its service programmes as well as its organizational development based on self-assessment of its capacities and needs.

Achievements: Minimal progress was made in this area. While all societies but one (Algerian RC) completed their self-assessment questionnaires, follow-up work was limited due to lack of human resources at the office in Tunis. In regards to strategic planning, only one society (Libyan RC) in the region produced a long-term strategic plan. The others operate based on project specific plans or in-country regional plans. Strategic planning and good governance were central topics at the North African leaders' meeting, held on 18-20 September in Tunis. (See below under section 8, Regional Cooperation). All societies were asked to define their priorities for action in relation to vulnerabilities in their countries. In this context the Federation's secretary general explained how the Secretariat in Geneva is carrying out its own change process. However, more work is needed to translate this into a planning process within each society. Strategic planning was introduced during the leadership course (see below, objective 3) as well as during technical training events on VCA and HIV/AIDS.

Constraints: A lesson learned is that commitment to the change process from National Society leaders is a prerequisite for successful OD work, and such commitment can only be obtained when the leaders see the need for change, feel comfortable with the process and are fully in control. This is when external experience external and OD tools, many of which rely on the best practices of the western industrialized world, can become useful, as they include a number of challenging elements

such as participatory approach, self-assessments, result-oriented planning, good governance, transparency, accountability, and delegation of authority.

Objective 2: To help National Societies to acquire a solid financial base for their activities by assisting them to set up a financial resources development programme.

Constraints: No progress was made to provide financial resource development of the societies. Several expressed an interest in this activity and consider it a priority. Technical expertise with the necessary language skills (French, Arabic) remains to be identified.

Objective 3: To support National Societies in developing future leadership by organizing training for new leaders on sub-regional level together with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

Achievements: This objective was met. A leadership course was organized by the Tunis office together with the Geneva OD department and the ICRC's Maghreb regional delegation, on 8-12 July 2002, in Tunis. A total of 16 participants came from the five North African Societies, three persons from each, as well as one from Mauritania (covered by the ICRC). The participants represented the societies' governance (eight) and management (seven); the headquarters (seven) and branches (nine); as well as gender (ten men, six women). The secretaries general from three societies along with two deputy SG were sent. In addition one person from the French Red Cross and one delegate from the Federation took part.

The course was a regionally adapted, one-week version of the ex-HDI courses, targeted for new NS leaders and giving an overview of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's strategies and priorities. It was conducted in French, Arabic and English. As the year before, the aim was to give a general introduction, but not to go into great depths concerning each item. While this was much appreciated one year ago, when many of the issues were quite new to the participants, a more in-depth working method could have been used in some cases. The main focus was on the capacity building of National Societies, which clearly continues to be a priority in North Africa, and many participants requested support in organizing similar training for regional and branch leaders in their societies. There was a general agreement of the value of exchanging experiences between National Societies of North Africa and taking into account their similarities and cultural specificities.

Objective 4: To help National Societies build capacities at the branch level by strengthening the infrastructure and training of volunteers and staff members.

Achievements: Work on local level disaster preparedness, especially VCA, and community-based health activities was promoted during all training events, including the leadership course. The Federation's representative participated in training the regional committee of the Tunisian RC on focal points of different programmes on a regular basis.

Constraints: Branch development has not advanced as foreseen due to lack of capacity of the Tunis office. This is identified as a priority by most societies. Plans were made in cooperation with the ICRC to produce training modules for regional committees of the National Societies, and this was included as a priority in the 2003 annual appeal. Depending on available funding and technical expertise, branch development could be started in early 2003.

Objective 5: To promote awareness of and implementation of the Federation's gender policy in the MENA region by supporting the gender network and by organizing training.

Achievements: Good progress was made in achieving this objective, but it will need close follow-up in 2003 in order to not to lose the momentum. The Federation's representative in Tunis acted as the support person for gender-related activities in the entire MENA region in 2002. This included support for the Iranian Red Crescent, designated as the focal point of the gender network by the 3rd MENA

Conference in May 2001, as well as participation in training on gender issues together with the Secretariat's OD department. It also recommended each NS designate its own gender focal point. Two major events took place during 2002 to promote these objectives: a meeting of MENA gender focal points on 25-29 May in Teheran, and a gender training workshop in Jesolo, Italy on 11-13 November.

