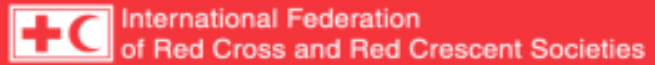


# Mid-Year report



## Lebanon

Appeal No. MAALB001

31 August 2010

This report covers the period 1 January to 30 June 2010.



The caption on the front of this Red Cross vehicle says, "150 years". Photo: Lebanese Red Cross.

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** The overall priority of the Lebanese Red Cross is to continue the implementation of institutional changes, to strengthen quality performance of first aid and ambulance services, to continue assistance through the primary health care and social centres, to strengthen the volunteer base through the youth as the future capital of the National Society and to ensure quality performance of the services performed through the blood banks.

**Programme summary:** Each department of the Lebanese Red Cross used the first months of 2010 to develop plans of action, very much in line with the National Society's five-year strategy. Progress was made on finance development in terms of support to improved structures and systems within the headquarters.

Most of the programmes and projects started in 2009 continued into the first half of 2010. The exceptions are the two new pilot projects based in the community, community based health and first aid and community based disaster risk reduction.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Lebanese Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation was signed in April. The cooperation agreement between the Lebanese Red Cross and the International Federation was extended in February.

Implementation of the programmes has been affected by the uncertainty of the International Federation's presence and funding in Lebanon. The Norwegian Red Cross announcement at the end of 2009 of the ending of its support for the International Federation representative

position in Lebanon due to a re-organizing of priorities and to involve other partners to sustain this position led to a review of alternatives for a temporary solution. The management of the MENA zone extended the deadline to make a decision until June, finally deciding to fill the position with the zone organizational development coordinator until the end of 2010.

**Financial situation:** The 2010 total budget is Swiss francs 813,264 (USD 798,171 or EUR 629,383), of which Swiss francs 457,211 or 56 per cent, is covered. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was Swiss francs 214,347 or 26 per cent of the budget.

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

**No. of people we help:** Through its disaster management emergency medical service and health and care activities including the blood bank and medico-social department activities the National Society provided 22,449 medical consultations (14,167 female and 8,282 male) and delivered 8,384 blood units. For activities related specifically to HIV, including prevention, stigma and discrimination, the National Society reached 4,731 youth in public campaigns.

**Our partners:** This year, new partners have joined a consortium to support the Lebanese Red Cross in community based disaster risk reduction. The Norwegian Red Cross through the Global Fund, the Swedish Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the Swiss Development Agency (SDC) have supported the pilot project from the very beginning in 2009. The International Federation is trying to diversify its funding to complement the Norwegian Red Cross, which has been the only donor to the International Federation supported programmes. Bilateral support has been forthcoming from the Belgium Red Cross. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has also continued its close work with the society, while the Lebanese Red Cross has also been able to attract non-Movement partners for its programmes.

## Context

Due to the global finance crisis, the Lebanese economy has faced problems like the rest of the world. Rising fuel and general consumer prices, which - with little increase in basic salaries – have affected middle to lower income families. There has been increasing concern for the most vulnerable in the suburbs of large towns and in rural and remote areas. Furthermore, the situation has been coupled with escalating economic hardship for the population as businesses suffer from the unstable image of the country in the region.

The first half of the year was marked by tragedy, when a plane from Ethiopian Airlines crashed into the sea while taking off from Hariri International Airport in Beirut. This emergency was very challenging for the Emergency Medical Services of the Lebanese Red Cross as their support to the authorities in transporting wounded and dead bodies to be identified by their families was crucial. Once again, the Lebanese Red Cross has proved its efficiency and demonstrated empathy with those affected and their families in an emergency situation, undertaking the challenges of this operation with great professionalism.

The first half of 2010 saw the end of the investigation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) which is deliberating on the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005. The findings will be published during the second half of the year. Tensions have been increasing within Lebanon and in some neighbouring countries. Clearly, this investigation is of interest for many political players in the region who have a special interest in maintaining peace and stability.

In facing up to these challenges, the Lebanese Red Cross is having to consolidate and maintain a high level of emergency preparedness, while ensuring the momentum of institutional changes as well as addressing new vulnerabilities.

