

ANNUAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, PALESTINE RED CRESCENT, SYRIA

July, 2001

This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's Annual Appeals only.

Appeal No. 01.64/2000

Appeal Target: CHF 2,078,573

The Context

This report is prepared as an overview of the Amman regional delegation's work in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria in relation to the objectives set in the Appeal for 2000-2001. Detailed country reporting for separate Appeals for Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine are provided directly by the International Federation's country delegations and representatives.

The overall context during the reporting period is one where the region has experienced a year of uncertainty as many changes occurred in the respective countries. In Lebanon, there was a change of government coupled with the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the southern part of the country. Iraq continues to be affected by sanctions and feelings among both the Arab and non-Arab world have been increasingly opposed to them.

Syria's political isolation eased since the recent changes in the country's leadership. The positive environment thus created is likely to favour greater cooperative initiatives between its Red Crescent society and other government ministries.

The cycle of conflict in Palestine and Israel deteriorated with a potential for further instability in a wider regional or international dimension. The adverse effects, especially on the vulnerable members of the communities, resulted in socio-economic dislocation with a high number of deaths and injuries. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society has played an important role in responding to both. Jordan continues to be the stable centre ground and buffer zone from which international organizations, including the Federation and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), manage the assistance to Palestine since the resurgence of conflict in the area in September 2000. In overall terms, the Middle East context represents an increasingly challenging environment which does not favour a smooth conduct of operations according to set objectives. Despite this, however, considerable progress was made regarding the implementation of programmes outlined in the Appeal.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Disaster Response

Objective: Continued logistical, financial and administrative support to relief operations in Iraq and in other parts of the region should the need arise.

Achievements and Constraints

The regional delegation provided logistical and administrative assistance in support of the operation in Iraq. This included facilitation of visa processing, transport and border exchange for personnel working with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Federation's delegation in the country as well as visitors travelling into and out of the country. This was indispensable in view of the logistical difficulties arising from the flight embargo imposed against Iraq as part of the continued sanctions.

In addition, the regional delegation supported the operation in Iraq through the facilitation of procurement and transportation of critically needed inputs involving materials and services (such as vehicle maintenance, spare parts and customs clearance).

The support given in terms of financial data processing and reporting also represented an important dimension in this respect. Facilities for transfer of funds to Iraq were established.

However, the workshop planned to provide skills training with the aim of improving standards in disaster response was not conducted according to plan. The reason is related to the inadequate capacities, including funding, at the disposal of the regional delegation. No funding provision was made for skills training related to disaster response apart from the disaster preparedness fund which was made available to develop a more participatory and community-based programme in the three pilot national societies of Jordan, Palestine and Syria.

The fact that the process of negotiation lasted for an extended period of time before a memorandum of understanding/status agreement was concluded with the Iraqi Red Crescent also prevented the implementation of the skills training component, as the latter requires a more stable and well-developed process of relationship based on mutual understanding and confidence.

The lessons learned with regard to the implementation of the disaster response programme reinforces the fact that even if it is not planned for at the beginning of the year, disaster response often asserts itself as the utmost priority. This was experienced during the reporting period. Outside the Appeal objective related to disaster response, the regional delegation was involved in coordination of emergency assistance to the Palestine Red Crescent where two rapid assessment missions were conducted to explore the best possible options for coordination of assistance in favour of the PRCS together with the ICRC.

However, it must also be stated that the emergency operations support to the PRCS did not adversely affect the other planned programmes of the regional delegation. This is because of the strategic arrangement made in good time as a result of which most of the demands were handled by the Federation's country delegation working on the ground with the PRCS.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective: To focus on improving national society readiness to respond to disasters through planning and training.

Achievements

Disaster preparedness efforts were to focus on five countries including Libya and Egypt (North African sub-region), Yemen (Gulf sub-region) and Palestine and Iraq (Middle East sub-region).

However, the DP initiative during the reporting period was more distinctly focused on the work done, on a pilot basis, with the three national societies in Palestine, Syria and Jordan. This was based on the decision made by the DP department in Geneva. The main approach emphasized changing beliefs/attitudes as regards the need to understand and practise DP as a mechanism of raising awareness of the community at large, de-emphasizing the conventional approach whereby the value of DP tends to be seen as no more than a package of hardware inputs in one form or another.

