

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

## MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

30 June 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

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### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA077

Programme Update No. 1,

Appeal target: CHF 310,713 (USD 242,535 or EUR 200,935)

Period covered: January to June, 2005

Appeal coverage: 43.6 %; [Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#)

**Programme summary:** The decision to open a Federation office in Israel was taken in 2000 as part of a programme to enhance operational cooperation between the Movement and Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA). It coincided with work on adoption of a Third Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions and MDA's status as a national society pending recognition and admission to the Federation. In 2005, the Swiss government initiated informal consultations with governments to assess the possibility of convening a diplomatic conference on the draft Third Protocol this year.

Since the Federation's Israel office was opened in December 2000, it has helped MDA to strengthen relationships and programmes with other national societies and the Movement, supported MDA's efforts to build capacity in disaster response and preparedness, promotion of humanitarian values, and to develop its role as auxiliary to authorities in the humanitarian field, helped MDA to develop a sense of itself as a national society and part of the "Red Cross family", and provided advice and guidance to enable MDA to understand the rules and procedures of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to assist its development as a "well-functioning National Society".

During 2005, high level contacts between MDA and the Federation included discussions on MDA's integration into the Movement, health and blood services, disaster response and preparedness, and cooperation projects with other National Societies. The Federation's Israel office supported development of MDA's new website, which now has materials on the Red Cross and cooperation with the Movement in English and Hebrew (<http://www.mdais.org>). In the field of organizational development, the Federation Representative in Israel has been assisting MDA to revise its statutes and to plan how to carry out the National Society Self-Assessment (NSSA). The Federation Israel office also assisted MDA to prepare for the visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)/Federation Joint Statutes Commission in June 2005.

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Operational developments

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

In March 2005, the Swiss government appointed an "Ambassador on Special Mission" to consult with States and assess the feasibility of convening a diplomatic conference for the adoption of the draft Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, which introduces a new, additional emblem for enhanced protection and to enable the Movement to achieve its principle of universality. In May 2005, the Swiss government sent a note to its Embassies to be handed over to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all States Party to the Geneva Conventions, informing them of progress made in relation to the possible convening of a Diplomatic Conference on the draft Third Protocol. MDA leaders have publicly stated the priority they attach to the Third Protocol objective and membership of the Federation.



In May 2005, the Federation President visited MDA headquarters in order to continue discussions on MDA's integration into the Movement

In April 2004, MDA's Chairman visited Federation and ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The visit to the Federation provided an opportunity for discussions on the Third Protocol, MDA's integration into the Movement, review of MDA's By-Laws, and operational matters such as disaster response and preparedness, health and blood services, and cooperation with other national societies. These discussions were continued at MDA in May 2005 during a visit to Israel by the Federation's President, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, and Special Adviser, International Representation. In June 2005, the ICRC/Federation Joint Commission for National Society Statutes visited MDA to look at its progress in reviewing its By-Laws and to advise on the ten conditions of recognition.

Due to practical difficulties in obtaining technical support from within the region, support for the Federation work with MDA is drawn from the Federation's Regional Delegations in Ankara and Budapest, and its Geneva-based headquarters. The Federation will continue its efforts to strengthen MDA's relationships with national societies in the region, and will also see that MDA has access to regional events/meetings in Europe.

## Health and care

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

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

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

The Federation has continued to support MDA's integration into Movement activities and relief operations in the health sector by finding places for MDA delegates on Federation and National Society training courses such as the Basic Training Course (BTC), Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT), and Field Team Leaders Workshop. In the first half of this year, MDA sent its Disaster Preparedness Coordinator to the Field Team Leader Workshop in Finland and two delegates to the Regional Disaster Response Team training organized by the Budapest Regional Delegation.



**MDA was an important component of the relief operation in Sri Lanka in January 2005**

In January 2005, in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami, MDA sent its tracing officer, a medical delegation, and medical and food supplies to Sri Lanka. MDA's tracing officer worked with the ICRC's tracing operation in Colombo for five weeks. MDA's medical team – consisting of doctors, paramedics and nurses – set up a health clinic in the south of the country dispensing first aid, preventive medicine, and emergency treatment. The Federation Israel Office played a crucial role in assuring effective liaison and coordination between MDA, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, and the Federation.

The Federation Israel office will also continue to support exchanges, projects and training programmes where MDA can share its expertise with other national societies. MDA has provided instructors for courses on response to mass-casualty incidents for staff of the Kenya Red Cross Society, and is looking at offering a follow-up course in 2005. In the first quarter of 2005, MDA sent two senior instructors to Kampala to train future emergency medical service (EMS) instructors for the Uganda Red Cross Society. MDA is also intensifying its cooperation with the Bulgarian Red Cross Society (BRCS), providing advice and assistance on establishment of an ambulance service in Sofia. MDA has donated five ambulances to BRCS and is planning training courses for EMS teams and for staff of dispatching center.