## Progress towards outcomes

### **Strategic aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises**

#### **Outcomes:**

- The ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences is increased;
- Increased capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross to respond to disasters through the creation of coordination mechanisms at a regional and local level,
- Capacity and skilled human resources and materials for effective disaster management is improved;
- Self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health in emergencies and disasters is improved through a disaster risk reduction programme;
- Disaster response assistance to meet the needs of those people affected by disasters is improved.

**Achievements:** In line with the strategy for the Lebanese Red Cross that was approved in December 2008, and as a part of the process to have a more integrated approach within the National Society towards disaster management, the disaster management committee developed a plan of action for 2010 including the roles and responsibilities at the headquarters as well as at the local branches. It identified specific objectives in terms of building the capacity and assuring the national role of the Lebanese Red Cross in man-made and natural disasters.

All departments have developed their own plan of action for 2010, and project agreements have been signed. A tripartite agreement between the Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC and the International Federation regarding logistics capacity development was renewed in June. Unfortunately, activities have not been implemented as yet, but now that funding has been confirmed the plan will be implemented in the second half of 2010.

The pilot project on disaster risk reduction in the community has progressed slowly. Akkar, which is one of the poorest regions in Lebanon and therefore exposed to several kinds of risks, has been chosen to implement the pilot project. A local committee has been formed with members of the different Red Cross branches. This committee selected 60 villages, out of 350, to implement the project. 21 participants from various departments of the society have undergone a training of trainers alongside 3 participants from the Palestinian Red Crescent. Volunteers from the community and the Red Cross, trained by this pool of trainers, will do the assessments in the villages and follow-up on the implementation of the project.

**Constraints or Challenges:** One of the constraints is that the Lebanese Red Cross has no disaster management department. Programmes are divided between six operational departments. Cooperation between them has improved following the setting up of a disaster management committee and a steering committee, which consists of the directors of the six operational departments at the headquarters as well as very autonomous local committees.

Furthermore, the technical skills vary significantly between the departments. This is being addressed through capacity building activities supported by the International Federation, but expertise on disaster management related issues is difficult to find.

2010 is the year of the municipal elections. Akkar went through the election process during May, slowing down the pace of the project as all activities were paused. One of the main concerns is to push the community to participate in implementing the project; community leaders explained during the meetings that the population had become used to waiting for assistance without contributing themselves.

## **Strategic aim 2: Enable healthy and safe living**

### **Outcomes/Expected results:**

- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection.
- Vulnerability of the community to unstable supply of blood units is decreased.
- Healthy communities able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community based integrated health and first aid activities are increased.
- Access of women to quality reproductive health services in five regions in Lebanon is increased.
- Access of people to social and mental health services is increased in order to reduce mental health morbidity, disability and social problems.

**Achievements:** Within its plan to raise youth awareness on HIV transmission and prevention, the youth department organized a series of peer education workshops for Red Cross youth centres in Nabatiye, Saida, and Zahrani. The Fallougha centre organised a one day rally for 30 young people to disseminate information about HIV and AIDS through interactive games and questions to rid the misconceptions and get more reliable information. A pre-test and a post-test were done to measure the success of the activity. Other rally papers were organized at centres, where “a people living with HIV” film was shown. During Valentine’s Day, 4,731 youth were given packages of condoms, lubricants and an information sheet on using condoms. Condom stands were installed in pharmacies with information about safer sex.

The Lebanese Red Cross continued the two pilot projects on community based first aid (CBHFA). In Hermel, the following achievements were recorded:

- A school health programme took place in 10 public schools for 667 students who had medical examinations.
- Awareness seminars focusing on personal hygiene, oral and dental health, healthy diets, female genital mutilation, adolescence and the physical and psychological changes during puberty, swine flu and HIV. These seminars targeted 1,403 people (559 males and 844 females). Hygiene kits were also distributed.
- A follow up of the situations that appeared during the medical examinations in schools where high rates of tooth decay, cases of scabies and lice and eye problems (myopia) were found. A distribution of medicine was made and eye glasses were provided.
- Recreational activities in some schools for around 280 students.
- First aid trainings for 18 volunteers (14 males and 4 females).
- Training for medical personnel and community members on swine flu.
- Preparatory meetings for volunteers which indicated sewing courses, a knitting cycle, first aid sessions and handicraft as needs.
- A training course for 25 women and girls on skin health and natural skincare.

