

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## North Africa

Appeal No. MAA82001

29/05/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Moroccan Red Crescent volunteers distributing equipment on the road safety programme in Beni Mellal. **Moroccan Red Crescent**

## In brief

**Programme Summary:** During 2006-2007, the regional representation, through increased dialogue, continued to respond to the needs and priorities expressed by the North African National Societies by providing tailor-made support at country level, in the management of their programmes, and for coordination and cooperation amongst partners. Good progress was made over the two years especially in sensitive emerging fields such as migration (Morocco and Algeria), issues related to legal basis (integrity issue in Algeria and preparation for the Algerian Red Crescent General Assembly), revision of legal statutes (Morocco and Algeria), and avian influenza (Egypt and Morocco). North African National Societies are increasingly positioning themselves on the national scene and as an International Federation member by being involved in the International Federation Board, Health Commission, Federation of the Future process, and Migration Reference Group. On the other hand, they are acting as donor National Societies responding to humanitarian crises such as Tsunami, Pakistan, Middle East (Lebanon, Palestine) and Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Mali, Chad, and Niger). Through the satisfactory coverage of the Appeal, National Societies have been able to consolidate their planning and to scale up their programmes mainly in disaster management with a community based focus through risk reduction including vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and school programmes. They have also enhanced their programmes in capacity development through support to the governance, strategic planning, and branch development by focusing on youth, volunteers and gender issues. Their credibility as reliable partners, together with the confidence gained, resulted in a good fundraising approach both within and outside the Movement. New partnerships were developed locally; being responsive and timely within the given context.

North African Red Crescent Societies are still in the process to adapt their structures to the changing environment and challenges. The process is slow, costly and this effort of modernization needs to be supported in order to reinforce the National Societies' role within their civil society as well as at the regional level. The positive aspect is an increased ownership of the process by North African Societies themselves. The regional representation continues to base its approach on the Federation of the Future, positioning National Societies in the forefront and focusing on coordination, facilitation and supporting the conditions for the National Societies to work as effective as possible.

The initial budget for 2006-2007 was CHF 3,051,000 (USD 2,728,980 or EUR 1,849,091). The budget was revised in 2006 after the closure of the two main relief operations - Algeria Boumerdes Earthquake<sup>1</sup> and Morocco Al Hoceima Earthquake<sup>2</sup>. The capacity building balances of Algerian and Moroccan RC were linked to the North Africa Appeal, keeping strict earmarking for both National Societies' capacity development programmes. The budget was once more revised in 2007 after the signing of the partnership agreement with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) for a large institutional development programme in Morocco. The total 2006-2007 budget is CHF 6,120,459 (USD 5,474,471 or EUR 3,709,369).

Please go to the International Federation's website for operations relevant to the North Africa region during the reporting period – Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East Emergency Appeal (MDR81001), Egypt: Ferry Disaster DREF Bulletin (MDREG001), Egypt: Avian Influenza DREF Bulletin (MDREG002), Egypt: Dahab Bomb Explosions DREF Bulletin (MDREG003), Egypt: Fire in Zeinohm Area DREF Bulletin (MDREG004), Egypt: Palestinians Stranded on the Al-Areesh and Al-Rafah Borders DREF Bulletin (MDREG005), Tunisia: Floods 2007 DREF Bulletin (MDRTN001), Tunisia: Flash Floods DREF Bulletin (MDRTN002), and Avian Influenza Global Appeal (MAA00018). A separate Appeal and reporting on the planning and management support to the National Societies in Middle East region can be found at the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) section of the International Federation's website.

**Goal:** North African network of Red Crescent Societies attained a level of capacity in the four core areas through provision of leadership and coordination; and built the capacity to enable the National Societies to deliver efficient, responsive and focused programmes and services, meeting the needs of their vulnerable communities.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 6,120,459 (USD 5,474,471 or EUR 3,709,369) (out of which 73 per cent covered). Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:

[Report 2006](#)

[Report 2007](#)

[Report 2006/2007](#)

The implementation rate of the health and care programme is 72 per cent. The figure for disaster management is 94, while the Principles and Values, capacity development and coordination and cooperation stand at 100 per cent. The overall implementation rate of all the programmes is 96%; based on the received income.