The Teheran meeting included both basic training on gender issues (concepts and working methods) as well as planning for future cooperation. Focal points from eleven societies participated (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunis and Yemen), which represents about two thirds of all NS in the region and four out of five societies in North Africa. The meeting covered the following topics: concept of women and gender issues; gender as an issue related to running of an organization; gender as a programming issue; and regional networking. VCA and Sphere standards were presented as examples of gender sensitive disaster management, psychological support and HIV/AIDS were looked at from a gender perspective, and checklists on how to make project planning in a gender sensitive manner were reviewed. Regional networking to foster communication and knowledge sharing through a MENA gender website was discussed based on a proposal by the Iranian RC.

The meeting concluded by defining an operational framework for the MENA gender network. Its three objectives focus on: (1) upgrading knowledge and skills of women in MENA NSs; (2) considering the specific needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of women and men in RC/RC programmes; and (3) increasing involvement of women at all levels of RC/RC. All Societies were encouraged to develop a more specific gender plan of action, including timelines as well as a) revision of at least one of their current programmes from a gender perspective; b) data update on the participation of men and women in MENA NSs; and c) designation of a gender focal point if not yet assigned.

Organized by the OD department of the Secretariat, the Jesolo gender training workshop brought together gender focal points from different parts of the world to test run the new gender training CD-Rom of the Federation. Two representatives from the MENA region (Iranian Red Crescent and Lebanese Red Cross) participated together with the Federation's representative. The workshop provided an occasion for the MENA participants to share their experiences with people from other regions, and to reflect on how the gender issues can best be adapted to the specific culture and tradition of the MENA region. It was agreed that case studies are needed for the new version of the CD-Rom that reflect the MENA reality.

Among the issues that require close follow-up are: designation of gender focal points in all MENA societies with a clear mandate to work and to network on gender issues, development of national gender plans of action, and updating information in the gender data base. The gender website, to be launched early 2003 by the Iranian RC, needs support to make it operational, in particular in sharing of best practices.

Regional Cooperation w

There were no specific objectives in the 2002 annual Appeal under this heading, as it was considered most activities of the Federation's regional office in Tunis would enhance regional cooperation among the North African National Societies as well as with sister societies in the MENA region. This was accomplished and can be qualified as one of the major achievements of the Federation's Tunis office.

Coordination and Management w

The general goal of the Federation's regional office in Tunis, as stated in the Appeal 2002-2003, is to strengthen the cooperation of the five North African National Societies with the Federation's Secretariat, with their sister societies and among themselves; to coordinate and manage Federation's sub-regional programmes, thus enabling the societies to benefit from training, technical assistance and other capacity building measures, and to coordinate its activities with the regional delegation in

Amman and the ICRC's regional delegation for Maghreb. To achieve the above, five specific objectives were defined as follows:

Objective 1: To serve as a contact point between the North African National Societies and the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Achievements: Recognition by North African Societies of the relevance of the Federation's services is clearly manifested by the leaders as well as staff members and volunteers of the National Societies. There is an increased awareness at the Secretariat, including the RD in Amman, about the needs and capacities of the societies; and a decrease of delays and an improvement in quality in responding to Secretariat's initiatives or questionnaires can be observed (Partnerships in profile, Empress Shôken Fund applications, well prepared NS and self-assessment questionnaires). In three cases, societies were assisted in approaching their health authorities concerning applications for Global Fund for TB, Aids and Malaria (GFTAM). During two occasions (Egypt train fire, Morocco floods) information and a response to disaster situations was facilitated by the Federation's office.

Objective 2: To function and support the infrastructure in implementation of the Federation's regional assistance strategy in North Africa.

