

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## North Africa

Appeal No. MAA82001

15 August 2011

This report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011.



April 2011: IFRC Delegates and Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers providing assistance in the IFRC/TRC transit camp at Ras Jedir (border with Libya).

## In brief

**Programme(s) summary:** The North Africa region is experiencing an unprecedented and decisive moment in its history, consisting of upheaval and violence, together with opportunities and hope. The risks remain great and the outcome far from clear. Nevertheless, the winds of revolution emanating from Tunisia in December 2010 have irrevocably modified the geopolitical, economical and social map of this part of the world. Youth have found new ways with which to voice their aspirations, to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and continue to agitate in favour of transparent and accountable governance.

Each of the five countries of North Africa – Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia - appears to be embarking on crucial political, social and economical changes which will indelibly mark the years ahead. At this stage, no one can predict the duration of the current transition. The overall expectation is that the process of transition will culminate in the establishment of more democratic governance.

Tunisia and Egypt, where the social and economical situation is very fragile due to the political transition, are both preparing elections planned to take place in autumn 2011. Libya is in a state of civil war since Mid-February, with involvement of NATO in support of the opposition fighting against the government. Morocco and Algeria are proposing political reforms, with a view to reducing the levels of popular discontent. All countries in the region are affected by the current revolutionary wave.

In this new context, the North Africa Office of the International Federation has continued its support to the National Societies guided by the 2010-2011 plans with a focus on youth and migration. It is also supporting the National Societies in their effort to ensure effective response to

the humanitarian consequences of the on-going civil unrest. A series of DREF applications and emergency appeals have been launched during the reporting period).

Work has also been undertaken to preserve National Societies' integrity, independence and image, as well as to develop plans of action adapted to the new needs and challenges of the most vulnerable in the future.

**Financial situation:** The total 2011 budget is CHF 1,101,840 of which CHF 346,345 (31 %) has been covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 211,873 (19% per cent) of the budget. To narrow the gap between the budget and expenditure figures, the budget has been revised downwards (from CHF 1,369,244 to CHF 1,101,840)

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

See also: (North Africa Revised Plan )

**No. of people we have reached:** The North Africa Office of the Federation supports the five National Societies. Much of its work is focused on institutional strengthening and capacity building, targeting National Society staff and volunteers, who in turn reach vulnerable communities through knowledge-sharing and improved service delivery in areas such as Humanitarian Diplomacy, Disaster Preparedness and Management, Community Based Health and First Aid, and Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change/YABC (with a focus on migration). Except in cases of specific response to emergencies (briefly mentioned below in the Disaster Management section, but not reported under this programme update), specific and detailed accounting of all the indirect beneficiaries of the IFRC support in the different countries remains a challenge.

**Our partners:** The North African National Societies benefit from solid partnerships with their respective ministries of health, interior/civil defence, education and solidarity. They are also connected to local thematic and regional networks, including the Arab Secretariat of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, the PanAfrican Group, and the Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, as well as the MENA reference and thematic working groups.

Good relations and collaboration are maintained with all United Nations agencies, as well as with the European Union. The relations are established and fostered in compliance with the Fundamental RC/RC I Principles and Values which are implemented in most of the countries within the region

On a bilateral basis, both the French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross are presently engaged in the region supporting the emergency response programmes in Algeria and Morocco. The Italian Red Cross is currently developing the basis for future cooperation with the Tunisian Red Crescent.

Good cooperation is maintained with the regional ICRC Delegation based in Tunis, and the three country offices in Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

The European Union (EuropeAid) and the Norwegian Government (NORAD) have been the main contributors to the Plan during the reporting period.

## Context

The deep social and political changes that originated in Tunisia in the early days of January 2011 and spread quickly across the region, took most observers by surprise. To date, this has led to the fall of two regimes (in Tunisia and Egypt) and to a civil war in Libya.

Many of the underlying issues the key drivers behind the call for change, had been identified and were present for some time - notably the very high levels of unemployment among youth, and educated youth in particular; the entrenched and, in some cases, very high levels of poverty and regional disparities within countries; and the modest progress in areas related to freedom of expression, accountability and transparency. These dimensions of social and economic inclusion are increasingly considered as part of North Africa's unfinished agenda for the years ahead.

Each of the five countries of North Africa appears to be embarking on a path of crucial political, social and economic change over the years ahead, and at this stage it is difficult to predict the duration of the current transition increasingly expected to lead to greater democratic governance.

