

### Emergency appeal n° MDR82001REA GLIDE n° OT-2011-0000025-TUN/LBY/EGY/SYR/YEM 8 September, 2011

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 26 July to 25 August, 2011.

**Appeal target (current):** This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 15,145,920 in cash, kind or services to assist 300,000 beneficiaries.

**Appeal coverage:** 74% based on the revised amount above. While there has been a good response from donors and partners in terms of in-kind donations for the current Emergency Operation, cash support has been limited which discourages flexible and quick responses in a highly fluid context.

#### Appeal history:

- CHF150,000 was allocated on 24 January 2011, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) in its response to civil unrest in Tunisia.
- On 12 February, a DREF allocation of CHF107,672 was provided to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) to help it deliver assistance to 10,000 beneficiaries as a result of civil unrest in the country.
- On 25 February, a DREF allocation of CHF 59,374 was allocated to enable the Federation Middle East-North Africa (MENA) Zone conduct an emergency field mission in Egypt and Tunisia to assess the impact of civil unrest in Libya.
- A Preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched on 1 March for CHF 4,458,090 for six months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries.
- The Emergency Appeal was revised on 24 March to an amount of CHF12,269,102 with the number of targeted beneficiaries increased to 150,000 and the timeframe extended to the end of December 2011.
- The Revised Emergency Appeal was adjusted further as of 17 May seeking a new total of CHF14,840,345 due to growing unrest in Syria and Yemen, greater contingency planning efforts and an overall increase in beneficiary targeting to 280,000 people.
- The Appeal was revised once again on 25 June seeking a total of CHF15,145,920 to support new activities in Libya and growing needs in southern Tunisia. Overall beneficiary numbers continued to target 300,000 people and the timeframe remained to the end of December 2011.



Field visit to the IDPs camp by the Libyan Red Crescent – Benghazi branch in Janzour area as part of the ongoing assessment of the IDPs' humanitarian situation. Photo: Libyan Red Crescent

**Summary:** The reporting period of late July and August has been a time of notable developments regarding the conflict in Libya. On 27 July, announced by Foreign Minister William Hague, the United Kingdom recognised the National Transitional Council (NTC) as the legitimate governing authority of Libya. The move came 15 days after the United States made the same recognition and, as per media reports, it was expected that millions of dollars in frozen financial assets held by the two governments along with others would be released to the NTC.

In parallel with growing international recognitions, armed groups allied against the former Libyan regime increasingly consolidated positions as part of an advance on Tripoli. As of 22 August, as a result of fierce urban battles, they were largely in control of Tripoli. Even though the NTC seems poised to assume full control of Libya, concerns remain about lingering violence, public safety and security in a possible post-conflict environment. Media and other commentators have also pointed out the challenges of maintaining authority, legitimacy and political cohesion within NTC along with its need for billions of dollars in order to effectively govern Libya and provide humanitarian and other forms of assistance to its population.

Building on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response in Libya in the previous months, the Federation is in the midst of deploying a Programme Coordinator to be based at Benghazi. The ongoing presence will facilitate humanitarian diplomacy and the conduct of other Federation activities in Libya highlighted in the Operations Update of 25 June. Additional staff members are also being recruited to support efforts in Libya while those already based in Tunisia are being repositioned to undertake immediate humanitarian response actions as needed in cooperation and coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The reporting period witnessed relative calmness as the cease fire agreement in Sana'a between the tribesmen and the Government forces is still holding on with some sporadic shooting and minor clashes. At the same time there are continuous clashes in Arhab area north Sana'a and other governorates like Abyan and Taiz. Due to expansion of sit-in areas of anti and pro government protestors in Sana'a there has been an increase in injury cases. In the south, the number of IDPs who moved from war torn governorate of Abyan to Aden is on the rise and more needs of food and non-food relief items are reported by Aden branch. The NS continued its efforts to respond to these needs within its capacity and mandate with close cooperation with Federation, ICRC, PNS, and other partners. At the same time, the HQ and IFRC office concentrated their collaborative efforts procurement and customs clearance of NFIs and vehicles as well as renovation of central warehouse.

## The situation

### North Africa

The focus on North Africa continues to revolve largely around Libya. The conflict in the country persists although the recent takeover of Tripoli by forces allied against the regime of Colonel Gaddafi and previous recognitions of the National Transitional Council (NTC) as the legitimate governing authority of Libya by the United Kingdom and United States, along with the prospect of a channelling of unfrozen financial assets to the NTC, suggests that the conflict may be reaching its final chapters. A possible post-conflict environment could still, however, be an extremely challenging context for humanitarian actors and the delivery of assistance as local-level violence might persist.