In Kafra, the second pilot project area also saw many achievements:

- Selecting volunteer committees of 20 volunteers to work with the local community and schools.

- Awareness sessions on:
  - the H1N1 epidemic disease for 20 beneficiaries
  - puberty and changes of behaviour for 19 mothers and 5 volunteers.
  - puberty and changes of behaviour for the volunteer committee at a public school, 13 students.
  - puberty and changes of behaviour for 85 girls at schools.
  - ways of preventing earthquakes for 16 women.
  - dealing with their adolescent children, covering stress reasons, symptoms, influential factors and strategies to respond to stress for 20 women reporting problems.
  - means of positive communication for 17 youths.
  - disadvantages of smoking for 20 students at Kafra School.
  - Threat of drugs and ways of prevention for 25 youths.
  - interests of adolescents for 45 adolescents.
  - prevention of accidents at home for 12 women.

In addition there has been:

- a health day for 152 students at Kafra school covering a range of health subjects.
- a series of home visits by volunteers for 150 people in the community to increase awareness about home incidents and burns.
- A recreational health day which covered many games under health subjects such as healthy food, personal hygiene and dental care for 145 people.

In addition to the regions of Hermel in the Bekaa and Kafra in the south, Akkar was a newly selected region in the north to implement the programme. The project provides a high level of health and social services to vulnerable populations in areas which lack the presence of such services.

Medico social department prioritized reproductive health as one of the main services where the Lebanese Red Cross can create a difference, especially with the the increase of demand for health services in Lebanon. During 2010, a specialized course for seven midwives to train them on dealing with women suffering from repeated miscarriages and how to diagnose severe cases and refer them to specialists. Another workshop was held for a group of 20 nurses on the "Functions of the nurse in the area of reproductive health." Brochures about reproductive health were distributed in all the Medico-social centres.

**Constraints or Challenges:** The health projects were running smoothly despite the challenges that face the National Society. The HIV programme has a lack of volunteers, although, a decision was taken to recruit volunteers and to implement a new rapid way of training them.

The community based health and first aid project in Hirmel faced few difficulties on the refusal of some public school managers to implement the programme; a lack of rooms suitable for the medical examinations within schools; and a lack of commitment of some parents and local authorities of the villages to attend the preparatory and coordination meetings.

In Kafra different challenges were encountered, including the work station of the programme facilitator being far from Kafra; a need for a full time employee who can supervise and monitor the programme closely; and negative communication between children and their parents and between the students and the school.

In Akkar there was a difficulty in finding a proper coordinator, leading to a slight delay. The municipal elections coincided with the start of the programme which delayed activities. As for logistic constraints, public schools in most of the villages were small and ill-equipped to implement the activities which caused us to greater effort to find suitable place.

### **Strategic aim 3: Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace**

#### **Outcomes:**

- Knowledge, understanding and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) within the Red Cross/Red Crescent is enhanced.
- The community or target population is sensitized to humanitarian values and is changing behaviour.
- Vulnerable communities are empowered with enhanced ability to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence.

**Constraints or Challenges:** Lack of funding saw most of the planned principles and values activities being integrated into different activities of the National Society. The HIV stigma and discrimination activities were mostly integrated in the HIV and AIDS awareness project of the youth. A unified training of peer educators was designed to include awareness, stigma and discrimination sessions.

For the prisons project, only a few prisons were visited due to the regular delays in getting the permissions from the Lebanese government. During these visits some handicraft activities were implemented in addition to distribution of hygiene kits.

### **Enabling action 1: Build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results:**

- The National Society has approved and implemented basic statutes and internal regulations in order to develop and implement strategies to ensure good performance and accountability.
- New financial and human resources systems and procedures are effectively applied.
- Systems to manage and deliver programmes at grassroots level are improved as per a structural adjustment in the youth department.
- Efficient membership and volunteer management systems are in place.
- The implementation capacity of the youth centres is strengthened resulting in improved delivery of services to beneficiaries.
- The National Society is able to analyse community needs and adapt its strategy accordingly.
- Headquarters staff and branch level programme leaders are able to develop, run, improve and report on programmes and projects.