Health and care and Principles and Values programmes were under-funded despite the efforts of the National Societies to scale up their activities in those core areas. Focus was particularly placed on health and migration (HIV/AIDS, community health and emerging diseases), as well as on communication and advocacy work to fight against discrimination and exclusion, and contribute to the promotion of human dignity, respect and diversity.

<sup>1</sup> For the final report on the Algeria Boumerdes Earthquake (14/03), please go to the website at: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?03/1403final.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/1403final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For the final report on the Morocco Al Hoceima Earthquake (06/04), please go to the website at: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?04/0604final.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0604final.pdf)

**No. of people we help:** The regional representation works towards developing the capacities of North African Red Crescent Societies. The direct beneficiaries of the regional programmes are the governance, staff and volunteers at the headquarters and branch levels of the National Societies (an estimated 3,500 people). Women and youth are the main target beneficiaries of the risk reduction, health, vocational, educational and peer to peer programmes. It is estimated that 75% of Red Crescent volunteers are youth and women. Unfortunately, this per cent is not reflected in decision making positions of the National Societies except for the Egyptian Red Crescent.

The calculation of final or indirect beneficiaries could be misleading as it needs to be more cautiously defined and measured by the National Societies themselves. It could include the direct programme beneficiaries (an estimated 35,000 people), the 400,000 persons reached through the avian influenza (AI) awareness programmes, the millions of persons who have read the National Societies' press releases, seen TV spots on HIV/AIDS, road safety, and first aid (FA), heard National Societies' radio broadcasts or participated in public awareness campaigns on Red Crescent celebration days or reached during the North African summer safety programmes through youth activities, road safety and FA demonstrations, videos, distribution of leaflets, quizzes, questionnaires, and educational games for children.

**Our Partners:** The regional representation assisted in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in the North Africa region, including governments and international agencies. Partners included the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Red Cross/Red Crescent Office for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean; and the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies. External partners included United Nations agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), regional office of World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and World Food Programme (WFP); European Union (EU) delegations and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO); local authorities and ministries (social affairs, solidarity, education, civil defence/interior, and environment); local non-governmental organisations (women, HIV/AIDS, road safety associations); and the private sector (Coca-Cola, British Gas, country mobile phone companies, DHL, and insurance companies).

Spanish Government, Finnish Red Cross and government, Kuwait Red Crescent, Department for International Development (DfID), Norwegian Red Cross and government, Netherlands Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and government, Swiss government, Canadian Red Cross, South Africa government, Japanese Red Cross, French Red Cross, Korea Republic Red Cross, and Danish Red Cross have been the main contributors to the International Federation Appeal throughout the reporting period.

## Current context

During 2006-2007, tensions resulting from the rise in the prices of basic food items have generated discontent within the low income population, as the ones bearing the heaviest burden. The loss of household items and livelihoods, combined with the rise of the basic food prices, is a factor of instability and fear amongst populations. Increasing inequities in socio-economic levels have resulted in demonstrations in Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. On the other hand, since December 2006, Maghreb countries are increasingly affected by violence and terrorism targeting symbolic national authorities, westerners and international aid workers; forcing the governments to raise their security levels.

In the meantime, climate changes have created additional vulnerability in the region. Recurrence of flash floods, cold waves, landslides, and rises in the sea levels are threatening un-prepared communities and are expected to cause population movements (climatic refugees).

In addition to the fact that North Africa remains prone to disasters, ongoing rapid urbanization, migration flow, new emerging diseases and other broad social issues are having a collective impact on the nature and extent of the problems in the region. The concern of how disasters and diseases affect the populations influences the Red Crescent response to each situation and ultimately the International Federation's support to the National Societies. These challenges are creating new demands to be met and are requiring innovative approaches from National Societies and the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement's positioning and advocacy towards the new areas of intervention.