### Tunisia

Throughout the reporting period there has been increased movement of Libyan refugees from Tunisia back to Libya, most notably to the Nafusa Mountains area in the south of the country. Beginning in mid-July people advised that some areas were safer with being more firmly under rebel control. They have also wanted to check properties and spend time at home during the period of Ramadan. It remains to be seen, however, whether the effects of ongoing conflict including recent developments will encourage more lasting returns to Libya. In the meantime, the Tunisian Red Crescent, Federation and other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are continuing their support to communities hosting Libyan families in southern Tunisia.

### Libya

Among the recent and dramatic developments within the conflict in Libya, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement remains active across the country in providing humanitarian assistance. A notable element among unfolding events is the 'unfreezing' of Libyan financial assets held by governments abroad.

Ideally, increased liquidity within Libya will enable its governance but it remains to be seen how quickly support in all its diversity from authorities to the citizenry can be operationalised. The release of millions, and even billions, of dollars to Libya could also impact funding for many humanitarian agencies dedicated to providing assistance within the country.

## **Egypt**

As with Tunisia, the number of migrants crossing into Egypt has been noticeably low during the reporting period. As of 23 August, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported that only 68 third-country nationals (TCNs) had crossed into the country that day which is a daily figure typical of the previous few weeks.

## **The Middle East**

### **Syria:**

After more than five months of unrest, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) continued to support people directly affected by the events. The most vulnerable among persons living in the affected areas, the injured; internally displaced people and persons returning from displacement were the main target populations for support. Emergency health with first aid and ambulance service, and distribution of humanitarian assistance were priority activities. More than 120,000 persons have been targeted with assistance.

SARC is stepping up efforts to protect the emblem and to disseminate its mandate to ensure continued access to all groups. Plans to further to enhance this work are currently under way.

With an increased number of ICRC delegates present, SARC and ICRC further increased visits to areas affected by the unrest. Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir ezzor and other places were visited to assess the needs and provide SARC branches with medical supplies and other assistance.

In cooperation with SARC, ICRC organized a three-day workshop about International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and safer access. 44 volunteers working in disaster management and first aid from all branches participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed to build and develop volunteers' capacity in IHL through refreshing their knowledge of IHL and basic rules of safe access to the teams working in the field. The workshop was arranged based on requests directly from the volunteers.

## **The Gulf**

### **Yemen:**

Due to expansion of sit-in areas of anti and pro government protestors in Sana'a there has been an increase in injury cases have been reported reaching to 300 cases. Sana'a branch has to double its operations and rearrange its field deployment to respond to the changing situation.

In the southern parts of the country, there has been a notable increase in the numbers of IDPs moving from Abyan to Aden governorate. The branch expressed its urgent needs for more relief items including food and non-food items. The HQ in close consultation with IFRC sent NFIs to the branch as mentioned below. Distribution is planned to take place during September to cover other districts in Aden such as Khor Maksar and Buraiqah which were not covered in the last phase and have large portion of IDPs who are sheltered in school and with relatives. All the NFIs sent by various donors will contribute to building the capacity of the YRCS to respond to the increasing needs of affected people due to the recent political crisis in Yemen. NFIs support is essential to IDPs who left their home all of a sudden leaving behind all their belongings and households. As other INGOs are distributing food items, YRCS can fill in the gap by providing their NFIs to give full package of aid to beneficiaries.

The IFRC office in Sana'a and DM department have continued their procurements process and finalized the purchase of 5000 mattresses which are delivered to the central warehouse of the NS. Procurement of 70 FA kits also moved forward as offers were reviewed and a supplier was chosen and contracted to provide the items according to standards specification during a certain period of time. Customs clearance for NFIs sent by Iranian RC has been obtained and goods are on the way to the main warehouses in Sana'a. Clearance of the two vehicles donated by IFRC is on going.

## Coordination and partnerships

### North Africa

**Movement Coordination - regional:** Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, efforts are ongoing to ensure that humanitarian interventions remain internally coordinated in an effective manner throughout North Africa and external actors are also advised on how to best interact, in particular, with the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS) and implement their assistance in Libya. The Federation Regional Office at Tunis and the ongoing presence of its field-based staff remains pivotal for guiding and implementing actions, most notably, in Tunisia but also supporting a presence and activities in Libya.

