

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

North Africa

Appeal No. MAA82001

20 October 2010

This report covers the period 1 January to 30 June 2010



In June, the Tunisian Red Crescent Society held a catastrophe simulation in Monastir. Photo: IFRC

In brief

Programme summary: The regional representation continued with its support, guided by the plan for 2010-2011. The work around migration that is being conducted by a number of Red Crescent Societies with Europe Aid support began to flourish and show results, as did the Youth as Agents for Behavioural Change also showed concrete results at community level.

An extensive review of all programmes that the International Federation supports in the region and its structure with a representation based out of Tunis is ongoing. Consultation with the leaders of the five societies, partner National Societies and other partners is central to the process and recommendations will be placed before zone management in August for action plan to be drafted.

Financial situation: The original 2010 budget was CHF 1,962,273, this budget has been revised to total of CHF 2,078,457. This reflects additional activities being undertaken by National Societies in the area of Principles and Values. Of the above figures, CHF 491,664 (24 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 445,087.

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

No. of people we have reached: The North Africa representation supports five National Societies and much of its work is institutional strengthening, targeting the staff and volunteers that in turn will reach the communities through the knowledge gained and better service delivery. Except for specific response to emergencies (not reported under this programme update), identifying the indirect beneficiaries at country level remains a challenge.

Our partners: The North African National Societies benefit from solid partnerships with their ministries of health, interior/civil defence, education and solidarity, but are also well connected to

local thematic and regional networks including the Arab Secretariat of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, PanAfrican Group, and Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, as well as the MENA reference and thematic working groups (disaster management, disaster risk reduction, pandemic preparedness, psycho-social support, and community based health and first aid) contributing effectively to the strategic dialogue initiated in 2008 by the MENA zone.

Good relations and collaboration is maintained with the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), etc. – as well as with the European Union (large Principles and Values programmes in four countries). Increasingly, the National Societies are also looking at new types of partnerships with the private sector (oil companies, Coca-Cola, and food companies).

On bilateral basis, both French RC and Spanish RC are present in Algeria and in Morocco. The National Societies from the Gulf (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia) are also increasingly supporting at time of disasters. Good cooperation is maintained with the regional ICRC Delegation based in Tunis and the three country offices in Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

European Commission and Europe Aid, Norwegian government and Norwegian Red Cross, Department for International Development (DfID) and New York Office have been the main contributors to the Plan during the reporting period.

Context

Like other regions, North Africa faces two major challenges. The financial and economic crisis is increasing vulnerability and poverty at both a macro and a household level, representing both a development and a humanitarian deft for vulnerable communities and marginalized groups. The second challenge is climate change.

In recent years, the North African Red Crescent Societies have responded to significantly more weather related disasters. These are frequently poorly predicted, and underline the imperative of early warning and early action. Both these challenges pose a significant humanitarian impact. From the obvious higher numbers of deaths, injuries and exposure to diseases and loss of property and possessions through to increased food insecurity and potential migration. Earthquakes continue to be a threat, while the consequences of climatic changes are posing new challenges- flash floods, tornadoes and cold waves- in these countries.

Migration is still perceived as a very sensitive issue linked to security, which has an impact on the development of a humanitarian approach based on dignity and respect to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Delay in implementing the activities is a risk, so advocating with public authorities is a priority.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Achievements against outcomes

- The Egyptian Red Crescent disaster preparedness school programme has run every year since 2009, supported by DfID.
- The Tunisian Red Crescent ran a simulation exercise to prepare its staff and volunteers for how to respond effectively to a specific emergency situation. A plane crash was chosen, given that aircraft from airlines with a poor safety record do fall from the skies into either built up urban areas or remote, hard to reach outlying areas. Taking informal evaluation of the exercise in Monastir showed that skills were honed and confidence built in the systems that the National Society had developed.

- A disaster risk reduction workshop was held in Libya, with the Tunisian Red Crescent also attending.

Constraints or Challenges

- Very low coverage of the disaster management programme in 2010 has meant many of the components of the programme have been put on hold until the second half of the year.

Health and Care

Achievements against outcomes

- Blood day was marked by the Moroccan Red Crescent, supported by DfID.
- Tunisian Red Crescent also organised some awareness raising events on safe blood, with materials developed to support effective messaging.
- Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrated on 8 May by the Egyptian and Moroccan Red Crescent Societies together with events staged at the Opera.
- The H2P programme in Morocco was supported with computers to ensure staff and volunteers can follow up on the activities carried out and share the lessons learnt.
- A workshop was held in May as an awareness raising exercise for the committees involved in the H2P programme across the country.

