

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East and North Africa Zone

Appeal No. MAA80003

19 May 2011

This report covers the period 1 January
to 31 December 2010.



Syrian Arab Red Crescent female volunteers delivering hygiene promotion messages for women from local communities in drought-affected areas, photo: SARC

In brief

Programme outcome: The International Federation representations and zone coordinators worked on implementing programmes and stabilising relations with the National Societies of the Middle East North Africa (MENA), partners and National Society networks. Networks strengthened and key components in disaster management, health and organizational development reinforced.

Programme(s) summary:

In disaster management, special attention has been placed on disaster risk reduction and climate change and the coordination and encouragement of MENA National Societies to increase the awareness on the above topics within their societies. The MENA health and care programme aims at strengthening the capacities of regional National Societies to address the health needs of identified vulnerable groups with focus on health promotion, disease prevention, psychosocial support, public health priorities, and first aid in the community. It seeks to address the Global Agenda Goal two by reducing the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. The organizational development team expanded the National and local capacities, a culture of voluntary services and Youth Leadership and participation in National Society and community affairs strengthened. National Society services for the most vulnerable people are scaled-up and are sustained by better income generation activities and resource mobilization.

A memorandum of understanding with the Arab Open University of Bahrain has been signed; Together the International Federation and the Open University of Bahrain are working on developing a professional training for the leadership of National Societies thereby professionalizing their humanitarian services to the most vulnerable.

The 8th Asia-Pacific Conference was held in Amman, Jordan. In order to build the momentum, the youth representatives from the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions joined their efforts to organize a Youth Summit before the conference, from 9 to 17 October 2010, which was aligned with Strategy 2020, particularly with Strategic Aim 3 - 'Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace' and Enabling Action 1 "Building stronger National Societies" through youth actions. Among Asia and Pacific and Middle East National Societies there is a wealth of good practice in the area of youth. The opportunity to exchange them was particularly inspiring to do more and better through youth actions.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 2,771,994, of which CHF 1,834,125 (66% per cent) covered during the reporting period (781,918). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,483,615 (53% per cent) of the budget.

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

Our partners:

In health and social services the partners were the Red Cross National Societies of Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France and Belgium. The zone maintains also good partnerships with WHO, USAID, ECHO and other UN agencies. Partner Red Cross National Societies from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Spain, along with the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Association for Volunteer Services and the Arab Open University of Bahrain have supported in organizational development work.

The main partners for the Iran plan remain the ICRC and partner National Societies such as the Finnish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and German Red Cross. Moreover, there is close cooperation with the government of Iran and UN agencies i.e. WHO, UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF as well as the local NGOs who are partners to the Iranian Red Crescent. The Iranian Red Crescent and the International Federation signed a five-year memorandum of understanding on 3 March to further strengthen cooperation.

Context

The economic, political and social context is drastically changing from the end of 2009. Issues which could impact the humanitarian situation are the Civil Unrest in several countries in the MENA Zone.

Protests went on in several parts of Tunisia with economic problems and the lack of basic freedom highlighted as the major causes of several peaceful demonstrations which were the main reason of changing the main reason of changing the regime in Tunisia.

Climate change is becoming more recognised by governments in MENA as a potential risk, or at least as a topic relevant for consideration for national and regional conferences and policies. National Societies and the zone have been very active in projects for climate change adaptation to raise awareness and to strengthen disaster risk reduction. The League of Arab States (LAS) supports disaster risk reduction within its mission to seek the achievement of human security for the people of the Arab region. In accordance with its regional mandate and in line with the identified role for regional organizations under the Hyogo Framework for Action, LAS has paid special attention to supporting and promoting risk reduction at the regional level through its technical secretariat and its specialized technical organizations. Disaster risk reduction has been integrated in key regional policies on sustainable development aiming at strengthening resilience to disasters through reducing risks and vulnerabilities. The development of an Arab strategy for disaster risk reduction is underway with the support of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The zone participates in the process as part of a regional interagency network.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

The disaster management strategy 2009-2011 states that the mission of the Red Crescent and Red Cross National Societies throughout the MENA is to significantly expand their capacities to alleviate suffering and increase community resilience by focusing on disaster management. This expansion requires a systematic increase in resources devoted to seeking out vulnerable populations and practicing disaster risk reduction before disaster strikes. The financial costs, as well as human, of early action are much lower than post-disaster response.