**Coordination with authorities:** As in previous months, the Federation, ICRC and National Societies of North Africa are coordinating their presence and responses with authorities at national and local levels. In Libya, interaction throughout the country in an impartial and neutral manner is pivotal for reaching all people affected by conflict while in Tunisia continued contact is crucial for the success of ongoing activities and ones that may coincide with governmental elections scheduled for October 2011.

**Inter-agency coordination:** In Libya, the LRCS is hosting General Coordination Meetings for the humanitarian community based at Benghazi. Its headquarters is also the site for the weekly shelter and non-food item (NFI) and protection meetings attended by humanitarian actors. Although access to the Nafusa Mountains area in Libya has tended to improve and there are hopes by various agencies for increased movement and delivery of assistance in the weeks ahead, much of the international humanitarian community dedicated to western Libya is still based at Zarzis in Tunisia. Accordingly, the Federation is a key player in interacting with other organisations, monitoring conditions particularly in Libya and Tunisia and advising on appropriate courses of action to support the common vision of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

### Syria

Close cooperation between the Movement partners in Syria continued with information sharing and joint planning.

ICRC continued to coordinating its response with the National Society, and has been delivering essential supplies such as first-aid kits, stretchers, dressing kits, hygiene parcels, food and other emergency-response. ICRC is further cooperating with Syria's health ministry to deliver medical supplies to hospitals and other health-care facilities in the country

A mission from the UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited Syria 20-25 August to look into the situation and the humanitarian needs. The mission met with SARC President and SARC disaster management coordinator joined the mission during field visits.

SARC is in addition working in cooperation the Ministry of Health, UN partners, local administration and others.

### Yemen

All components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are present in Yemen. The current RC/RC partners in Yemen are Danish RC, Swedish RC, Norwegian RC, Germany RC, French RC, UAE RC, ICRC and IFRC.

The DM Assisting Group consisting of YRCS, IFRC, ICRC and PNSs, continued its regular weekly meeting to coordinate efforts of the emergency operation in different parts of Yemen.

The French Red Cross has provided the Yemen RC with four new ambulances within its plan to support the capacity building in response and FA services at conflict governorates. The ambulances will be distributed to Dhamar, Sana'a, Shabwa and Seyoun branches.

The German Red Cross is planning to provide some NFIs bilaterally to YRCS (Seyoun, and Taiz).

#### **National Society Capacity Building:**

**ERCS:** The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) has many years of experience in operational relief responses as well as the areas of youth and volunteer development and engagement, health and blood services. Recent ERCS operations have included the response to flash floods in 2009, the Gaza humanitarian crisis in 2009, the Cairo rockslides operation in 2009 and the complex humanitarian emergency of 2008 and 2009.

**LRCS:** With National Societies being essential for the foundation for Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement interventions, the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS) is the lead disaster response organisation in Libya. It has experience in health and blood service delivery, youth and volunteer engagement and relief assistance. Since the outset of the crisis in Libya, the LRCS has been responding to needs throughout the country in spite of highly volatile circumstances.

**SARC:** The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC) is the largest national humanitarian organisation in Syria. The National Society is present across the country with 14 Branches and an extensive number of Sub-Branches. Approximately 10,000 volunteers have been trained to provide support in disaster response, first aid, restoring family links, relief and other priority activities.

**TRC:** The Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) continues to be the leading disaster response organisation in Tunisia. Its status is a result of the presence of Branches throughout the country, previous training and experience of many volunteers in first aid, blood services, medical, social and youth programmes as well as the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The Federation is working alongside the TRC to build capacities in areas related to the present Emergency Operation in addition to broader management and volunteer development.

**YRCS:** The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) is an independent voluntary relief society recognised by the Yemeni Government in 1970. The YRCS performs all its activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of which it has been a full member since 1982. As an auxiliary to public authorities, the YRCS is active in the sectors of health, social services, disaster preparedness and response. Through dissemination activities, the YRCS seeks to promote respect for provisions of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

**IFRC:** The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regional representation for North Africa is based at Tunis. Over the last 10 years the IFRC has supported disaster response and long-term programmes in cooperation with five National Societies in the region - Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The IFRC is also highly active in supporting youth engagement and programming as a basis for regional efforts. In cooperation with the Zone Office in Jordan, the Regional Office at Tunis supports the many activities and responses undertaken by the IFRC and National Societies throughout the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### North Africa

#### Overview

In North Africa, as part of the current Emergency Operation centring on Libya and Tunisia, the Federation conducts internal monitoring of all its activities for the purposes of information management and reporting. Results are made available among the many technical papers, regular Situation Reports and Operations Updates available at the Federation website [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org). As part of responsibilities for the Middle East and North Africa, the Federation will continue to track the civil unrest crisis to inform its emergency and longer-term activities and ensure effective support for National Societies of the region.