The regional representation has been addressing these issues with the North African National Societies by regularly reviewing the priorities, plans and budgets to accommodate new demands; supporting the National Societies by providing information sessions, planning and coordination meetings; and mobilizing additional resources to respond. In line with the Hyogo Framework, it has also been promoting a community based focus by scaling up risk reduction activities including food security and livelihoods strategies, aiming at building the resilience of communities.

It is also worth mentioning genuine efforts and measures taken by North African governments in favour of the civil society to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, to keep a political and social stability across the region. New mechanisms are set up in the countries to combat poverty, and to measure better the impact of new measures and reforms undertaken. The Moroccan Red Crescent largely benefited from this policy of proximity, accessing new sources of funding at local level and scaling up its community based activities.

The two regional conferences held during the reporting period – MENA Conference (May 2006, Marrakech) and Mediterranean Conference (March, 2007) – have not only highlighted the National Societies' priorities, but have also underlined their commitments.

## Progress towards objectives

### Health and Care

**Objective:** The capacity of North African Red Crescent Societies to enable vulnerable groups in the community to reduce the susceptibility to diseases, accidents, injuries, and to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crises is increased.

**Achievements:** The regional representation was able to provide support in improving the capacity of the National Societies to design and implement health and care programmes tailored to the specific needs of their countries; as well as to develop their own training and promotional/communication materials.

**Avian influenza (AI):** Since 2005, the regional representation organised briefing sessions at regional and national level using the recommendations issued by the International Federation's health department for National Society preparedness. Key public messages, suggested role of National Societies within the respective national plans, instruction on how to handle affected poultry and best practices on the communication outbreaks were the main issues covered during the sessions. Egyptian and Moroccan RC have addressed these issues through a Red Crescent national strategy, plan of action and communication materials. Mitigation and response programmes were initially supported thanks to funding from the Finnish RC and the International Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF). Furthermore, applications were prepared and submitted to the Global AI Appeal and grants were

allocated to both countries - a total of CHF 170,214 (CHF 80,214 to Egypt and CHF 50,000 to Morocco of which CHF 14,850 was used in 2007); including a DREF allocation of CHF 40,000 to Egypt. A large programme was successfully completed in Egypt, reaching an estimated 400,000 people in 25 governorates; and in Morocco the programme is ongoing. Both National Societies have developed their communication strategy and own training and educational material, and are closely working with their national health departments. It is important to stress that Egyptian and Moroccan RC have integrated AI activities into their existing capacities and ongoing activities such as disaster preparedness, CBFA and other community health and educational programmes. Significant technical support to these National Societies was provided by the continental Africa-MENA AI coordinator. Considering the importance of the phenomena in Egypt, the National Society is ready to embark in 2008-2009 on a large pandemic preparedness programme together with a group of other partners involved locally.

At the regional level, the regional representation established a close working relationship with the regional office of the United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) based in Cairo, playing an active inter-agency coordination role in avian and human influenza (AHI) activities along with UN agencies, governments and other organizations. In 2007, two contingency planning workshops were organized by UNSIC together with the UNDP office and government representatives in Tunisia and Morocco, and were attended by the concerned National Societies. At national level, all National Societies except Libyan Red Crescent (no information available) are formally part of their national task-forces and have a defined role in this issue. Tunisian and Algerian Red Crescent are involved at national and local level in the coordination body. Without having defined at central level a national AHI programme, several branches have been very active in their collaboration with local authorities and have developed community awareness programmes. The programme is consistent with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goal to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public emergencies. It is a truly disaster risk reduction-oriented programme, with impact well beyond. As a result of the activities carried out at the community level, communities will be more resilient and better prepared for a number of other emergencies. The main difficulty is the sensitivities of the countries versus the pandemic preparedness phase. Some of the countries are reluctant to discuss the risk of human pandemic and related preparedness programme, fearing to spread fear and panic amongst the population. Therefore, the challenge is to manage a communication strategy, which will keep the public aware of the risk of AI and slowly introduce the concept and risk of a human pandemic.