Outcome(s)

1. Integrated vulnerability and capacity assessment tools are developed and adopted by the MENA zone disaster management network steering committee.
2. The disaster risk reduction global alliance is sponsored by MENA zone National Societies and implemented at community level.
3. A disaster response and cooperation unit is established and supported by the disaster management platforms (steering committee and network)
4. A comprehensive MENA disaster management human resources strategy is developed and adopted by National Societies.
5. Disaster response and cooperation has the capacity to support and if required coordinate disaster management operations and programmes.
6. National Societies' disaster management role is fully acknowledged by governments and disaster management mandates are clearly determined.

Achievements

- MENA zone ensured support for Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen, Syria and Egypt to implement disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes. Letters of agreement have been signed to ensure the implementation of plans of action.
- A school-based disaster risk reduction programme workshop was conducted in Palestine for eighteen staff and volunteers, where it was agreed the Palestine Red Crescent Society disaster management department would pilot the disaster risk reduction programme in the northern part of the West Bank.
- The school-based programme has been introduced to the Egypt Red Crescent Society and will be integrated in their community based health and first aid programme in rural areas. Funds have been allocated to the society to cover climate change adaptation plan and the integrated reduction project.
- The disaster management department started to develop a disaster response protocol to systemise its response operations at Zonal and National Society level. This defines the roles and responsibilities of the International Federation structure before, during and after a disaster strikes. The protocol will include standard operating procedures and a contact list for key staff and partners.
- The disaster management coordinator facilitated a planning meeting for the Iraq Red Crescent Society to develop a practical plan of action and organization structure for its disaster management department. In addition, communication protocols between the society and the MENA zone were agreed upon to systemise future reporting.
- The zone office facilitated and helped the Red Crescent or Red Cross Societies of the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Magen David Adom (MDA),

Syria and Egypt in their responses to the Haiti earthquake. These varied from cash donations to relief contributions and team deployment.

- The MENA zone supported the Qatar Red Crescent to deploy its first medical team that arrived in Haiti to work with French Red Cross basic health care unit. The team consisted of an emergency physician and an operation theatre nurse. The second medical team arrived in Haiti on 1 March, and is working with the German and Finnish Red Cross field hospitals. The team consists of an orthopaedic physician, obstetrics and gynaecology physician, anaesthesia physician and an emergency room nurse.
- To establish an early warning early action system in MENA zone an event monitoring room was established.
- At the disaster management network meeting, 15 National Societies developed a zone plan of action. UNISDR and ECHO actively participated in the meeting.
- The main result of the disaster management steering committee meeting was that there will be a logistics reference centre in Lebanon.
- In cooperation with the Inter Agency Standing Commission (IASC), the International Federation will support an assessment and mapping study for climate change adaptation capacities in the region by mobilising National Societies' staff and volunteers to collect data.
- MENA zone cooperated in a road safety workshop for 16 National Societies facilitated by the global road safety partnership of the International Federation headquarters in Geneva. Action points on road safety have been agreed upon for 2010- 2011.
- Support Yemen Red Crescent Society in facilitating Climate Change Adaptation meeting along with facilitating DRR School based workshop for teachers.
- Supported the Algeria Red Crescent Society in building up Climate Change Adaptation study and follow up the VCA activities carried out by Algeria RCS volunteers.

Constraints or Challenges

Long-term and integrated developmental programmes such as disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation rely upon support from the governance of National Societies.