Organizational Development

Achievements against outcomes

- With Strategy 2020 having been adopted by all 186 National Societies in Nairobi in late 2009, the regional representation has devoted its energies to working with the five societies of the North Africa region on what it means in their contexts and how to best tailor their work towards the strategic aims and enabling actions. Capturing the spirit and mindset is what is strived for, so that volunteers and staff feel the relevance to their projects and relationships. A meeting was held early in 2010 at the leadership level for an exchange of views and to establish a robust forum that can grow as the strategy comes to life.

Constraints or Challenges

- The extensive review of all programmes that the International Federation supports in the region is looking specifically at organizational development through the lenses of Strategy 2020 and its enabling actions. Consultation with the leaders of the five societies and partner National Societies working in the region will recommend how to best support the societies be strong National Societies, best working with their communities.

Principles and Values

Achievements against outcomes

- As North Africa is a hub of migration with people passing through on route to Europe as well as being a region of origin and some cases destination both temporary and permanent, a regional humanitarian values based approach to the communities hosting migrants has been adopted and supported by Europe Aid. Specific public and awareness campaigns and assistance programmes are being carried out to deter people from risking their lives journeying to distant countries so they can live in dignity and without suffering.

Equally, combating exclusion, marginalization and acts of xenophobia, while assisting vulnerable groups gain access to health and information is at the forefront of the programme.

- In the first half of 2010, equipment and furniture were purchased for the Tunisian Red Crescent's second regional warehouse near the border with Algeria in the south of the country.

- The regional representation received a boost in the shape of a new delegate who will focus on the youth as agents of behavioural change (YABC), and other programmatic issues.
- Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (VCA) was conducted in Algeria with the delegate's support, furthering the methodology to empower communities to identify their own issues and strategies for addressing them.

Constraints or Challenges

- In the migration programme, positive progress is being made and the National Societies are working well. The capacity of the regional representation to manage the programme was also boosted. However, challenges persist with the flow of information and issuing reports to management within the International Federation and donors externally in a timely manner. The MENA zone will endeavour to provide support to the representation in these matters ostensibly through its planning, monitoring and evaluation unit.

Working in partnership

All National Societies in the region have long term established partnerships with their respective governments and local partners support their work with the most vulnerable groups of society.

In 2010 an important initiative with the European Union is addressing the migration issue in the North Africa region through programmes that the National Societies engage with the communities that are affected. This is by far the largest project both in terms of financial support as well as its multi-year aspect, and it will be interesting to monitor its effects into future, with the expectation it will contribute significantly to better planning.

Several partner National Societies are also working bilaterally supporting various programmes and activities. The United Kingdom's department for international development (DfID) has been the main supporters of the North Africa regional plan in the areas of disaster management, health and social services and contributing the National Societies developing themselves.

Looking ahead

An extensive review of all programmes that the International Federation supports in the region and its structure with a representation based out of Tunis is ongoing. Consultation with the leaders of the five societies, partner National Societies and other partners is central to the process and recommendations will be placed before zone management in August for action plan to be drafted.

How we work	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:

- In Algeria: Dr. Hadj Hamou Benzeguir, President, Algerian Red Crescent Society, Algiers; phone: + 213 21 633 155; fax: + 213 21 633 690; email: president@cra-dz.org
- In Egypt: Prof Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent Society, Cairo; phone: +20 22 6703979; fax: +20 22 6703967; email: erc@egyptianrc.org
- In Libya: Dr. Solayman Eleghmary, Secretary General, Libyan Red Crescent Society, Benghazi; phone: + 218 61 909 52 02; fax: + 218 909 58 29; email: libyan_redcrescent@libyamail.net
- In Morocco: M. Abdeslam Makroumy, Director General, Moroccan Red Crescent Society, Rabat; phone: + 212 37 650 898; fax + 212 37 65 32 80; email: crm@menara.ma
- In Tunisia: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Secretary General, Tunisian Red Crescent Society, Tunis; phone: + 216 71 325372; fax: + 216 71 320151; email: hilal.ahmar@planet.tn
- In North Africa Regional Office: Anne LeClerc, Head of North Africa Office, Tunis; phone: + 216 71 862485; fax: + 216 71 862971; email: ae.leclerc@ifrc.org
- In MENA Zone: Mr.Tenna Mengistu, Adviser, policy, strategy and planning, Amman; phone: +962 6 797002035; and fax: + 962 6 5694556; email: tenna.mengistu@ifrc.org.
- In Geneva: Carmen Corminboeuf, Officer, Zonal Fundraising Support, phone: +41 22 730 4278; fax: +4122 730 0395; email: carmen.corminboeuf@ifrc.org.