A detailed Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was completed with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The assessment, which was conducted as the first study fully owned by the PRCS, helped the communities to identify key hazard factors including violence/conflict, shortage of water and drought. A number of working groups were involved in the study and the findings were presented to and endorsed by a steering committee made up of the PRCS and ministries directly or indirectly involved in disaster preparedness and related functions. As part of the immediate outcome of this effort, a DP national plan is expected to be finalized and implemented.

DP assessment missions were conducted involving headquarters and branch staff/volunteers in Syria and Jordan. The assessment made in Syria helped to evolve a clearer DP direction and strategy for subsequent years. The effort started in Jordan is also expected to be developed further in a similar fashion.

In order to maximize exchange of experiences gained from the DP work done in Palestine, Syria and Jordan, a sub-regional working group was established between the three national societies. The need for a more integrated programme approach was also emphasized whereby DP and health aspects can be addressed as inseparable components of community efforts made in the pursuit of more preventive options that can minimize the potential effect of disasters and diseases.

Although the focus was concentrated on Palestine, Syria and Jordan, some DP work was also done in other countries in the region:

- A technical evaluation mission was conducted in relation to the DP programme of the Iraqi Red Crescent.
- A preliminary DP assessment mission was conducted in Egypt.
- A preliminary DP assessment mission was conducted and a VCA is planned to be undertaken with the Yemen Red Crescent Society.

As the DP approach happens to be one that emphasizes change of attitudes/beliefs, the process proved to be slow and time consuming. The level of motivation also differs from one national society to another, a factor which also determined the pace and degree of the DP initiative in the three pilot countries (Palestine, Syria and Jordan).

Health and Care

Objective: Maintain support to the national societies' community based first aid (CBFA) programme which aims at improving general knowledge of simple and common health threats in local communities.

Achievements

In Iraq, efforts were made to assist the national society in the implementation of CBFA activities integrated with nutrition. The society was also assisted in the promotion of the national polio vaccination campaign.

In Syria, the national society was supported in the implementation of CBFA activities. Nine workshops were held to enable the national society to serve under privileged communities in the rural areas. An HIV-AIDS awareness survey was also carried out in Syria

In Jordan, the national society was assisted in the implementation of CBFA activities including training of trainers.

In the United Arab Emirates, the national society was supported in the implementation of training of first aid trainers.

In Algeria, assistance was given to the national society in the organization and realization of a national first aid meeting that brought together participants from both the headquarters and the branches.

Some CBFA activities had to be cancelled due to lack of funding. The planned workshop on road safety was postponed to 2001 as per the request made by the collaborating organization.

The lessons learned in the area of health and care indicated the challenge of working more closely with national societies to influence their health policies and programmes to focus more on preventive rather than curative health as per the emphasis made in *Strategy 2010*.

Humanitarian Values

Objective: Promote a communications programme which will include humanitarian values, using existing resources of the regional delegation and in coordination with the ICRC, until such time as a regional information resource is available to design a long-term approach.

Achievements and Constraints

The promotion of humanitarian values was not effectively carried out. By and large, this had to do with the fact that there was no delegate assigned to deal with information and advocacy activities.

However, the importance of humanitarian values, as the basis on which all Red Cross/Red Crescent operations should be based, was underscored on different occasions that provided opportunities for dialogue and consultations with the national societies. Familiarization/operation missions made to the national societies by the regional delegation management and technical delegates provided opportunities to discuss with national society volunteers/staff the need to redouble efforts to promote the dissemination of humanitarian values with the degree of emphasis it deserves as one of the core areas of *Strategy 2010*. The cooperation developed by the regional delegation with the ICRC in Amman in such fields as International Humanitarian Law, dissemination of the emblem and disaster preparedness helped to foster the promotion of humanitarian values, especially within the civil defence structure in Jordan.

Also, the launch of the *World Disaster Report 2000*, jointly facilitated by the regional delegation and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society helped to contribute to the promotion of humanitarian values within the region.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective: Assist the Syrian and Jordanian societies in putting their strategic work plans into operation and provide technical assistance for the resource development programme of the Lebanese Red Cross. Also, individual national societies will be assisted.