Health and Social Services

Outcome(s)

The Health and Social Services (HSS) Unit organized the MENA HSS Annual Network Meeting on second and third of August in Amman. The meeting was a good opportunity to assess and analyze the current public health trends in the MENA zone and adopt a common RCRC approach in dealing with existing and expected priority health challenges. Also, to introduce the Federation Strategy 2020 and to exchange opinions, experiences and discuss challenges and future plans. The meeting was attended by representatives from 12 MENA National Societies, Prof. Mamdouh Gabr -General Secretary of the Egyptian RC; as a Keynote Speaker, Dr. Stefan Seebacher-Head of the Health Department in Geneva, Ms. Anne Merete Bull - Representative of the Norwegian RC, Dr. Hashim Elmoussaad - the WHO Country Representative in Jordan and MENA Zone Representatives. Health plan were presented and adopted in the Meeting.

The regional health and social services programmes have an ultimate goal of strengthening the operational capacities of the MENA Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through regional

thematic networks and workshops. These events are a good tool to promote knowledge sharing, coordination and cooperation among the National Societies. In the first half of 2010, a special emphasis was put to continue the efforts in building up the momentum created during the past year for the community based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme by publishing and distributing the translated version of the CBHFA in Action guides to the MENA NSs and by holding the second CBHFA Network meeting in MENA on the 27th and 28th of April in Abu Dhabi. Moreover, the zone HSS team realized the translation and dissemination of the newly produced CBHFA Indicators Guide into Arabic. The translation of the Guide was realized with the help of the MENA CBHFA Reference Group members

With the generous financial support of the NorCross, all Arabic speaking national societies in the region were provided each a package of 180 pieces of the Implementation, Facilitator and Volunteer Guides and Community Tools of the newly introduced CBHFA in Action manual; to facilitate and promote the smooth implementation of the programme throughout the MENA zone.

The Zone Office continued its coordination with MENA NSs regarding the implementation of the CBHFA programme/approach; technical supports were provided to the NSs' to follow up the implementation and to organize their CBHFA workshops/training courses, including preparation of agenda, presentations and needed materials. Exchange of reports/materials between the NSs helped in exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned. A regional trainer from Lebanese Red Cross was deployed twice to support Iraqi Red Crescent workshops.

Community Health mapping form was translated into Arabic and shared with NSs and used for mapping the community health programmes/activities of the NSs. The top ten health priorities to be dealt with through CBHFA approach were identified.

Package of training materials on Hygiene Promotion (in Arabic) was sent to the NSs. The materials are prepared by UNICEF and it is a useful tool for organizing hygiene promotion initiatives within CBHFA approach.

The CBHFA focal points of Egyptian RC and Lebanese RC presented papers on the implementation of CBHFA programme/approach in their National Societies in the CBHFA Global Meeting/ Geneva 30 Nov. - 2 Dec. 2010.

In conformity with the pandemic preparedness and response objectives of the Federation, the zone maintained its support to the MENA NSs to complete their activities aimed at promoting awareness and establishing strong pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms within their respective National Societies. All eight NSs, which were provided financial and technical support to implement H2P accelerated and mini projects in their countries successfully, completed their commitments at the end of April 2010. The MENA AHI Regional Advisor participated and facilitated a training workshop on H1N1 pandemic influenza for the paramedics of the UAE Ministry of Health organized by UAE RC Society on the 15th and 16th of February 2010 in Abu Dhabi. Otherwise, in March, he visited Morocco to follow up on the course of planning and implementation of the MRCS H2P Long Project. During his stay, he participated in meetings with the project team and facilitated a VCA session with them.

A review exercise of the H2P Accelerated Project of the Lebanese RC was conducted during 11-14 May 2010; to document the achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The review team met with the leadership of LRC and the H2P team both at the headquarters and in the Northern town of Kubayat, as well as representatives from the MOH Lebanon and WHO. At the end of the review visit the team shared its findings and recommendations with the management of LRC. A similar internal review was carried out by the Egyptian RC to evaluate the results of its H2P Long and Accelerated projects. The findings were published and shared with the Federation. Subsequently, a one day review session was conducted at the ERC on the 27th of June 2010 with the participation of the MENA Zone representatives to analyze the achievements and document the lessons learned.