As MDA learns more about the Movement, with the assistance of the Federation Israel office and through increased contacts and exchanges with sister national societies, it develops new activities and centres of interest going well beyond its traditional ambulance and blood service role (e.g., assistance to youth at risk, vaccination, psycho-social support). The Federation Israel office provides MDA with information on Federation policies and national society programmes in these spheres, and ensures that MDA has access to technical expertise from Federation and national society health experts.

**Disaster management**

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

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

In line with its pledge to the International Red Cross Conference in December 2003, MDA is continuing to develop its activities in disaster response and preparedness. The Federation Israel office ensures that MDA has access to Federation and national society training courses, and Federation technical support, including from the Federation's Regional Delegations in Ankara and Budapest.

In June 2005, two MDA staff members attended the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training organized by the Budapest Regional Delegation (six delegates attended an earlier RDRT training hosted by the Ankara Regional Delegation in November 2004). This year, MDA plans to hold a National Disaster Response Team training in Israel, and MDA has been working with the Federation Israel office and with disaster management specialists from the Ankara Regional Delegation to prepare for this.

MDA has also started working on development of a long-term strategic plan for its activities in the field of disaster response and preparedness, and the Federation is providing input on this through its Israel office and its Geneva and Ankara-based disaster management experts.

Access to Federation expertise in disaster management, and workshops with strong Movement participation, have assisted MDA to raise its profile and increase contacts with the authorities. This also gave MDA an opportunity to re-examine its earthquake response capacity, and reformulate its approach in technical and human resource terms. MDA has developed a new EMS response in the event of earthquake which relies on a more community-based approach. The Federation will be providing input on this in the second half of 2005.

MDA has finalized its training module on earthquake preparedness and response – based on materials provided by the education sub-committee of the National Earthquake Committee, the Federation and American Red Cross – and started running courses for MDA staff and volunteers and the general public in February 2005. MDA's new first aid manual (due out in October 2005) will also include a chapter on earthquake preparedness.

MDA has also started developing a psycho-social support component for its orientation programme for employees. MDA has asked the Federation's Israel office to provide input on these materials, which provide a basic introduction to relevant themes such as grief, ordinary stress reactions and post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Organizational development**

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

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

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

MDA's new website (<http://www.mdais.org>) features a section on the Red Cross Movement and cooperation with the Movement. The Federation Israel office invested a considerable amount of time in assisting MDA to get this part of the website up and running, given its importance as a vehicle to raise MDA's profile as a national society, increase awareness about the Red Cross in Israel, and give information about MDA's relationships and cooperation with the Movement.

MDA started reviewing its statutes in 2000, but suspended further work on this when the Diplomatic Conference to consider the Third Protocol to the Geneva Conventions was postponed in October of that year. The need to revise MDA's statutes was put back on the agenda in 2004, and in 2005 the Federation Representative in Israel started to work with MDA's new Chairman on this. There is now renewed high-level commitment at MDA to make the changes necessary to bring MDA's By-Laws into line with Movement requirements – a commitment reaffirmed during the Chairman's visit to Geneva in March of this year, and during the Federation President's visit to Israel in May. The Federation Representative in Israel is a lawyer by training with considerable experience

working with national society statutes and the ICRC/Federation Joint Commission for National Society Statutes. With the assistance of the Federation Representative in Israel, MDA has started working with its lawyers to see where changes should be made. A number of changes have already been adopted, and the Federation Representative in Israel will continue to provide expertise and advise MDA to assist it to push through all necessary amendments.

The Federation's Israel office has been encouraging MDA to develop a stronger domestic fund-raising base. In 2003, MDA's Executive Board took a formal decision that MDA should explore domestic fund-raising possibilities, but little concrete progress has been made apart from addition of a donations section to MDA's new website early this year. The Federation Israel office will continue to work with MDA to strengthen its fundraising capacity, including by promoting exchanges with other national societies and participation in the International Fundraising Congress and Red Cross Fundraising Skillshare.

In the period covered by this Programme Update, the Federation Representative in Israel has had discussions with MDA senior leadership on the benefits of carrying out the National Society Self-Assessment (NSSA), and has offered to assist MDA to undertake the NSSA in the second half of 2005. MDA's Chairman has indicated his commitment to undertake the NSSA, and plans to establish a committee to guide this process in the summer.