**Achievements:** Revision of the statutes by the Internal Affairs department continued. A new proposal is under preparation and will be presented during the second half of 2010. This new approach seems to be softer and finding a compromise to please more people internally. Internal Affairs Department was very proactive in organizing meetings with the local committees to disseminate rules and regulations, mini-training sessions on planning at branch level, the distinction between governance and management and Strategy 2020.

The finance department of the Lebanese Red Cross has been working since the end of 2006 on a major development plan that was mostly achieved. The Microsoft Dynamic Navision software was in a testing period with positive feedback. The extension of the agreement with Microsoft is under negotiation for future maintenance and a plan to install the licence for the local committees. A compliance review will take place in October at headquarters level.

**Constraints or Challenges:** A number of challenges have faced the organizational development projects. One is the difficulty in making new rules and procedures on procurement accepted and respected by all departments.

### Enabling action 3: Function effectively as the International Federation

The strength of the Lebanese Red Cross is to permeate all levels of the Lebanese society. Its leadership has actively sought to engage with other actors although at all times maintaining a principled distance. The National Society is now represented in a newly established emergency response taskforce developed by the authorities in which the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors have been identified.

Within the Movement, close coordination has been maintained between the Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC and the International Federation through joint coordination meetings and open information exchange. A MoU between the three Movement partners was signed in February. The heads of ICRC and the International Federation delegations have regular meetings to discuss a common ground for the support to Lebanese Red Cross.

Monthly Movement coordination meetings are held with participating National Societies engaged in the short or longer term, either directly through the Lebanese Red Cross or through the International Federation and/or ICRC. This includes representation from the four long-standing partner National Societies: the Belgium Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Society/ Lebanon Branch, the Netherlands Red Cross and the French Red Cross. Close partnership will continue to be maintained with the longer-term partners such as the Norwegian Red Cross. New partners- the American and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the Global Fund, the Swiss Development Agency- have joined in 2010 and we hope they will remain for the next few years. This is very important to diversify the funding and bring new ideas on how to work and bring expertise and technical support from different experiences.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The strategy for the Lebanese Red Cross is the common platform for future development of the society, as well as the roadmap for the priorities over the next couple of years.

The ongoing commitment of the National Society to concentrate on its systems, structures and strategic direction at a national and local level aims to ensure a longer term vision and approach to the changing needs and vulnerabilities. This can be seen through its initiative to create a development plan and drawing on resources from the International Federation and others, ultimately aiming for improved longer-term performance and accountability. A strategic process addressing its mandate, role, vulnerabilities and needs takes into account the fact that the National Society is the only organisation in the midst of a plethora of NGOs, which can claim to transcend all political and confessional boundaries.

## Looking ahead

The second half of 2010 will be an important opportunity to re-evaluate the International Federation role and support to the Lebanese Red Cross. New ways of funding the International Federation representative and maintaining support to programmes will be explored throughout the second part of the year. One important new focus will be the fundraising strategy for the Lebanese Red Cross. The International Federation and ICRC are interested in joining efforts to support Lebanese Red Cross, with input from the business and philanthropic sector.

The International Federation supported programmes will continue to maintain an approach linked primarily to the ongoing strategic process of the National Society in terms of defining its role and responsibility as a key civil society organisation as well as maintaining and increasing the diversity of its current disaster management and health and care portfolios.

The disaster risk reduction programme will be given priority to improve the self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters. The process of the youth review and the medico-social capacity analysis will continue as a key component to improving the added value of the Lebanese Red Cross in vulnerable communities. The three community based health and first aid projects, in the north and in south, will continue to be implemented during the second part of 2010.

At all times, security remains a risk factor not only in the implementation of longer-term programmes but also for the volunteers in the field. The second half of the year will focus on developing a plan for volunteering, including security issues for volunteers in emergencies, informed by the security issues are detailed in the introduction of this document.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p><b><i>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></b></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"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>
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