The MENA H2P programme initiatives helped in promoting a common operational commitment among NSs in mobilizing adequate resources and capacities to address the challenges of pandemic influenza in their local communities. The programmes provided also an excellent opportunity to promote operational partnerships with national governments and other stakeholders; in an effort to develop comprehensive contingency plans for adequate pandemic preparedness and response.

Technical supports were provided to the NSs that were already provided financial support to implement H2P projects. All the eight NSs completed their commitments and submitted their final reports to the Zone/Geneva Influenza Unit. The MENA Acting health coordinator with Geneva Influenza Unit manager conducted a field visit to Morocco RC to follow up the implementation of the project. H2P programmes lessons learned were discussed in MENA Health and Social Services Network Meeting and experiences were exchanged.

The Zone office facilitated the National Societies partnership with MENA Road Safety Partnership and disseminated the relevant documents/materials. Many public awareness sessions were conducted in the schools under the CBHFA approach.

The Zone continued supporting MENA NSs' psychosocial programme; disseminated the newly translated Arabic version of Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) manuals for trainers and participants and provided technical support to NSs' training courses/workshop.

The Health Unit organized a consultative meeting on (PSP), attended by Health Coordinator, Health Advisor, PSP Officer and Palestine RC PSP focal point/member of MENA Reference Team. The meeting discussed the PSP situation in the region, the results achieved during the last year and future plan/activities.

The zone continued supporting the PS Centre by facilitating the translation of Federation "Coping with Crisis" Newsletter into Arabic.

In coordination with Geneva Secretariat, MENA HSS unit organized a meeting in the Zone office on 8-9 Dec. 2010 with IFRC-Geneva emergency health senior officer and WatSan senior officer. The meeting was attended by the MENA DM coordinator and A. H&SS coordinator. EH & WatSan situation in the MENA Zone was discussed in addition to human resources, fund raising, WatSan kits, needs & roll out. A concept note was drafted to support the future plan of the Zone in WatSan in cooperation with Geneva WatSan Unit.

In coordination with Geneva Health Dept.-HIV Unit, The MENA Health Unit organized a Master Training Course on the new HIV training package. The training held in Amman during 18-22 Dec. 2010 and supported financially and technically by Geneva-HIV Unit. 17 participants representing 10 NSs attended the training; fully engaged with participatory approach of the training. Results achieved through the relevant knowledge, attitude and skills gained by the participants.

The Zone HSS Unit coordinated with Geneva and UAE RC to assist in translating the Federation HIV training package into Arabic.

Technical support was provided to Iraqi RC and Yemeni RC in Polio vaccination campaign; playing the role of an independent monitoring party in coordination with Ministry of Health and WHO.

Constraints or Challenges

Lack of adequate funding reflected on lack of human resources; affect the course of our programme initiatives. Except for the NorCross financial support there has been no other pledges from other donors. The DFID support for the influenza pandemic was important to mobilize an effective operational plan and extend support to regional NSs.

Outcomes of Organisational Development:

Provide technical support to NSs in their organizational development processes

- Yemen RC continued to receive regular support on OD and CB through the ICB but also through direct technical support from the zone.
- Qatar RC showed great interest for working together with IFRC on building better systems and procedures and improving their volunteering policy. Some regular contact by email took place but no physical visit from the OD.
- United Arab Emirates RC received support from the zone to work on their Statutes and on their volunteering policy and internal regulations.
- Palestine RC received the visit of the OD coordinator and a complete OD assessment with recommendations was made to them for the future OD plans and initiatives.
- Syria RC also received the visit of the OD coordinator in order to organize training for the branches. This training was postponed many times by the leadership of SARC but should take place in the second half of the year.
- Lebanese RC received continuous support from the delegation and the zone in the area of Youth, Volunteering, branch development, planning, Statutes and internal rules and regulations.
- Jordan RC received support from the zone and coaching on volunteering and youth development.