Achievements and Constraints

Due to lack of adequate funding, the ID/RD component was not effectively implemented in 2000. In addition, the delegate dealing with this aspect was not replaced until much later in the year as a result of which the assistance planned to be provided to the Red Crescent Societies of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria had to be postponed.

Although the ID/RD component constitutes one of the key inputs that determines the degree to which national societies can deliver effective services according to their mission objectives, the motivation for investing in this component seems to be lacking and needs to be rectified in order to help the societies overcome organizational deficiencies that can severely constrain their capacity to deliver effective services.

Assistance was provided to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the area of disaster preparedness. No direct assistance was given from the regional delegation as regards the society's activities related to water safety/rescue and income generating in cooperation with the tourism sector. However, the regional delegation financially supported the society in purchase of equipment for its national first aid training centre – an input which is expected to increase its capacity to implement activities, including the water rescue and income generating activities, based on a well planned process of training.

Necessary support was given to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in the areas of disaster preparedness based on the new approach which emphasizes prevention through increased risk awareness.

By and large, the objective to move the national societies towards fully meeting the 'characteristics of a well functioning national society' is directly related to the nature and extent of the work done in terms of ID/RD. Accordingly, the achievement made in this respect was limited for reasons described above.

However, the Basic Training Course (BTC) was implemented according to plan and was coordinated by the regional delegation in cooperation with the training department of the Federation's Secretariat and the ICRC delegations in Amman and Damascus. Representing nine national societies, 16 participants attended the course. More than 50 per cent (nine participants) were recommended for immediate international assignment, with some others recommended for international assignment after gaining more experience. The input provided through the BTC was well received and appreciated by the national societies.

Conclusions

The year was one of change both at the Secretariat and the regional delegation as a result of which new programme delegates and managers took over the implementation of projects designed by others. Regrettably, this trend seems to continue, as delegate turnover in 2001 can create a similar lack of continuity at the specific programme level.

Despite the disruption related to the high turnover of management and technical support resources, the regional delegation worked to strengthen its impact within the region by promoting and integrating the core areas of *Strategy 2010*. The regional delegation adopted an integrated approach in which the DP, health and ID components can be more holistically planned and implemented to support the national societies to improve their capacities to assist the most vulnerable. The lessons learned in this respect highlight the need to rethink/modify the appeal and funding system such that DP, health and ID are addressed as inseparable components. Within the philosophy of *Strategy 2010*, it is difficult to develop any one of these areas without some form of institutional development occurring concurrently. The double benefit this approach generates can be demonstrated in terms of more optimal utilization of scarce resources with a better prospect for sustainability and impact.

Emphasis was placed on strengthening working modalities within the region and in building the capacities in various programme areas which are supportive to achieving progress in all the appeals.

Lessons learned include the need for clearer working modalities whereby the whole Federation support system within the region is more effectively coordinated from one centre - the regional delegation. This will, among other things, improve planning, monitoring and reporting, including narrative and financial reporting, in a more coherent fashion.

For further details please contact: Evgeni Parfenov, Phone: 41 22 730 4325; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: parfenov@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Karim Bensiali
Head
MENA Department

Annual Financial Reports 2000

- Explanatory Note -

1. Consolidated Response to the Appeal

- This report provides a global picture on the funding situation of a specific appeal at a specific time.
- The cash column indicates all cash contributions channelled through the Federation, together with the balance carried forward from the previous year. Financial statements in support of the reported income are available upon request.
- The in-kind contributions (goods and services provided in response to the appeal objectives) are registered in a stand-alone system, based on the information provided by the respective donor. The values of these donations are based on information received from donors, and will be reported as such in the income and expenditure part of the consolidated report.
- Direct cash or in kind contributions made to Operating National Societies or in kind donations made to the Federation Delegations in response to the appeal are recorded as in-kind contributions in the report.

2. Balance of Funds - Cash Only

This report is a summary cash statement, providing the information on the balance carried forward from the previous year, cash income (including reallocations), cash expenditure (including reallocations - ref. part III of the consolidated report), and the closing balance at the end of the year.

3. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditures

This section of the report provides a comparative analysis of the total expenditures (cash and in-kind) versus the last approved budget of the appeal.