Achievements: This objective was partially achieved. Basic data on the five North African National Societies is now available, but still needs to be properly set up as a database and used in the planning of societies. As recommended at the leaders' meeting, a roster of local and regional consultants is being developed and should be operational in 2003. Revision of the Federation's regional assistance strategy has not taken place, and may not be necessary, as country level strategies (CAS) are to be produced based on the strategic plans of the societies and then developed as part of the OD programme.

Constraints: The main constraint is the limited resources available at the Tunis regional office, with only one delegate in place to work with five countries. This should change in 2003 since the position of an OD delegate was advertised at the end of 2002.

Objective 3: To facilitate exchange of experiences and cooperation between National Societies in the region.

Achievements: This objective was achieved. To quote one Secretary General from the region "the main merit of the office was to bring together the NSs of North Africa by organizing working sessions in different areas. This has become the realization of the intention of the Charter of the Red Crescent of Maghreb, which was signed by the NS in 1989, but remained only on paper until recently." Indeed, until recently very few contacts existed between the societies of the region, especially on a technical level. These increased, and in parallel the societies have started to appreciate each other's experiences and to share knowledge.

A landmark consultation meeting of the leaders of North African National Societies was held on 18-20 September 2002, at the Federation's office in Tunis. The purpose was to seek the views and experience of the societies' leaders in defining priorities for 2003 through an exercise in strategic planning, while incorporating the results in the Federation's appeal process. In addition, the Secretariat's change strategy and its implications for the region was on the agenda, as well as an orientation session on good governance, with an exchange of views on the applicability of the Federation's concept for the region. Each National Society was invited to send two leaders, one from the governance and one from the management structure. Representatives from the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva, including the secretary general and the director of monitoring and evaluation, the Amman RD, the Tunis office and the ICRC Maghreb delegation attended.

Among the recommendations was the establishment of a pool of regional resource persons and experts in different technical areas. The staff members and volunteers of the NS trained by the Federation

should be recorded and used. It was agreed following the definition of minimum criteria and profile for each kind of expertise, the NS would submit candidates and the Federation organize briefing/training as necessary. The participants felt that a “hands-on” leaders’ meeting like this, the first of its kind organized in North Africa, is useful, and should be organized regularly to bring together the decision makers of these societies. (For full details of the meeting, a separate report is available at the Secretariat).

The following table provides a summary of sub-regional and regional meetings and workshops attended by North African Society representatives both at technical level and at decision makers’ level, described in detail under different sections of this report.

North African NS participation in Regional Training and Planning events during 2002						
	Alg	Egy	Lib	Mor	Tun	Total
Sphere Standards of Humanitarian Assistance, Cairo, Egypt 7-13 March, 2002	2	12	-	2	2	18
HIV/AIDS Training of Trainers for Youth Peer Education Projects, Benghazi, Libya 22-25 April	2	2	8	2	2	16
Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), Mehdiya, Morocco, 6-9 May, 2002	2	2	2	6	2	14
Meeting of MENA Gender Network of NS Focal points, Teheran, Iran, 25-29 May, 2002	-	1	2	1	1	5
MENA Basic Training Course For Delegates, Amman, Jordan, 9-14 June, 2002	-	3	2	-	1	6
MENA Disaster Management workshop, Amman, Jordan, 22-28 June, 2002	1	1	1	1	-	4
VCA ToT, Jesolo, Italy, 6-10 July, 2002	-	1	-	-	-	1
Leadership Course, Tunis, 8-12 July, 2002	3	3	3	3	4	16
North African Leaders’ Consultation meeting, Tunis, 18-20 September, 2002	2	1	-	2	2	7
Youth ToT HIV/AIDS Peer Education in French, Beirut, Lebanon, 30 Sept - 6 October, 2002	5	-	-	5	5	15
MENA Disaster Management workshop, Teheran, 13-23 December, 2002	2	2	2	2	2	10
TOTAL	19	28	20	24	21	112

Objective 4: To promote contacts and partnerships with sister societies in other regions.

