

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

LEBANON

15 August 2001

Appeal No. 01.67/2001

Appeal Target CHF 1,474,479

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 01 January - 30 June 2001

(Last Programme Update issued: 02 January 2001).

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 39.4%

Related Appeals: 01.64/01 MENA: regional programme

Outstanding needs: CHF 892,878

Update: The response to the appeal has been moderate and has constrained activities in Lebanon. The continuing tension between Israelis and Palestinians is a worrying backdrop to humanitarian work in Lebanon. Significant progress has been achieved in several areas of the health programme.

Operational Developments:

There were no in country developments that directly affected the humanitarian situation of beneficiaries. The political and security situation is, however, tense due to the potential for the Palestinian/Israeli conflict to spread to Lebanon. The economic situation has improved slightly, but not to the extent of helping the most vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Values

The country delegation (CD), with the support of a bilateral twinning project between the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and the Norwegian RC, is focusing on humanitarian values through youth and volunteers.

This program is an important part of the organisational development of the LRC, which is heavily supported by the Federation (IFRC). The National Society's (NS) focus on humanitarian values through youth and volunteers has led to a general increase of activities, training, preparations of summer camps

and general humanitarian work. These include activities for handicapped youth performed by the youth clubs of the LRCS on a national level and dissemination activities related to the Red Cross/Red Crescent focus on the month of May to promote humanitarian values. Activities generally are progressing with support from the IFRC and the LRC plan of action. Fund-raising related to the events in May was modest.

The IFRC is providing limited financial support and professional guidance to LRCS through the youth department. The professional guidance is given by the OD delegate who on weekly/biweekly basis visits youth clubs, volunteers related to the first aid services and activities performed by local branches and their youth clubs.

Health and Care

A. Ambulance services:

The IFRC's support to capacity building includes provision of funding of the LRC ambulance services, plus recruitment and education of volunteers for this purpose. This program has been developed with an overall goal of renewing 20 ambulances annually.

The expected result for 2001 is for 11 ambulances to be renewed as well as better equipment and more human resources development. Pledges from the Norwegian RC will cover parts of the appeal.

The project also includes a component of participation from the LRC, with an objective of 30% coverage of each ambulance by the local branches. The pledge, planning and preparations were completed by the end of the reporting period and will be implemented during the autumn of 2001. So far the following has been achieved: financial coverage of seven ambulances; a plan of action for implementation; mapping of priority needs; identification of distribution and international tendering.

Thirty percent of funds is confirmed for 5 of the 11 branches selected to receive new ambulances. This process should be almost completed in the third quarter. The outstanding fund-raising presents a challenge for the NS. The remaining four ambulances will be provided if appeal support is achieved.

B. Primary health care:

The main objective is to expand and further develop the medical and social services throughout Lebanon with an emphasis on community orientation through awareness, prevention and social action, plus the sustainability of the services.

There has been no direct IFRC initiation of activities due to lack of support to the appeal. The CD has, however, supported participation by LRC in 5 regional and international events (conferences, workshops and meetings) related to medical and social development: psychological support, regional HIV/AIDS network and CBFA training.

Organisational and resource development

The IFRC launched a comprehensive OD program with the LRC in 2000 with the main objective of supporting the NS in its endeavour of securing its legal base, to perform elections of governance, to establish a long term development plan and to increase the institutional capacity and performance of services to the most vulnerable of the country.

The program has worked in progressing phases during the reporting period, where communication, evaluation and recommendation of change has been the basis for the various plans of actions that have been drawn up by the IFRC OD delegate who is assigned for the program. Although the process seems slow, the inner development performed by the NSs leadership shows a positive progress in terms of

increased institutional efficiency, improved resource development, and increased communication in the Society.

During the reporting period, the program has achieved 2 comprehensive OD reports and 1 activity report which will be the basis for the 2002-2003 plan of action as an important component for the organisational development planning of the Society.

The objectives of the appeal and their related activities are all in progress with the exception of the long term development and fund raising plan which will receive focus in the latter part of 2001. The OD program has however provided the LRCS with comprehensive tools and guidance for this purpose.

Main activities during the reporting period:

- The establishment of a planning section in the LRC HQ.
- Financial and professional support to the legal department and the update of the membership base.
- Direct support and initiation to 10 workshops at branch level involving 10-20 leaders within each of the branches and 1 workshop on national level with participation of 26 of 31 branches, and 100 representatives dealing with the legal base, vulnerability and capacity analyses, development programs, youth and volunteer policies, dissemination and local issues of common concern.
- Upgrading of the IT standards with 10 computer units added by basic training of HQ staff
- Performed 85 formal visits to the HQ departments, local branches and facilities by HoD and OD delegate as part of the OD research and information sharing process.
- Performed a self assessment exercise on national HQ level based on IFRC standards.
- Financial support and guidance to recruitment campaign during the Red Cross month of May.
- Developed 3 plans of actions for the various phases within the OD program.
- Distribution of IFRC information, policy and RC/RC dissemination material.
- Facilitating the visit of 2 groups of RC leaders and youth from the Norwegian RC relating to twinning and youth exchange as an important contribution to the OD process.

Regional Co-operation

The country delegation has participated in 2 regional and sub-regional conferences, general knowledge sharing and regional planning as part of MENA on a regular basis. The delegation is as such an active asset to the regional team covering the MENA region.

There are no explicit objectives developed for regional co-operation beyond the working modalities established for the team and those found within co-ordination and management of the CD. These are all in good progress with frequent interaction with the RD in Amman.

Co-ordination and Management

The main objective of the CD is to contribute to the development of the capacities of the LRC and the PRCS branches in Lebanon and Syria. The delegation has as such been an instrument for promoting support, co-ordination of support activities, provision of professional guidance to the NSs and participation in the regional MENA team activities through the RD in Amman.

The main challenge has been to cover the core costs of the country delegation, with only one PNS, the Norwegian RC giving direct contributions. There is still a gap in 2001 that has led the regional team to analyse alternatives to the IFRC structure in Lebanon for the future.

It is however agreed that IFRC presence in Lebanon is required, and the analyses has dwelt with the possible options of the nature of such presence.

Key activities have been the planning, co-ordination and implementation of programs, contacts and co-ordination with ICRC and other humanitarian organisations, plus the UN, EU and embassies. The objectives and related activities are all in good progress with the exception of those activities related to unfunded programs like the LRC primary health care program.

Outstanding needs

The main outstanding needs are related to the development of the primary health care services and the social activities of the society. No contribution has been received to this part of the appeal, despite the potential and willingness of a reorientation towards community activities shown by the NS.

The setup of HR and competence is sufficient for the implementation of support to the health section of the appeal, and IFRC PHC development competence is available through the RD in Amman. There is also a potential for further support to the capacity building of the ambulance services.

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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>.

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