Provide NS with access to resources to better manage Strategic Planning and change management

Unfortunately, all activities planned under this objective did not take place due to a change of priority for NS targeted by this outcome. However, tools and resources were given to the concerned leadership of these NS.

Support NSs to strengthen their legal base towards enhancing the integrity through transparent legal and accounting mechanisms

Yemen RC, Lebanese RC, Palestine RC and UAE RC have received technical support to start and finalize the revision of their statutes. YRCS held a GA in February and adopted the new statutes. Lebanese RC is progressing well towards statutes that will more in line with the minimum standards. Palestine RC finally submitted their Statutes to the JSC although they have been already adopted by the GA, some comments will follow from the JSC. UAERC received support from the zone to start the revision of their Statutes and they were put in touch with YRCS for advice on the process.

Support development of NS leadership and management enabling the establishment of strong and sustainable organization with systems, procedures and staff with higher level of managerial competencies

- PMER and OD department in MENA developed a baseline questionnaire for NS of the MENA region in order to collect basic information for measuring impact of Norcross contribution in MENA. The questionnaire was introduced and distributed to all NS during the consultation process by the director of the zone. Unfortunately, despite many follow-up and efforts, the zone office was able to get questionnaires back from only 4 NS. This was a very disappointing process as a lot of time and energy were invested in this.
- Iran RC, Palestine RC and Yemen RC have accepted to take part in the OD global Study coordinated by the NSD department in GVA. The zone was part of the selection of the NS.
- A proposal for a partnership with Asia Open University was finalized in June and approved by GVA and zone management. This partnership will lead to the development of a course curriculum for leadership and management training for NS staff and

volunteers. This will be part of the Academic network concept, a MoU was signed between the Federation and the Asia Open University during Asia & Pacific conference in October 2010 took place in Jordan.

Support NSs in their volunteering development and management efforts

- In preparation of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, the zone OD department has adapted and translated several important publications, leaflets and resources for helping NS to develop volunteering in their organisation. Those resources are available on a CD and have been distributed to the NSs.

Support NSs in their youth development and leadership efforts

- Most of the time and energy from the OD coordinator was shifted towards the preparation and organisation of the Asia Pacific Youth Summit which was hosted in Jordan (this was not in the plan for 2010). This new activity diverted a lot of resources and time from the other activities that were in the plan and may have caused delays in the implementation.
- Peer visit between Jordan RC and Lebanese RC took place in April where youth had the opportunity to exchange ideas on programmes, structures and activities for youth in a NS.
- Zone OD department was involved in the Youth development of several NS in MENA: Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria.
- A proposal for the creation of a Youth and Volunteering unit in MENA zone office was drafted and presented to the director of the zone in line with global trends and discussions.
- Collaboration with the CCM continued throughout 2010. Activities organized by the CCM targeted more than 300 youth from the MENA region through activities that aim at developing their leadership skills, competencies to work in humanitarian environments and helping the most vulnerable youth in their community. Mediterranean Conference, Seminar on Water and environment and Atlantis Camp are all events that contributed to the mobilization of youth in the MENA region. Moreover, The Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), together with the Palestine Red Crescent, and with the support of the IFRC Middle East and North Africa Zone, organized the Youth Leadership Workshop during September 19 – 26, 2010. The seminar counted on the partnership of the Spanish Red Cross Youth, the Italian Red Cross Youth and the French Red Cross Youth, as well as the IFRC Principles and Values Department (P&V).
- Two staff on loan from the Libya RC joined MENA Zone in July in addition to one staff member from Jordanian RC to assist in Youth development in the region as well as support and preparation for organization of the youth summit.
- Youth Summit that took place in Ajloun-Jordan, from the 9th to 16th of October was a great success. It reflected the strong collaboration between the Federation and Jordanian Red Crescent Society. 74 participants from different countries attended the Youth Summit, including 25 participants from 11 National Societies from MENA. The first 5 days were YABC training (9-14), where all the 74 participants were divided into 5 groups. The last 2 days were think tank, where the participants were divided into MENA and Asia & Pacific NS's and discussed various issues related to youth network, youth and volunteers unit, climate change, International year of volunteers.