- The cash column reports on all expenditures booked against the Federation projects and cost centres . It relates only to the use of cash contributions received by the Secretariat for the specific appeal. Financial statements in support of the reported expenditure are available upon request.
- The in-kind columns (goods/services and personnel) report on the in-kind contributions donated in response to appeals, as per the information received from donors. This information is shown both as contribution and as expenditure against the specific appeal, and is consolidated, together with the cash expenses, against the appeal budget. As financial information is not always available from PNS, and for consistency reasons, a flat rate is applied for the calculation of personnel costs.
- The consumption rate represents the level of total expenditures (cash and in-kind) compared to the total income available (opening balance, cash and in-kind contributions),

4. Pledges vs. Contributions

Attached to this financial report is the list of pledges against the respective appeal.

- The comparative analysis of the list of pledges and the list of actual contributions provides a clear insight into any outstanding pledges in response to the appeal.
- Any differences in values between the two reports are due to fluctuations in exchange rates at the time of booking and the time of reception of the contribution.

Appeal No & title: 01.64/2000 Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine RC						
Period: year 2000						
Project(s): P80101, P81900, P81902, P81905, PSY003						
Currency: CHF						
III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures						
Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel	Expenditures	
SUPPLIES						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles						
Food/Seeds						
Water						
Medical & First Aid	178'000	28'783			28'783	149'217
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total	178'000	28'783			28'783	149'217
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		637			637	-637
Computers & Telecom equip.	10'100	11'265			11'265	-1'165
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	1'500	2'632			2'632	-1'132
Sub-Total	11'600	14'535			14'535	-2'935
TRANSPORT & STORAGE						
	62'081	8'187			8'187	53'894
Sub-Total	62'081	8'187			8'187	53'894
PERSONNEL						
Personnel (delegates)	737'997	100'009		60'123	160'132	577'865
Personnel (local staff)	416'312	44'095			44'095	372'217
Training						
Sub-Total	1'154'309	144'104		60'123	204'227	950'082
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		140			140	-140
Travel & related expenses	160'297	68'293			68'293	92'004
Information expenses	27'108	5'442			5'442	21'666
Administrative expenses	256'535	15'616			15'616	240'919
External workshops & Seminars						
Sub-Total	443'940	89'490			89'490	354'450
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	228'643	36'009			36'009	192'634
OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS						
Transfer to National Societies		1'140			1'140	-1'140
TOTAL BUDGET	2'078'573	322'248		60'123	382'371	1'696'202
Consumption rate:						
	Expenditures versus income		156%			
	Expenditures versus budget		18%			

Amman regional programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.64/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				17.04.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'079'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 46.8%
Balance carried forward from 1999				12'432		
FEDERATION BUDGET				603432	01.01.2000	
AMERICAN - RC		2000	USD	3'425	05.06.00	CAIRO MEETING
AUSTRALIAN - RC				20'000	10.04.2000	CAIRO MEETING
BRITISH - RC		2250	GBP	5'828	22.09.00	CAIRO MEETING
DANISH - GOVT/RC		335000	DKK	69'881	26.06.00	DHOD
FINNISH - RC		741	USD	1'219	12.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
FRENCH - RC		1200	USD	2'040	01.06.00	CAIRO MEETING
FRENCH - RC		130000	FRF	31'148	17.08.00	FIRST AID WORKSHOP, CBFA VOLUNTEERS, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
IRANIAN - RC		5000	USD	8'238	04.05.2000	2ND ANNUAL MENA MEETING
LIBYAN - RC				1'000	31.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
NETHERLANDS - RC		5899	EUR	9'276	17.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
NOWEGIAN - RC		50000	NOK	9'660	22.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
NOWEGIAN - RC		3500	USD	5'950	30.06.00	CBFA
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC				4'000	01.09.00	CAIRO MEETING
SPANISH - RC		1000	USD	1'648	19.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		500000	SEK	94'800	25.05.00	CBFA
SWEDISH - RC		50000	SEK	9'575	04.04.00	CAIRO MEETING
SWEDISH - RC		1110	USD	1'887	26.06.00	CAIRO MEETING
SWISS - RC		370	USD	610	04.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		9985	USD	16'450	18.05.00	CAIRO MEETING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				912499	CHF	43.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Sw eden	Delegate(s)			60'123		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				60'123	CHF	2.9%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
P80101, P81900, P81902, PSY003, P81901.						