

# Annual report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Lebanon

MAALB001

30 April 2011

This report covers the period 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.



Hygiene awareness activities with distribution of hygiene kits have been conducted for children in schools as part of the community based health and first aid programme. **International Federation.**

## In brief

### Programme outcome:

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 centers, 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.

### Programmes 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 and continued during 2010. The exceptions are the two new communities based pilot projects: Community Based Health and First Aid and Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction.

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 as a sole funder due to a re-organizing of priorities led to a review of alternatives for a 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 CHF 813,264, of which CHF 474,949 or 58% per cent, is covered 9,007. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 402,425 or 49% per cent of the budget.

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

**No. of people we have reached:**

Through its disaster management and health and care activities including the blood bank and medico-social department activities, the National Society has provided 197,755 EMS missions, 260,146 medical services, and delivered 24,640 blood units. For activities related specifically to HIV, including prevention, stigma and discrimination, the National Society reached 9,933 youth in public campaigns.

**No. of Volunteers:**

The LRC recorded at the end of 2010 a total of 7,000 volunteers in a percentage of 49% females and 61% males.

**Our partners:**

In addition to the long term partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross, new partners have joined a consortium to support the pilot project of the Lebanese Red Cross in Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction this year; the Swedish Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the Swiss Development Agency (SDC).

Bilateral support is provided 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 a 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 beginning of the year was marked by a 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 beginning 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. While no

official announcement has been released about the findings of the STL, rumours have circulated and increased the tension within Lebanon and with some neighbouring countries.

In facing up to these challenges, the Lebanese Red Cross has 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 are 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 of 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 specific 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.

#### **1- Logistics Department:**

A tripartite agreement between the Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC and the International Federation regarding logistics capacity development was renewed in June 2009.

Activities during 2010 have continued to be implemented according to the plan of action and included:

- Dissemination of the standardized systems and procedures to all departments and then to 10 local branches.
- Evaluation of standardized fleet of the EMS and learn from the best practices to standardize the fleet of the HQ department and then local branches.
- General session for local branches on procurement policies and procedures.
- Development of a contingency stock list for emergency response.
- Rehabilitation of a storage room for the logistics department.
- Warehouse Management Training for all branches.
- Introduction to LRCS Logistics procedures to other departments and all local branches.

#### **2- Disaster Risk Reduction:**

The pilot project on Disaster Risk Reduction in the community has progressed. Akkar, which is one of the most vulnerable regions in Lebanon and therefore exposed to several kinds of risks, has been selected 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 on DRR alongside 3

participants from the Palestinian Red Crescent. As next steps, volunteers from the communities and the Red Cross, trained by this pool of trainers, will conduct the assessments in the selected villages and follow-up on the implementation of the project.

### **3- Disaster Management and Search and Rescue:**

Disaster Management Coordinators training has also been implemented with 90 participants. The objectives of this training were to share best practices between the participants and disaster management tools.

The topics covered were reviewing the Contingency Plan and Operational Departments roles, DRR, CBHFA, PSP Relief, Shelter, Climate Change, roles and activities distribution during armed conflicts and that of the DM Representative in the Local Branch.

Two courses on Search and Rescue for volunteers of the EMS department have been provided by the Norwegian Red Cross for a total of 26 participants (22 males and 4 females).

The training was a level a professional training for the Mountain Rescue Unit (MRU).

### **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 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.

2010 was 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. In addition, the community in Akkar being among the poorest in Lebanon, the members were not always available for participating in project activities causing additional delays

### **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:**

#### **1- HIV Aids Program:**

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, Antelias, Beitmery and Zahrani.

The Fallougha and Saida centres organised a two days rally for 90 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 from Beirut and Mount Lebanon were given packages of condoms, lubricants and an information sheet on using condoms. Condom stands were installed in pharmacies with information about safer sex and distributed to more than 500 beneficiaries.

Total number of beneficiaries for the HIV Aids program was 9933 beneficiaries.

## 2- CBHFA Program:

The Lebanese Red Cross continued the two pilot projects on Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). A needs assessment has been recorded in the different villages of Hermel and Kafra.

In Hermel, the following achievements were recorded:

- A school health programme took place in 12 public schools with 1,258 students receiving medical examinations.
- A follow up of the cases that appeared during the medical examinations in schools was done, 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.
- Awareness seminars for 1,527 people (659 males and 868 females) were organized on the following subjects: personal hygiene, oral and dental health, healthy diets, female genital mutilation, adolescence and the physical and psychological changes during puberty, swine flu and HIV. During these seminars, hygiene kits were distributed to 1,258 children. .
- 21 volunteers have been trained on First aid trainings (17 males and 4 females).
- Medical staff and community members were trained on swine flu.
- Volunteers were given sewing and knitting courses, first aid sessions and handicraft.
- 25 women and girls participated in a training course on skin health and natural skincare.