Support NSs to strengthen their branches, improve their communication with the HQ and support National coordination programmes

- Intensified Capacity Building planning meeting took place in Yemen with 5 branches and 12 sub branches. This helped the branches to participate in the planning and budgeting of their activities supported by ICB and increased the ownership of the projects.

- Some of MENA NSs participated in the initial Federation wide reporting and Federation Databank initiative i.e. Qatar RC and UAE RC.
- Branch development game has been developed and shared with the NSs in MENA, some NSs expressed their interest in receiving more copies and recommended to have Red Crescent version to adapt to the local context.

Support NS OD efforts through effective coordination within the IFRC and outside

- An OD mapping was conducted jointly in Yemen between the Danish RC and the IFRC zone OD department. This mapping was used to determine which actors are providing developmental and CB support to YRCS and make recommendation for a more harmonized approach.
- PRCS OD director was selected to represent the IFRC on the CBHD and OD mid term review in Yemen. This enabled the cooperation between two NSs having an Operational Alliance in two different contexts. It also gave the opportunity to PRCS to participate in OD activities and support in the region on behalf of the IFRC and therefore to profile themselves.
- Planning meetings for the OD support to NS took place with the IFRC representatives of Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen and Iran. Priorities have been identified for support from the zone office.
- Excellent coordination between ICRC and IFRC on several issues related to NSD helped to reaffirm the lead role of the IFRC in the area of NSD. This collaboration was done at country, zone and global level with the same messages and approach. IFRC also presented IFRC mandate and activities in every regional integration course.
- Peer-support between Yemen RC and Lebanese RC took place as well. This helped the YRCS to identify their priorities. For various reasons, the meeting did not fully reached its objectives, mainly due to a misunderstanding between the organisers and the YRCS leadership on the objectives and expected outcome of the peer visit.
- Several meetings throughout 2010 took place with partners and PNS to present to IFRC OD approach and to discuss areas of cooperation to maximize the impact of OD interventions on NS.

Outcomes of Principles and Values:

Principles and Values (including gender awareness) are integrated into NS operational programmes (DM, health)

- Egyptian Red Crescent submitted a case study on the promotion of respect and diversity to the P&V department. This case study aims at promoting Children's rights through advocacy with the community. ERC has also decided to engage in My City, My Life, My RCRC initiative on the role of RC/RC in addressing and promoting urban vulnerability. This will be a pilot project.
- Tunisia RC, Algeria RC, Libya RC, Morocco RC and Egyptian RC have become the leaders in the initiative Youth as agents of behavioural change. These NS have integrated YABC into their activities to reduce stigma and discrimination. One of the major programmes is the programme for migrants. ERC has trained several hundreds of youth in Egypt on the YABC and this has become one of their national programmes. This is a result of trainings of trainers (ToT) and peer educators that were done in North Africa with the support from the P&V department and the cooperation with the CCM.

Increased capacity of National Society to run programmes on gender, discrimination or violence

- A discussion paper on the new strategy on Violence Prevention, mitigation and response was developed for feeding back GVA on the zone position with regards to the implementation in MENA.

- Great efforts made in support and facilitation to the Gender workshop planned to be hosted by Iranian Red Crescent, however, this workshop was cancelled and instead organised in Germany at a later stage.