## **Humanitarian values**

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

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

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Since 2003, MDA has included materials on IHL, the Movement and the fundamental principles in its training courses for staff and volunteers (e.g., youth volunteers, blood bank, ambulance drivers, and paramedics). With the assistance of the Federation's Israel office in the first half of this year, MDA has included a section on the Red Cross Movement and cooperation with the Movement in its new website (<http://www.mdais.org>). The Red Cross section of MDA's website includes information about the activities of all components of the Movement (national societies, the Federation and the ICRC), the fundamental principles, and IHL, as well as information about MDA's history, role and functions as Israel's national society, and its relationships and cooperation with the Movement.

The Federation course materials "Principles to Action", translated into Hebrew by the Federation office in 2004, provided a useful resource for preparation of MDA's new website. The materials were shared with MDA's Chairman, International Department and Volunteer Activity Department, and integration of these materials in MDA training courses remains a priority.

One of the objectives of the Federation Israel office for this year was to work with MDA to develop and organize such a course for MDA staff and volunteers. This idea was dependent in no small measure on MDA establishing a dissemination unit with staff dedicated to further developing MDA's dissemination programme – a step which both the ICRC and the Federation have been encouraging for some time. The Federation's Israel office will continue to encourage MDA to appoint staff to work in the field of dissemination and will look at how to support MDA in organizing courses on the principles once MDA has full-time staff working on these issues. In the meantime, the Federation will provide opportunities for MDA staff and volunteers to participate in Federation or national society courses on the Movement and the fundamental principles.

The Federation Representatives provides briefings on the Movement to all MDA staff and volunteers leaving for mission with the International Red Cross Movement or as part of a MDA relief delegation abroad, as well as for MDA delegates to Movement training courses or seminars.

## **Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships**

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

**Objective: MDA creates a pool of personnel qualified for deployment in national society ERUs, or for ICRC or Federation delegate positions, MDA staff and volunteers participate in regional, technical and experts' meetings and training courses, and MDA attends the 2005 Federation General Assembly and Council of Delegates' meeting.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Federation Representative in Israel works to ensure that MDA has increased access to regional activities of the Federation and national societies. In June 2005, two MDA staff participated in the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training in Sofia – organized by the Budapest Regional Delegation for national societies from Turkey, the Caucasus, Central Europe, and Israel. MDA will be integrated in future regional training courses and response teams as appropriate.

The Federation's Israel office also supports MDA in its efforts to increase its ties with the Movement, giving practical assistance and advice on programme/project development and access to Federation and national society expertise from around the world. In September 2004, MDA held its first international youth camp with youth delegates from the Red Cross/Crescent societies of Bulgaria, Denmark, Jordan, Norway, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and MDA in Israel. The Federation's Israel office is supporting MDA's preparations for a second international youth exchange, which will bring together youth delegates from some fifteen national societies. The theme of this year's workshop is "Protecting Human Dignity: Youth Caring for the Community".

In the period covered by this Programme Update, the Federation's Israel office has been exploring possibilities for national societies to work with MDA as it expands and develops its activities in areas as diverse as fundraising, communications, disaster management, and deployment of delegates on field missions with the Red Cross.

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

The Federation appreciates the contribution of donors, who have supported the cooperation between MDA and the Movement and takes this opportunity to request additional support for the office for the remainder of 2005. For details of the contributions already announced, please refer to Annex 1 below.

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

The Movement continues to give high priority to securing a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblem on the basis of the proposed draft Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions. With recent developments on the Third Protocol, and the possibility that the Diplomatic Conference will be held this year, the Federation's Israel office is increasing its support to MDA in a variety of ways. In the period covered by this Update, the Federation's Israel office has helped MDA's Chairman prepare for visits to the Federation headquarters in Geneva and to Amman for meetings with the Standing Commission, and for visits to MDA by the Chairman of the Standing Commission's Emblem Working Group, the Swiss Ambassador responsible for working towards the Diplomatic Conference, the President of the Federation, and the Federation/ICRC Joint Statutes Commission. During the reporting period, particularly in the lead-up to the Joint Statutes Commission visit in June, the Federation Israel office has been advising MDA on the ten conditions of recognition and revision of its by-laws.

## Annex 1

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

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount of contribution in the donated currency</b>	<b>Amount of contribution converted into CHF</b>
British Red Cross	GBP 15,000	CHF 33,473
German Red Cross	EUR 10,000	CHF 15,365
Norwegian Red Cross	CHF 50,000	CHF 50,000
Swedish Red Cross	SEK 50,000	CHF 8,475
Balance carried over from 2004	CHF 28,500	CHF 28,500

[\*Please click here to return to the title page and contact information\*](#)