

ALGERIA/EGYPT/MOROCCO

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTH

CHF 884,000

Programme no 01.55/99

Introduction

The North Africa region has received continuous but relatively low-level assistance through the Federation over the past few years, mostly in the form of sporadic assistance for disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Meanwhile, the National Societies of the region have been trying to strengthen their disaster preparedness capacities and develop their institutional capacity. At the same time, they are involved in the delivery of important health services, which they are trying to expand, to some of the vulnerable groups in their populations.

While the Federation's programmes for the National Societies of Algeria, Egypt and Morocco vary according to the country, broadly speaking they cover capacity building, disaster preparedness and health.

Objectives

- Provide the National Societies with co-ordinated technical and financial assistance for capacity building in order to strengthen their ability to respond to natural disasters and the development needs of their vulnerable populations;
- Within the framework of the Federation's Disaster Preparedness Programme for the region, develop and implement a DP strategy and programme corresponding to the specific needs of each country;
- Reinforce existing health programmes through the provision of technical assistance, and in some cases, material support; develop new programmes which respond to the specific needs of each country.

Regional Office for North Africa

In order to provide ongoing and structured support to the five North African National Societies, the establishment of a Federation regional liaison office is under consideration.

Algeria

- Capacity Building/Disaster Preparedness Training

A Federation consultant worked with the Algerian Red Crescent in 1997 on the formulation of a DP programme. This programme aims at training middle level branch managers throughout the country in aspects of disaster preparedness: stock management and control, logistics, reporting and early warning systems.

Egypt

- Disaster Preparedness and Response

Egypt is prone to earthquakes, floods and fires. The Society has responded to several such disasters in the last few years. Within the framework of the Federation's Preparedness Programme for the five North African Societies which began in 1998, this programme is intended to strengthen the ERCS's capacity to both prepare for and respond to disasters. It will focus on the training of ERCS volunteers and staff in relief, first aid, International Humanitarian Law, and logistics. The courses will also deal with the rehabilitation and adaptation of individuals to new urban settings, primary health care, social and psychological assistance, and shelter management.

Morocco

- Disaster Preparedness and Response Programme

Morocco suffers frequent floods and earthquakes. The Society has responded to several flood disasters in the past few years and now wishes to strengthen its DP capacity. Within the framework of the Federation's Preparedness Programme for the five North African Societies, this programme is intended to strengthen the National Society's capacity to both prepare for and respond to disasters. Essentially the project will support the training of Red Crescent staff in disaster preparedness techniques and the constitution of a Disaster Preparedness committee at national and regional levels.

- Extension of Training Centre, Mehdia

The National Training Centre comes under the jurisdiction of the MRCS. Its aim is to train and upgrade staff at national and regional levels in disaster response management. Training has been so successful that the Centre is no longer able to accommodate all the demands for its services and needs to expand. (Apart from training in relief and first aid, it promotes the diffusion of the Principles of the Movement.)

- Dental and Maternity Clinic, Khemisset

A recent study by the Regional Red Crescent Committee of Khemisset has identified a dramatic shortage of medical facilities for pregnant women and new-borns in the area. (There is, for example, only one bed available for childbirth in the entire region.) The same study noted that dental care is also inadequate, especially for the rural population unable to pay for treatment. This project, designed by the MRCS in response to the situation, will set up a dental and maternity clinic, primarily intended for women from impoverished backgrounds and school children.