Achievements:

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia Open University and its centre in Bahrain is certainly one of the best achievements in 2010. This initiative was initiated at the national, zonal and global level and will help the RCRC Movement connecting with the academic networks in the Arab world and worldwide. This new partnership will allow the IFRC to develop a professional training for the leadership of NS in order to improve management skills, accountability, professionalize the humanitarian services to the most vulnerable.
- The successful Youth Summit, during the year of Youth August 2010 – August 2011, which brought together 74 Youth leaders and members from many NSs to meet together in Jordan and discuss issues concerning youth and took the outcome to the Asia & Pacific conference.
- Creation of Youth and Volunteers Unit in MENA Zone.
- Piloting and adaptation in Arabic of the Branch Development game
- Production of a campaign toolkit in Arabic for International year of Volunteers (Resources CD and leaflet, slogan, 2 films)
- International Youth gathering during the Asia Pacific Conference (Youth summit 2010)
- Direct substantial OD support in various areas to Palestine RC, Syria RC, UAE RC, Yemen RC, Jordan RC, Iraqi RC and Lebanon RC. Indirect support to North African NS through the country representative in Tunisia.
- Support to Volunteering Development initiative through a 10,000\$ grant (Palestine, Syria and Lebanon)
- Mediterranean Conference, Seminar on environment and climate change, Atlantis Youth Camp and seminar on youth leadership were conducted in partnership with the Centre for Mediterranean cooperation (CCM)
- Preparation of content of the AP conference and supervision of papers submitted by NS (correction and advisory services)

Constraints or Challenges

- Strategy 2020 is very ambitious with regards to National Society Development but the strategy in the MENA zone does not allow sufficient resources to achieve these objectives properly. Several proposals were presented to the management of the zone but they were finally not taken into consideration in the new strategy.
- The lack of resources and lack of proper structure for implementing the support to NS in their development is a huge challenge that can only be overcome with a different profile of delegates and staff and a different way of seeing developmental issues in the organization. Zone should remain the linkage between the field and the global initiatives to ensure consistency and common approach in developing NS and coordinating the support from PNS and other actors avoiding duplication and overwhelming.

Working in partnership

The MENA zone has continued to invest extensively in the nurturing and establishing of partnerships at regional and national levels. These partnerships are technical in nature especially with ISDR through building the school-based programme for disaster risk reduction and UNESCO through supporting school-based programme in cooperation with civil defence and the Ministry of Education in Jordan. MENA zone facilitated, in cooperation with OCHA, the Inter-Agency Coordination Network on Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Middle East and North Africa which resulted in a concept note on contingency planning and joint assessment mission for climate change adaptation study. The members of the network, including the MENA zone, will carry out a consultancy on mapping climate risk information and

disaster risk reduction interventions in the context of climate change adaptation. Partners agreed to support the development of an Arab Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. A contingency planning training will be organised to establish a pool of emergency specialists able to facilitate and provide guidance on the subject. A task force led by OCHA and the International Federation will oversee preparations.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The NSD department in GVA and in the zone have worked on developing a frame for a new NSD database, together with the support from the IT department. This database will collect information on NS at various levels in order to better measure the progress but also the impact of developmental and humanitarian activities. This will also be linked with the FWRS which is being piloted in 3 NS of the MENA region. The two initiatives will hopefully give a more accurate picture of NS strengths and weaknesses as well as will highlight areas of competencies where other NS could benefit from that expertise and maximise the peer support within the IFRC.

Looking ahead

The priorities for the coming year need to be built on the achievements of 2010 with consideration to the human and financial resources limitation. Leadership and Management development, Volunteering and Youth development, Gender mainstreaming, NSD Database and the development of tools and resources for NS to prepare for the international year of volunteers 2011 and to enhance their strategic planning, internal policies, systems and procedures will be the main focus. On the other hand the preparation for the upcoming 7th MENA Conference to be held during the first quarter of 2011.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact: (text in Arial 10)

- **In MENA zone: Mr. Tenna Mengistu, Senior advisor for Policy, Strategy and Planning, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman; phone: +962 6 561060 131; email: tenna.mengistu@ifrc.org**
- **In MENA zone: Dr. Adel Karim Bensiali, Director, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman; phone: +962 6 5694556; email: akarim.bensiali@ifrc.org**
- **In Geneva: Carmen Corminboeuf, Officer, Zonal Fundraising Support, Resource Mobilization Department; phone: +41 22 730 4278; email: Carmen.corminboeuf@ifrc.org**