Tunisia and Egypt, where the social and economic situation remain very fragile, are preparing national elections for the autumn. Libya is in a state of civil war since mid-February, with the involvement of NATO troops. Morocco and Algeria are proposing political reforms as a way to reducing the levels of popular protest. No country in the region is immune from the current revolutionary wave.

Among the most important challenges in ensuring stronger and more inclusive growth across the region are: youth unemployment, endemic poverty coupled with regional disparities, migration, increasing Islamic fundamentalism, urban violence and civil unrest, traffic injuries, as well as the slow pace of transformation of economic structures.

The North Africa region also continues to face growing challenges from environmental degradation, resulting from population pressures, urban growth, leading to water scarcity and pollution, desertification and climate change (the latter, also exacerbating water shortages). Finally, the region remains prone to natural disasters, in particular risks of earthquakes and flooding in Morocco and Algeria.

The "Libya crisis" deserves special attention in this report, as it has strongly impacted on IFRC support to the region over the past four and a half months, and will continue to impact on our future cooperation in North Africa.

In mid-February, following civilian demonstrations in Tunisia and Egypt, the people of Libya began protesting against their government. As unrest rapidly spread throughout the country, Libyan security forces began responding to protesting crowds with increasing violence, resulting in large-scale population outflows to neighbouring countries.

On 1 March, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously suspended Libya's membership in the U.N. Human Rights Council. In addition, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1973 on 17 March, establishing a no-fly zone over Libya and authorizing member states to take "all necessary measures" to protect civilians under threat of attack. Subsequently, NATO involvement in Libya began on 31 March mounting its operation 'to protect civilians'.

The IOM and UNHCR estimate that almost 700,000 people have left Libya between 20 February, and 30 June. . Of these, around 100,000 are displaced Libyans currently in neighbouring countries (primarily Tunisia), and around 288,000 are third-country nationals (TCNs) who are being repatriated to their country of origin under the auspices of IOM. Some 3,000 TCNs are currently under UNHCR protection, as 'persons of concern' unable to be repatriated. It is estimated that 200-300 TCNs continue to cross the border into Tunisia each day.

## Progress towards outcomes

As already mentioned above, the regional wave of civil unrest which started in Tunisia at the end of December 2010 has substantially modified the context of Federation intervention and support throughout the region.

During the reporting period, we have been focusing on emergency response activities in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. As a consequence, a number of planned development projects have been

implemented as much as expected. Nevertheless, at the same time, we have been working with most National Societies in the region on developing new action plans, which integrate emergency preparedness and capacity development concerns – as per the requirements of the current context and immediate needs.

## Disaster Management

As the emergency response during the reporting period has been strongly linked with National Society development and capacity building, the main achievements related to the MENA civil unrest emergency appeal are summarized as follows. More detailed information can be found on the latest Operations Update at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDR8200107.pdf>

### Achievement against outcomes

- National, regional and international disaster response tools were put into action as from February 2011, in response to the civil unrest and subsequent population displacement. This included the deployment of a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), five ERUs and RDRTs to Tunisia (19 National Societies participated multilaterally in this operation and six bilaterally). A Movement Coordination Platform was also established in Libya.
- Needs of people displaced by civil unrest in North Africa, particularly Libya, have been met by National Societies in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya through emergency relief distribution (food and NFI), and provision of emergency and basic health.
- In Tunisia, a Transit Camp was established at Ras Jedir on 6 April jointly by Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) and IFRC to shelter the large numbers of third country nationals (TCNs) fleeing Libya. Additional support is being provided to displace Libyans in the south-west of Tunisia.
- A DREF was launched on 24 January 2011 to support the Tunisian Red Crescent response to the civil unrest <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRTN004.pdf>
- A DREF was launched on 12 February to support the Egyptian Red Crescent response to the civil unrest: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDREG010.pdf>
- A DREF was launched on 5 December 2010 and completed on the 5 June 2011 to support the Morocco RC response to flash floods: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRMA004.pdf>
- A study on the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups in Algeria was completed.
- Three Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments have been finalized in Morocco with proposals for micro-projects currently under consideration.

### Constraints or Challenges

- The balance between our emergency and our development support to National Societies has considerably changed, modifying the rhythm and nature of our work, putting a high level of pressure on the regional office. The working relations with NS affected by civil unrest (Egypt, Libya and Tunisia) has been very intense. Despite the increasing pressure related to the emergency, we have managed to keep close working relations with Algeria and Morocco as well.