#### Progress towards outcomes

<b>Tunisia</b>
<b>Organisational Development</b>
<b>Outcome 1:</b> The structures and systems of TRC are improved, with management and service delivery functions working effectively to best meet the needs of vulnerable households and communities.

**Progress since last report:** Federation staff members based at Zarzis are continuing to work closely with counterparts among the TRC operations team to provide assistance throughout southern Tunisia. In addition to daily contact, Tripartite Meetings involving the Federation, ICRC and TRC are being held each week to promote cooperation, coordination and the harmonisation of Movement efforts.

With the TRC facing expectations from the general public and demands for collaboration by other humanitarian actors operating in Tunisia, the Federation is advising on appropriate and pragmatic courses of action while addressing finance and human resource management within the National Society. To reinforce its aims, the Federation is in the midst of recruiting a regional Organisational Development Delegate.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Improving communication and activity coordination among the many levels of the TRC and Branches at various locations that may be experiencing leadership and general staffing changes is a highly labour intensive effort. Similarly, regularising human resources through finalisation of National Society personnel contracts and volunteer compensation demands constant attention that at times rests beyond the current staffing configuration of the Federation. Securing an Organisational Development Delegate should help harness priorities that are pressing and require longer-term engagement to ensure sustainability.

<b>Emergency Health</b>
<b>Outcome:</b> People in transit, including vulnerable groups, have access to the provision of basic health care, Preventative health measures and psychosocial support to meet their immediate needs.

**Progress since last report:** The Federation has continued providing support to the TRC Health Clinic at Tataouine by providing essential medicines and medical supplies as well as NFIs such as diapers and baby clothes for mother/infant distributions. Provision of baby milk to the TRC Clinic was stopped due to concerns about its appropriateness. The remaining stock will, however, be channelled through the Ministry of Health and regional hospital. Their oversight will ensure best practices according to the joint Federation-ICRC statement on baby milk provision and the monitoring of safety linked to the use of powdered infant formula preparations.

In the meantime, culturally sensitive information-education-communication (IEC) material in Arabic has been received by the Federation office at Zarzis that includes promotion of breastfeeding, proper hygiene and treatment of diarrhoea among other important health sensitisation issues. The IEC material is also being revised by Zarzis-based staff and afterwards it will be approved as per Ministry of Health (MoH) standards and locally printed for public dissemination including use at the TRC Clinic through posters and as a 'toolbox' for sensitisation sessions to be conducted by trained TRC volunteers.



Dr Taha Mkadmini, in charge of TRC Tataouine Health Clinic. Photo: IFRC

Among residual goods within the Federation stocks in the aftermath of stewardship of the Transit Camp at Ras Jedir, medical health kit items as well as defibrillators and autoclaves may be made available to the TRC Clinic at Tataouine. It would be ideal if lingering materials could be dispatched to Libya but customs and importation restrictions tend to make such a move problematic. It is also anticipated that the recently recruited Federation Health Coordinator will, along with counterparts, undertake a mapping exercise with TRC committees at Gabes, Medenine, Sfax and Tataouine to identify or confirm their current activities, resources and reconcile them with residual stocks that could be matched to meet their needs for the next three months.

As per previous Operation Updates, below is an overview of TRC Tataouine Clinic consultations:

#### Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:

- Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is no longer providing psycho-social programme (PSP) services at the TRC Clinic as they are scaling down their activities. Negotiations are ongoing for the MoH to takeover PSP services as there still seems to be need for this type of intervention.
- The number of Libyan refugee families in Tataouine continues to fluctuate due to migration back and forth to Libya making programming forecasts difficult. In general, there has been a significant decrease in the number of consultations at the TRC Clinic as per details in the table above. If households continue to return to Libya in the aftermath of Ramadan, and should security conditions in the country improve, there may be an even more dramatic decrease in clinic consultations.

#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

**Outcome:** Up to 150,000 people in transit have access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene items to minimise the risk of sanitation and water-related diseases.

**Progress since last report:** Water and sanitation interventions in Tunisia have ended on behalf of the Federation due to the handover of TRC-Federation Transit Camp to UNHCR as of 18 July. For details on final actions, please see the Operations Update of 5 August.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No details to report.