Achievements: In February 2002, representatives of the Finnish Red Cross and FINNIDA visited the Algerian Red Crescent as part of FINNIDA’s three-year framework agreement to support the Federation’s programmes in North Africa. The recommendation from that mission was that the Tunis office should be reinforced to enable it to provide more services to the societies. Furthermore, the Lebanese Red Cross, in the framework of HIV/AIDS youth peer education, invited young people from the three-francophone countries of North Africa for a ToT course in Beirut. This contact was

maintained and is continuing in 2003 with a joint organization of a ToT in Tunisia.

Constraints: There are few traditional participating national societies (PNSs) interested in North Africa, and often these prefer bilateral activities. The Federation has offered to play a useful role in providing facilities, temporary or permanent at the Tunis office. The French Red Cross, while keeping a bilateral delegate in Algeria, was prepared to provide a delegate for the Tunis office in mid-2002. Due to the Secretariat's change process, this plan did not materialize.

Objective 5: To represent the Federation externally with international and national organizations and authorities as well as the ICRC.

Achievements: The cooperation with the ICRC was ongoing and good. As the two delegations are located in the same building, the contacts and information sharing are regular. The leadership course of the NS organized in July, was carried out jointly with the ICRC for the second time. In addition, the Federation's representative acted as a resource person at the ICRC cooperation delegates' annual training, organized during two weeks in Tunis (2-8 June and 9-14 June). Around 50 ICRC delegates participated from all over the world. The office organized a *World Disaster Report* launch on 19 June 2002, at the Tunis Press Club together with the Tunisian Red Crescent. The event brought together representatives from different authorities, such as the Ministry of health, civil defence authorities and Young Doctors Without Borders. Contacts were established with the Tunisian Ministry of health concerning HIV/AIDS programmes, including GFTAM.

Constraints: Obtaining a status agreement for the Federation's regional office in Tunisia has not materialized. Contacts were maintained with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including a visit by the Federation's secretary general, but the matter continues. This is a serious obstacle for the proper functioning of the office since it creates limitations in relations with other agencies, such as those of the UN and embassies.

The programmes and events described above were made possible due to contributions from a small number of donors, most importantly the Finnish Red Cross and the Federation's Capacity Building Fund, convinced of the importance of getting the North African Societies "on board". However, the Federation continues to experience difficulties in covering its core costs. The office will be strengthened with two more delegates, to broaden the donor base by increasing the number of PNSs willing to contribute to this effort.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.60/2002 North Africa regional
Period: year 2002
Project(s): P82002, 82162, 82901,
Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget less Cash brought forward	712,022				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	712,022				
<i>Contributions from Donors</i>					
Finnish Govt.via Finnish Red Cross (DGNFI)	169,999				169,999
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	48,217				48,217
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	579				579
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (DNAE)	372				372
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)	1,531				1,531
TOTAL	220,698				220,698

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	220,698
CASH EXPENDITURE	-209,774

CASH BALANCE	10,924

Appeal No & title: 01.60/2002 North Africa regional

Period: year 2002

Project(s): P82002, 82162, 82901,

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles						
Food & Seeds		395			395	-395
Water & sanitation						
Medical & First Aid						
Teaching materials		191			191	-191
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total		586			586	-586
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	9,000					9,000
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	108,000					108,000
Sub-Total	117,000					117,000
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	13,520					13,520
Sub-Total	13,520					13,520
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	146,500	123,526			123,526	22,974
Personnel (national staff)	43,500	10,315			10,315	33,185
Sub-Total	190,000	133,841			133,841	56,159
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	67,120	2			2	67,118
Travel & related expenses	70,080	16,268			16,268	53,812
Information expenses	9,700	3,407			3,407	6,293
Admin./general expenses	51,190	19,794			19,794	31,396
External workshops & Seminars	115,090	12,495			12,495	102,595
Sub-Total	313,180	51,966			51,966	261,214
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	48,012	14,131			14,131	33,881
Technical services	14,372	4,231			4,231	10,141
Professional services	15,939	4,693			4,693	11,245
Sub-Total	78,322	23,055			23,055	55,268
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies		327			327	-327
TOTAL BUDGET	712,022	209,774			209,774	502,248