## Health and Care

### Achievement against outcomes

- See, in the Disaster Management above, the health and care emergency support provided in the region through the MENA “civil unrest” emergency appeal (click on the Operations Update link)

# Organizational Development

## Achievements

- Support of an Extraordinary General Assembly in order to revise the Algerian RC statutes, April 2011
- Recruitment of 3 national senior staff at the Tunisian RC HQ (Operation, Volunteer, Communication)
- Preparation of a Comprehensive Assessment supporting the development of the Tunisian RC strategy
- Design of an action plan for Libya, June-December 2011
- Design of an action plan for Egypt, 18 months from March 2011
- Three logistics workshops at national level in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia
- One PSP workshop at national level in Tunisia

## Principles and Values

North Africa has progressively developed into an important migratory route especially for people passing through on route to Europe, as well as being a region of origin, especially in the new political context. Despite the highly time and energy- consuming emergency assistance managed by the Federation in North Africa , the planned regional 'humanitarian values based approach' project, supported by Europe Aid, has been successfully implemented..

Specific public and youth awareness campaigns/awareness-raising and assistance programmes are being carried out to deter people from risking their lives journeying to distant countries so that they can live in dignity and without suffering. Equally, combating exclusion, marginalization and acts of xenophobia, while assisting vulnerable groups in gaining access to health and information, remains at the forefront of the programme.

## Achievement against outcomes

- Review of the *YABC Development of activities guideline* and of the *YABC Peer educators manual* (January-May 2011)
- Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change/YABC sessions undertaken by TRC YABC peer educator for TRC volunteers working in the transit camp, May 2011
- Elaboration of promotional and sensitization tools
- Advanced training « Migration and project development » with Morocco Red Crescent (MRC), 25-29 May 2011
- Design of three proposals for pilot project on migration in Morocco within MRC, June 2011
- YABC peer educator training for 6 trainers on Principles and Values, 22-24 June 2011
- A collaboration between the Italian Red Cross and the TRC has been initiated, June 2011
- Advanced training « Migration and project development» with TRC, 26-30 June 2011
- Design of 5 proposals for pilot project on migration in Tunisia within TRCS, July 2011
- A YABC-Migration session at *Atlantis VII that took* place in Tunisia, 2-9 July 2011

## Constraints or Challenges

- The EuropeAid project team has been very much involved in the management of the emergency operation in Tunisia. Despite this, efforts are being made to realize the full impact of the project. A concept paper for a 3-year project starting in 2012 will be finalized before October 2011.

## Working in partnership

During the turbulent period of the last six months, intensive and extensive relations have been maintained with ICRC, particularly with regard to the crisis in Libya crisis. Two key Framework agreements have been signed:

- *Guidelines for contributions to the Movement response in Libya and Neighbouring Countries'*, LRC/ERC/TRC/ICRC/IFRC, February 2011
- *Framework Agreement for coordination and cooperation*, LRC/ICRC/IFRC, March 2011.

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

The new context has pushed NSs to work differently with the authorities and with a greater number of partners, including United Nations agencies and INGOs. IFRC, together with ICRC, has strongly supported and accompanied NSs in their effort to consolidate and expand both strategic and operational partnerships with an increasing number of stakeholders.

A four-year (2012-2015) capacity building and development proposal from North Africa, designed and submitted in June, has been approved by the IFRC/DfID global partnership.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

During the period, the North Africa office has drafted a 2012-2015 plan, as part of the IFRC Long Term Planning Framework based on the new context and challenges, in line with Strategy 2020.

## Looking ahead

The evolution of the new political and social context in the region is going to influence the nature and direction of Federation support to the NSs in the NA including Libya. In addition to the traditional activities of Red Crescent National Societies in the region, increasing efforts will be directed to achieve the following objectives:

- Continue to support building a clear NS auxiliary role with the authorities, in accordance with the Principles and Statutes of the RC/RC Movement
- Ensure greater promotion of the Red Cross /Red Crescent Principles and Values, inside and outside NS.
- Strengthen youth involvement in NS organization and operations Improve NS disaster management capacities, especially for man-made disasters (civil unrest, urban violence, migration, traffic injuries). Reinforce NS humanitarian diplomacy and organisational capacities.

Ensuring effective implementation of the regional Migration/youth project supported through EuropeAid will be an important area of focus in the immediate to the medium term. e. Furthermore, the Regional Office of the Federation will continue to devote much of its time and resources in preparing National Society plans for 2012 and ahead, including fund-raising and capacity-building activities as a means of ensuring their longer-term sustainability.

### How we work

***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>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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