#### Emergency Shelter and Camp Management

**Outcome 1:** A transit population of up to 150,000 individuals has access to a safe, secure and hygienic settlement that upholds basic human rights and meets their needs.

**Progress since last report:** Shelter and camp management efforts on behalf of the Federation have ceased in reflection of the handover of TRC-Federation Transit Camp to UNHCR as of 18 July. For details on final actions, please see the Operations Update of 5 August.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No details to report.

#### Relief/Livelihoods

**Outcome 1:** A transit population of up to 150,000 individuals receive essential items and food to meet their

needs as required.
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**Progress since last report:** As per the Plan of Action for Libya-Tunisia, relief-livelihoods involvement is continuing on behalf of the Federation. In the aftermath of handing over its Transit Camp to UNHCR, it was anticipated that support would be needed by the TRC for possible food-voucher distributions among the five southern governorates most affected by population displacement from Libya: Gabes, Kebili, Medenine, Sfax and Tataouine. It has turned out, however, that the TRC is too occupied with distributions being conducted in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) so additional ones could not be undertaken since they would overwhelm operational abilities.

The Federation is, however, providing oversight for TRC distributions of residual Transit Camp food items totalling approximately 15MT for displaced Libyan households at Ben Guerdane and other localities where there may be acute needs. The first distribution is scheduled for 27 August and additional ones will be conducted weekly as long as residual food stocks remain.

As per the Plan of Action for Libya-Tunisia and a tangible re-focusing of staff based at Zarzis, it is expected that the Federation Relief Coordinator will visit Libya in the immediate weeks ahead in order to further discussions for opportunities of engagement with the ICRC and Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS). In the meantime, an effort will be made to finalise distribution prospects within Tunisia for non-food items (NFIs) leftover from Transit Camp operation by the Federation.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:**

- The proper targeting of residual food, NFIs and other forms of assistance can be labour intensive and a lengthy process requiring expertise that is, at times, beyond the knowledge base of National Society staff and volunteers so extensive Federation input is required.

<b>Relief/Livelihoods</b>
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<b>Outcome 2:</b> Displaced Libyans and 3,000 Tunisian host families in Gabes, Medenine, Remada and Tataouine receive essential relief to meet their needs as required.
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**Progress since last report:** As distributions are ongoing, details are still be received regarding TRC involvement in WFP-led Ramadan food distributions aiming to provide a basic food ration to displaced Libyan families. Preliminary details can be seen in the Operations Update of 5 August and any updates will be presented in subsequent reports.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Distribution reporting still needs to be improved upon within the TRC for actions done exclusively on its behalf. Federation Relief, Reporting and eventual Organisational Development personnel are striving to improve information management skills and capacities but overt and enduring results are still pending.

<b>Logistics</b>
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<b>Outcome 1:</b> Ensure an effective and efficient supply chain, suitable storage of goods and appropriate transport to carry out all activities within the operation.
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**Progress since last report:**

- The TRC-Federation Transit Camp including its Base Camp facility was handed over to UNHCR on 18 July. In order to guarantee a smooth transition, the logistics team continued to manage some aspects until 23 July such as the transfer of NFIs for 500 beneficiaries from stocks positioned at the Medenine warehouse as well as continued water supply and contracts with camp suppliers.
- The Medenine regional warehouse is now fully operational and new storage space is available with erection of the last rub hall. An updated stock inventory list is available and a release authorisation process has been put in place according to Federation standard procedures.
- Federation-logistics human resources are now adapted to the current level of activities. A process of recruitment for a new Logistics Delegate was launched for the replacement of the staff member with a mission ending in early September.

- Meetings were held on a regular basis with TRC logistics counterparts ensuring continued coordination and support.
- For the period of Ramadan, certain activities were put on stand-by such as trainings. Priority attention has been given to procurement, customs clearance, transport and warehouse management. Procurement efforts focused on medical supplies and equipment, related mother/infant NFIs and office equipment for the TRC Tataouine Clinic. All the procured goods were delivered during the first two weeks of August.

#### **Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:**

- At the end of July, it was discovered that all relief goods imported for the Emergency Operation through the Tunisian Red Crescent were not cleared by customs authorities. The clearance process now being undertaken by the logistics team started in early August and should be finalised by mid-September.
- A VRP vehicle registration agreement was signed by the TRC in July. The process for local registration started by mid-July but it is still pending as the Federation is waiting for a tax exemption certificate from TRC Central Committee.
- Overall, there remains a lack of a TRC logistics network and coordination at the regional level. The main shortcoming is the availability of human resources that, ultimately, complicates efforts to build a regional supply strategy.

