

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

LEBANON

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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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA078;
Appeal target: CHF 497,989 (USD 387,000 or EUR 319,000);
Programme Update no. 1,
Period covered: January-June 2005;
Appeal coverage: 79.6%; <[click here for live update](#)>

Related Appeals & reports: <[click here](#)>

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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

Following the constitutional amendment of 3 October 2004, allowing a 3 year extension of President Emile Lahoud's initial 6-year term, Lebanon has witnessed considerable political turmoil, culminating with the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik al Hariri on 14 February. Lebanon has since experienced several mass demonstrations and a series of car bombs targeting business districts in and near the capital Beirut. UN Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted 2 October 2004, calling for the withdrawal of Syrian Armed Forces from Lebanon, was implemented by the end of April when the last 14,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon crossed the border into Syria.

The political rift prevented the Lebanese Parliament from passing a budget law in preparation for the state budget of 2005. As 80% of the total income of the Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRCS) is coming from the Government through the state budget, critical services have suffered a severe shortage of funds since the beginning of 2005, most notably the life saving first aid/ambulance service, as well as blood banks and health clinics. [<click here for more on this>](#)

A dramatic development in the political standoff occurred 14 February 2005 when a 1 MT car bomb ripped through the motorcade of former PM Rafik al Hariri whilst driving from the Parliament to his residence in the Koraytem district of Beirut. A total of 20 people were killed, including Hariri, and 40 people were seriously injured. The assassination was quickly followed by unprecedented demonstrations in the centre of the city. The funeral procession was attended by up to 1 million people, successive demonstrations and counter-demonstrations gathered between 250,000 to over 1 million people in the centre of Beirut. During these demonstrations, the Red Cross transported 92 people to hospitals and offered first aid to 1,147 people through the efforts of 682 volunteers.

The government resigned on 28 February in the face of popular protests, and after several failed attempts, a new government of national unity was finally appointed 19 April to prepare for parliamentary elections in May/June.

On 18 March, the first in a series of car bombs targeting predominantly Christian neighbourhoods of Beirut started to go off. A total of four car bombs resulted in three deaths, 23 seriously injured persons and 78 people with minor injuries, who were treated at the scene. Although causing mainly material damage, the bombs increased people's fear over a return to the situation experienced during Lebanon's devastating civil war (1975-1990). In the run up to and during the elections, two prominent members of the opposition were killed in car bomb attacks. The first attack occurred Monday 13 June, when Samir Kassir, a well known journalist, was killed. The second car bomb killed Georges Hawi, former leader of the Lebanese Communist Party on Tuesday 21 June.

The political situation in Lebanon has left a considerable gap between the high level of mandated LRC services provided and funding from the government as a result of the recent halt. The LRC first aid/ambulance services have continued their regular missions, as well as responding to extraordinary needs, such as during the demonstrations and car bombings. This massive increase in missions is not sustainable and the LRC reserves are not sufficient to keep this life saving service operational.

In spite of the turmoil, the parliamentary elections went ahead as scheduled in late May, early June. The opposition loyal to former PM Rafik al-Hariri's Future Movement secured a majority of the 128 seats. The exiled former General of the Lebanese Army, Michel Aoun, returned from his exile in France (1990-2005) on 7 May to participate in the elections. His party won 15 seats, further strengthening the anti-Syrian forces.

Health and care

Overall Goal: To provide improved community based health services by strengthening preventive health and care programmes and capacities with a focus on disease prevention and health promotion.

Programme Objective 1: Support LRCS in developing a strategy for strengthening their preventive health and care programmes, reshape clinical services, review structures and training of staff and volunteers in line with the conclusions and recommendations of the health assessment.

Expected results:

- The quality of care in clinical and user services has improved;
- The activities have been prioritized and carried out on a basis of assessed needs among the most vulnerable population;
- Improved coordination and cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental health service providers achieved in line with LRCS goals.
- A role for clinics and mobile clinics is defined to factor in the results of a vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA)
- Psycho-social (PSP)/Stress Management is integrated into relevant training and awareness programmes

- The newly modified Community Based First Aid (CBFA) curriculum is piloted in selected regions.

Achievements:

- The results of last year’s health assessment were discussed during a meeting in April, attended by LRCS management and the Ministry of Health. The recommendations from this meeting confirmed the need for reforms towards primary health care, whilst maintaining a few special services in low-income areas. A committee was formed at this meeting to ensure proper follow-up of the recommendations and implement a pilot project in one or two centres. The committee consists of representatives of LRCS, the Ministry of Health and the Federation.
- PSP/stress management is integrated into training of first aid volunteers.

Impact:

- The health assessment and the follow-up sets out a new direction for LRCS, with a potential for improved impact and renewed cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The talks following the assessment also led to a more thorough discussion on coordination and planning in LRCS.
- First aid volunteers able to provide basic counselling support to victims

Constraints:

- The political situation in Lebanon affected the financial situation of the LRCS, causing further delays in the implementation of the recommendations from the health assessment meeting and in the implementation of the VCA.

Programme Objective 2:

Primary health care and social services throughout the country are consolidated and expanded with a shift in emphasis from curative interventions to community based health education and prevention activities coupled with further integration of youth volunteers into health and social services.