The total number of beneficiaries in Hermel is 5,258 beneficiaries.

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

- A committee composed of 20 volunteers to work with the local community and schools was established.
- Awareness sessions in Kafra school for 351 students (including risks associated to smoking).
- Awareness sessions on puberty and changes of behaviour for 19 mothers and 5 volunteers.
- Prevention of accidents at home for 12 women.
- Discussing adolescents' interests with 45 adolescents.
- Awareness session on the threat of drugs and prevention for 25 youths.
- Means of positive communication for 17 youths.
- H1N1 epidemic disease awareness for 20 beneficiaries.
- Awareness sessions on puberty and changes of behaviour for 85 girls at schools.
- Sessions on reducing risks of injuries due to earthquakes for 16 women.
- Awareness sessions for 20 women on dealing with adolescents, stress reasons and symptoms, and ways on how to respond to stress were given.
- Health day covering a range of health subjects (healthy food, personal hygiene and dental care) for 305 people (including 160 students from Kafra).
- Home visits by volunteers for 150 people in the community to increase awareness about home incidents and burns.

The total number of beneficiaries in Kafra is 1,632 beneficiaries.

In addition to the regions of Hermel in the Bekaa and Kafra in the South, the Akkar in the North was selected as the third region to implement the programme. Al-Qlaiat was the village where the project started and a needs assessment was done. Activities similar to those achieved in the other pilot areas were initiated in Akkar and according to the results of the assessment where a total of 870 beneficiaries were targeted.

### **3- Reproductive Health and Psychological Support:**

The Medico-Social department prioritized Reproductive Health as one of the main services where the Lebanese Red Cross can create a difference on the community level, especially with the increase of demand for health services in Lebanon.

During 2010, the two programs Reproductive Health and Psychological Support were to a high extent integrated with the CBHFA.

A specialized course was established for 7 midwives to be trained 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.

The total number of beneficiaries involved in Reproductive Health activities is 7150 beneficiary.

Psychological support activities (PSP) targeted people affected by disasters and other psychological support activities for LRC volunteers and staff

The annual report of the LRC 2010 has recorded a total of 79 volunteers targeted by the PSP activities and 859 children.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

The health projects were running smoothly despite the challenges that face the National Society. The Community Based Health and First Aid project in Hermel faced few difficulties due to: the refusal of some public school managers to implement the programme; lack of rooms suitable for the medical examinations within schools; and a lack of commitment from some parents and local authorities in the villages to attend the preparatory and coordination meetings.

In Kafra, different challenges were encountered including the need for a full time employee in the socio-medical centre who can supervise and monitor the programme closely

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 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 are 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.

## **Achievements:**

A close cooperation on Principals and Values was initiated with the Belgian Red Cross especially regarding Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change in order to integrate the YABC tool kit among the activities implemented by the Youth Department.

In addition, 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, the LRC youth department has visited many prisons where different activities have been implemented such as handcrafts distribution, awareness sessions on personal hygiene and skin diseases, distribution of hygiene items, awareness sessions on dermatology and other diseases.

## **Constraints or Challenges:**

Although the project has faced some difficulties due to the regular delays in getting the entry permits from the Lebanese government, the number of beneficiaries targeted was 1326 in a total of 11 prisons.

## **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 was prepared and presented taking into account the different point of views of the board members. Internal Affairs Department was proactive in organizing meetings with the local committees to disseminate rules and regulations, organizing mini-training sessions on planning at branch level, clarifying the distinction between governance and management and disseminating the Strategy 2020. Two workshops on governance and management took place for the local branches of the Bekaa and South circumscription specifically in Zahle and Tyr where 60 people participated.

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 should have taken place in October at headquarters level which was delayed to 2011.

## **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 whom 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 2009. 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 three long-standing partners that have physical presence in Lebanon: the Belgium Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Society/ Lebanon Branch, the Netherlands Red Cross.

Close partnership will continue to be maintained with the longer-term partners such as the Norwegian Red Cross as well as with new partners such as the American and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the Global Fund, the Swiss Development Agency- that joined in 2010.

## 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 2011 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.

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 especially after the extension of the program until June 2011.

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.

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. 2011 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.

**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.

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