### **Logistics**

**Outcome 2:** TRC logistics capacities are strengthened.

**Progress since last report:** Most training activities by the Federation with the TRC were carried out before the month of July. Trainings were subsequently suspended during July as the Logistics Training Delegate assumed general functions. With Ramadan in place during August, it has not possible to organise new training sessions and it was decided to resume training activities in September.

#### **Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:**

- In order to be truly effective and sustainable, training needs and planing must be reviewed with TRC logistics coordination staff and Regional Branches.
- In general, logistics challenges and constraints depend on how general communication and activity coordination is organised by the TRC Central Comittee and Branches.

## **Egypt**

### **Relief**

**Outcome:** A transit population of up to 50,000 individuals receive essential items and food to meet their needs as required.

**Progress since last report:** Migration of third-country nationals (TNCs) has decreased significantly during the reporting period. Details regarding the ongoing Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) humanitarian intervention will be provided in the next Operations Update. Please see the report of 5 August for the most recent highlights.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Reporting by the ERCS on its activities still needs to become an 'automatic function' in the absence of Federation staff at the Egypt-Libya border.

### **Logistics**

**Outcome:** Effective support provided to the field operation.

**Progress since last report:** No significant details to report. Additional details will be provided in the next Operations Update as reporting lines with the ERCS are being refined.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No significant details to report.

## LIBYA

### Organisational Development

**Outcome 1: Humanitarian Diplomacy** - The interests of vulnerable individuals and communities in Libya are promoted among political decision makers and opinion leaders, and Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement access and influence is increased with such actors, whilst ensuring maximum humanitarian space for its role and actions.

**Progress since last report:** The Federation is in the midst of deploying a Programme Coordinator to be based at Benghazi. As a key member of the representational team of the Federation Regional Office for North Africa, the ongoing staff presence in Libya should greatly enhance contact with authorities, other humanitarian actors and communities affected by the conflict in the country.

In addition to placement of the new Programme Coordinator, with the withdrawal of Federation involvement in transit camp operation in Tunisia it is expected that more staff will have the flexibility to directly support efforts in Libya. Greater engagement will also bolster Federation input into the Movement Strategic Platform that comprises the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), ICRC and Federation that continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure coherence among all Red Cross Red Crescent actions dedicated to Libya as well as relations with external entities.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No significant details to report.

**Outcome 2: Organisational Capacity Building** - The structures and systems of the LRCS are improved, with management and service delivery functions working effectively to best meet the needs of vulnerable households and communities.

**Progress since last report:** Once the new Programme Coordinator is fully based within the LRCS Headquarters at Benghazi, more focused organisational development efforts will be able to be launched as per the Federation Plan of Action for Libya-Tunisia. During July the LRCS released an additional plan to help direct its actions and secure support for the months ahead. The document, advanced as a result of a previous visit to Benghazi by the IFRC MENA Zone Director, also represents the first step in the preparation of an internal strategic plan as part of organisational development initiatives.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No significant details to report.

### Relief/Livelihoods Capacity Building

**Outcome 1:** Relief needs in Libya are met in a coordinated and efficient manner, with the Federation adding value to efforts underway by enhancing the Movement response and deterring the duplication of activities.

**Progress since last report:** No significant details to report – more information is pending a planned visit to Libya by Federation staff based in Tunisia during the week of 5 September.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No significant details to report.

### Logistics – Capacity Building

**Outcome 1:** LRCS logistics capacities are strengthened to meet the needs of 5,000 beneficiaries.

**Progress since last report:** No significant details to report.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** No significant details to report.

### Communications, Advocacy and Public Information – Capacity Building Libya and Tunisia

**Outcome 1:** LRCS and TRC capacities in effective communications and dissemination are strengthened.

**Progress since last report:** No significant details to report – for the most recent information, please see the previous Operations Update.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Ongoing communications-related capacity building actions in Libya and Tunisia are pending the arrival of a replacement Reports Delegate as the previous one finished her mission on 5 August.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

**Outcome 1:** Ensure that an effectively communication strategy is developed to portray the continuing humanitarian crisis and assistance efforts.

**Progress since last report:** No significant details to report – for the most recent information, please see the previous Operations Update.

**Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:** Ongoing and robust communications-related actions in Libya and Tunisia rely upon personnel continuity in the form of a Federation Reports Delegate. A new staff member is expected within the next few weeks.