Expected results:

- A HIV/AIDS coordination group has been established at the national level;
- HIV/AIDS trainers were educated for raising awareness at community level;
- Integrated awareness campaigns for sexually transmitted diseases (STI), HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases have been organized;
- Successful mobilization, training and retention of volunteers to support health awareness programmes have been structurally addressed.

Achievements

A group of trainers from the Lebanese Red Cross Youth have continued to expand its HIV/AIDS & STI awareness programme. The target groups are predominantly teenagers and university students. The training focuses on peer education, addressing issues such as life skills to withstand popular pressure. In addition, a HIV/AIDS campaign launched 1 December 2004 continued to mid January. The primary focus of the campaign was to reduce stigma and discrimination. The methods used, ranged from discussion groups, distribution of leaflets, concerts, a theatre play and finally a ‘Run against AIDS’.



Speak out: A board used in the HIV/AIDS forum of the LRCS Youth Club in the American University of Beirut.

This campaign received broad coverage in the media, as well as reaching thousands of students throughout Lebanon.

Impact

- The LRCS' HIV/AIDS programme has successfully addressed the problem of stigma and discrimination in Lebanon and is seen by the government as the main partner in HIV/AIDS awareness among university students. The Youth to Youth programme has also prompted other organisations to use the LRCS as a source of advice and partnership (e.g. UNHCR has asked the LRCS to offer training on HIV/AIDS and STIs to refugees in Lebanon).
- The LRC Youth department is still working closely with the National AIDS Programme and other NGOs in order to develop the services offered to Youth. It is planning to start the first Youth counselling Hot Line in the second half of the year.

Constraints

- Lack of coordination between the LRCS department working on HIV/AIDS continues.
- Complete dependency on outside funding, most notably the Federation

Disaster management

Overall Goal: Strengthened internal and external cooperation and coordination mechanisms that enable the LRCS to provide effective disaster response and preparedness.

Programme Objective: The LRCS position as the key humanitarian actor in disaster management is reinforced through effective disaster response, preparedness and mitigation aimed at preventing and alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities.

Expected results:

- A thorough review of current ambulance services launched, resulting in improved management practices and effectiveness and the eventual phase out of Federation support;
- Upgraded logistical services and systems have been introduced;
- National Intervention Team has been established, its members trained and coordinated by the Disaster Management Unit with mechanisms in place enabling the team to quickly respond;
- The scope and need for a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment has been defined by the end 2004 and, pending agreement with the governance, the VCA has been launched by mid 2005;
- An Emergency Plan for LRCS including concrete actions for Federation assistance has been elaborated.

Achievements:

- The ambulance assessment, in cooperation with the ICRC was completed end of June. The assessment will be published in July.
- The VCA process has been approved by the governance of the LRCS and the process is expected to start in August.

Impact:

- LRCS able to make decisions based on clear recommendations in the ambulance assessment.
- VCA planning has helped increase awareness on assessment processes

Constraints:

- Severe shortage of funds in the LRCS due to political turmoil
- Total dependency on government funds for first aid services.
- Coordination and cooperation between the members of the Disaster Management Unit has yet to be improved.

Organisational development

Overall Goal: A well functioning and adequately resourced Lebanese Red Cross Society with sufficient governance and management capacity to ensure focused and responsive programmes addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people in Lebanon.

Programme Objective: Service delivery of the LRCS is increased and improved through a strengthening of its foundation and capacity

Expected results:

- The LRCS has provided quality services based on a comprehensive development plan encompassing short, medium and long terms priorities;
- The national society's institutional performance has considerably improved with its statutes amended to ensure adequate participation of its constituencies;
- A well functioning governance has been revitalized through an election process that attracts qualified and committed members of the leadership at the headquarters and in the branches;
- The quality of human resources has improved based on effective recruitment procedures, training and development schemes for volunteers and staff;
- The local branches with decentralized management responsibilities in their respective localities have better capacities to provide services;
- A strategic work plan has been launched after a broad consultation process which had been the basis of a development strategy including a resource mobilisation strategy.

Achievements:

- The LRCS held an extraordinary general assembly 25 February to amend its internal regulations to allow the first aid and youth volunteers direct representation in the General Assembly and the Central Committee of the LRCS.
- The election of youth and first aid representatives is almost completed, expected to be accomplished by mid August.
- A governance training manual, for all newly elected members of the General Assembly and the Central Committee, has been prepared. First ToT expected to be held first week-end of August
- The annual youth congress was organised in early February, where the recruiting and retaining volunteers was the main topic on the agenda.
- A website for the youth department has been established to improve internal communication (with other departments and within the youth department) as well as the external communication with other stakeholders.



All together now: Training session to develop volunteers' capacities.

Impact:

- The volunteers in the first aid and youth departments are more involved in the organisation thus more motivated.

- After the participation of four volunteers from the Lebanese Red Cross at a volunteer management meeting in Kuala Lumpur, an initiative for developing a LRCS volunteering policy will start in the second half of the year in order to develop the human resources system for volunteers.
- A training workshop for the administrative corps of the youth department, to support local youth branches, took place in late May as recommended in the Annual Youth Congress.

Constraints:

- Delay in the election process due to internal disagreement on the procedures.
- Funding shortage
- Political instability