## SYRIA

Ambulances are a current priority items for the National Society, also food, medicine (including chronic diseases) and vehicles to facilitate distribution of relief items. Medical equipment and first aid consumables are primarily provided by ICRC and local donors.

### Emergency health

**Outcome: The immediate health risks of the affected population are reduced through the provision of first aid and emergency medical services.**

#### *Progress:*

First aid volunteers continued to provide first aid and to evacuate and transport injured persons in medical care. The volunteers worked in many areas under difficult circumstances, at times with risks for their own safety. With support from British and the Netherlands Red Cross, six new ambulances have been purchased under this appeal. The ambulances have been allocated to the branches in Dara'a, Homs, Lattakia, Deir ezzor, Idlib and Hama. With additional support from Danish RC another three ambulances have been ordered. Lack of ambulances is a continued challenge to the first aid interventions. **IFRC is asking for another five ambulances to adequately support the needs of the National Society.**

IFRC and ICRC visits to some of the branches providing ambulance services can confirm the professional set up of interventions, the capacity and dedication among the volunteers and the commitments to the principles of the Movement - impartiality and neutrality in particular.

SARC headquarters, in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross, started psychological support to Homs branch staff and volunteers engaged in emergency response. A psychologist visited Homs branch once a week for the past month. During the visits, the psychologists facilitated diffusion sessions for the volunteers to reduce their stress, to help them in dealing with experiences encountered during the work and enable them to continue their response to the emergency effectively. The discussions included self-care techniques, how to care for staff and

volunteers, peer support and how to prevent stress and burn-out. The project will continue till the end of 2011 and is envisaged to include also other branches.

SARC together with IFRC Syria office continues to ensure that all volunteers are included in the IFRC insurance program.

## Relief distributions

**Outcome: Food and basic non-food items are distributed to families in the most affected areas**

### Progress:

With support so far received from this appeal, SARC is preparing for 3,000 food parcels. **IFRC is asking for an additional 7,000 food parcels.** The needs have been added to IFRC mobilisation table. The SARC parcels include: 5 kg white rice, 5 kg sugar, 1 kg black tea, 2 kg white beans, 2 kg veg. butter, 1 kg tomato paste, 1 kg halawi (sweet), 5 tins of tuna. The items included in the parcels are envisaged to last for five persons for approximately one month.

Primarily from own stock and with support by UN agencies and ICRC, more than 120,000 persons have been targeted with food and non food. From SARC stock and local donations, distribution of around 6,000 kilo baby milk, almost 4,000 mattresses and blankets, tents, jerry cans, kitchen sets, medicine and children diapers have reached people in affected areas and displaced populations.



Relief team of SARC branch in Homs registering the beneficiaries for the relief items distribution. Photo: SARC

## YEMEN

### Emergency Health

**Outcome:** The immediate risks to the health of the affected population are reduced through the provision of first aid and emergency medical services (in areas not covered by the ICRC).

### Progress:

Sana'a branch continued its relief operation through deployment of field teams to sit-in areas in Sana'a city. They provided FA and other services to all protestors with no exception. The teams are distributed in:

- 1- advance health post at the University Square
- 2- advance health post at Tahrir Square
- 3- emergency team at Sabaeen Park for female protestors
- 4- emergency team at Sabaeen on Fridays gathering
- 5- Frequent visits to sit-in camps at sports city north Sana'a

Sana'a branch has treated 1721 injured people in both sit-in areas including FA services and medical check up at field hospitals. It is also performing in collaboration with ICRC an assessment to the current situation and needs of people in Hasaba area which was affected by armed confrontation. The branch has also been engaged in retrieving dead bodies in the same area.

## Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Building

**Outcome:** By advancing the process of national contingency planning, capacity of the YRCS to respond to civil unrest, through effective and appropriate interventions, is further strengthened

### Progress:

Following the distribution of NFIs in Aden, the branch expressed its need for more items to support the increasing number and needs of Abyan IDPs in Aden. The HQ in close consultation with Federation office in Yemen sent the following items to the branch:

- 1- 800 family kitchen sets (from Hodeida warehouse)
- 2- 800 blankets (from Hodeida warehouse)
- 3- 800 mattresses (from Sana'a warehouse)
- 4- 50 tents (from Sana'a warehouse)

The two Land Cruiser vehicle reached Hodeida seaport and customs clearance and transportation is being arranged by Federation Office in Yemen. The cars will be used by the DM and Health Departments. The Federation Office and YRCS have also finalized the customs clearance for NFIs sent by the Iranian RC. The items will soon be transported from the seaport to the NS warehouses in Hodeida branch which include:

- 1- 300 family tents
- 2- 1000 blankets
- 3- 500 water coolers
- 4- 600 plastic sheets rolls
- 5- 500 kitchen sets
- 6- One electric generator 10 KV
- 7- 260 stretchers
- 8- 500 FA kits

## Logistics

**Outcome:** YRCS logistics capacities are strengthened.

### Progress:

The logistic capacity will be enhanced further through the two vehicles that were donated by the Swedish RC and the Federation. It will support the frequent field movement and visits to disaster prone areas all over the country. The vehicle have already reached Hodeidah seaport and clearance process is under way. They will reach Sana'a early next week.

Earlier during the month the IFRC office finalized the process of non-food relief items procurement from the local market which included 70 first aid kits and 5000 mattresses. The whole quantity of mattresses has been delivered to Sana'a warehouse while FA kilts will soon follow.

The HQ central warehouse maintenance and refurbishment works which continued throughout the month on the damage of fire incident has been finalized. All debris of the fire has been removed and damaged parts repaired and improved including the floor, entrance and cementing and painting of 384 square meters of wall.

## Constraints and challenges

There has been a delay in customs clearance for NFIs sent by the Iranian RC at Hodeidah seaport. The authority asked the NS to pay for sales and profit taxes of which it should be exempted. The Federation Office and YRCS HQ followed up with different authorities to obtain the necessary exemption for these non-profit and humanitarian items. Finally, the Ministry of Social Affair and Labour issued a note to the Ministry of Finance, Taxation department to release the goods based on the mission of the NS and purpose of consignment. The delay caused more expenses in demurrage as the goods stayed longer at the harbour. By 25 August the items were sent by trucks to Sana'a and delivered to the warehouses to be distributed after the Eid holidays, during the month of September after agreeing on the suitable distribution plans with concerned branches. There is a similar problem with exemption of cars as the NS was asked to pay for taxes and customs. The Customs authority referred to a

government decree that all agencies and government departments should pay these fees regardless of the purpose. The Federation accepted to support the National Society in paying the customs of the cars to release them as soon as possible.

### Regional Activities

**Outcome:** By advancing the process of regional contingency planning, capacity of the National Societies in MENA zone to respond to civil unrest and population movements is further strengthened through effective and appropriate interventions.

#### Progress:

As a continuation of the IFRC's commitment to support the National Societies and improve joint planning; the MENA Zone office organized 2 days meeting in Beirut-Lebanon (16-17 August 2011) for the steering committee members from (Lebanon - Syria - Palestine - Jordan - Qatar - Morocco – Egypt) .

The Disaster Management Steering Committee (DMSC) was established two years ago. The members of this committee are the disaster management coordinators of most active national societies in disaster management in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The meeting objectives were:

- 1 - The humanitarian response to the current situation in the Middle East and North Africa.
- 2 - Review the activities of the first half of 2011
- 3 - Planning for the activities of the second half of 2011

The recommendations of the meeting focused mainly on (Contingency planning, humanitarian response to the current situation, IDRL, RDRT capacity buildings, DM Services Delivery, MENA DM strategy updating)

Training workshop on the Disaster Response Information System (DRIS) developed recently was organized in Beirut in 18-19 August 2011. The workshop was organized by IFRC, targeting coordinators and IT focal points of MENA NSs; 12 national societies attended the workshop. The objective was to familiarize participants with the software and how to use it in the field of disaster management (mainly response and RDRT deployment in addition to virtual warehousing concept).

RDRT training will be organized between 21-28 Octobers in Iran for Gulf and ME regions. Training for North Africa is planned to be organized in December 2011 and will focus on shelter.

The real time evaluation team finalized the field visits and the zero report was circulated for comments from the interviewed people. Outcomes of the evaluation are expected to help improve overall response efforts of the Federation at the global, Zone, regional and country levels as well as highlight results from specific activities and actions.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Since the beginning of 2011 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Middle East North Africa (MENA) zone has established an emergency and events monitoring team to form a protocol for information sharing, and to create a plan outlining the roles of individuals in emergencies within the zone.

As the situation continues to evolve in the region and changes occur with unexpected pace, the humanitarian role played by National Societies in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere in the region is crucial. Ibrahim Osman senior International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) figure, gives his thoughts on the current situation through an interview done by communication team and posted on the IFRC website:

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/responding/ongoing-operations/middle-east-2011/interview-ibrahim-osman/>

MENA Update no. 17 was published on 31 of July.

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## How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**Saving lives, changing minds.**



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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