HIV/AIDS: Moroccan RC and Algerian RC have scaled up their activities, reinforced their partnerships with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) and have diversified locally their source of funding through the HIV/AIDS national network as well the private sector. In 2006, Coca-Cola funded the HIV/AIDS campaign in Morocco. From June to December 2007, thanks to DfID funding, a large communication campaign including flyers, leaflets, condoms, urban displays, radio messages, and short messages was launched. The campaign was so successful that additional material was re-printed with the support of GFTAM. In 2006, Tunisian RC was associated as a member of the national AIDS commission for the preparation of the GFTAM proposal and received an allocation in 2007. A project coordinator was appointed for the implementation of the grant. Egyptian RC continues to develop some communication material (TV spots, leaflets, and posters) used for their prevention work and awareness campaigns. Through the implementation of the CBFA, and the revised HIV/AIDS module, Egyptian RC volunteers within their community networks were able to reach more women and youth. Active celebration of the World AIDS Day by all the National Societies in the region and strong networking was significant as well.

Community based first aid: The CBFA programme continued to be implemented in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya through the training of trainers (ToT) programme cascading at branch level. New FA centres in the branches were opened in Egypt thanks to the support of the Finnish RC. The regional representation supported Libyan RC in its CBFA training. Facilitation of the workshop was provided by CBFA trainers from Moroccan and Tunisian RC.

First aid: In Morocco and Algeria, the Red Crescent Societies opted to concentrate on the revision of their own FA manual. With the support of the International Federation, Norwegian RC, Netherlands RC

and ICRC Cairo, and technical assistance from the French RC, both societies have reviewed their reference manuals, developed their FA rules and operational procedures, and structured their FA teams at local, national, and regional level. The process was very positive and helpful in building up the team spirit, team commitment as well as bringing some capacity development to the FA programme. The FA structure is reinforced, and is providing a good structuring model within the Algerian RC. The same process was used by the HIV/AIDS coordinator in Morocco to organize its field team. Discussions are ongoing in both National Societies with disaster management coordinators to review the national intervention team concept, harmonize and integrate competences and skills, and go through this structuring process.

A consultation process was initiated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and civil defence in order to obtain a national accreditation for these FA reference manuals. Both in Algeria and Morocco, no official FA curriculum is yet validated at national level. The manual used by other FA key players is mainly the one of the Red Crescent. This accreditation will allow positioning the Red Crescent as a national reference in the field of FA. This programme was a good model of a coordinated and integrated approach supported by several Partner National Societies (PNSs), the International Federation and ICRC. The regional representation will continue to support the French RC technical delegate in his work with the two National Societies.

Psycho-social support programme (PSP): The CBFA module developed has been very well used by all Red Crescent Societies and helped managers to realize the potential niche for their National Societies. Egyptian RC and Algerian RC are the most advanced National Societies in this field. Their PSP teams demonstrated efficiency and added value at times of disasters. The two PSP cells established by the Algerian RC after the tragic bombing in Algiers were active and remained open two months after the blasts, responding to the demands and needs of the affected communities. According to the emotional debriefing organized after the disaster and the evaluation made afterwards, the integration of the PSP module in FA training has been helpful for the volunteers who felt better prepared to cope with the disaster and help victims or relatives. Despite this large interest from the five Red Crescent Societies and the work done by their volunteers, National Societies expressed their needs to be supported in developing a better PSP strategy and to address better this cross cutting programme. The MENA PSP workshop organized in Damascus was one of the first attempts to respond to this expectation. Following this meeting, Moroccan RC appointed a PSP focal point and the regional representation supported the PSP focal point of the Egyptian RC in attending a three week international PSP course in Uganda.

Emergency health: Egyptian, Algerian and Moroccan RC have organized several in country branch Sphere trainings using the trainers at regional level (North African pool of experts). Libyan RC was requested in December 2007 to organize Sphere training for Libyan Aid Agency. The regional representation has encouraged these initiatives, providing the Sphere material, and supporting the costs of the facilitator. The regional representative also supported the Egyptian RC staff to attend a public emergency health training in the American University of Beirut, and Egyptian and Moroccan RC representatives to attend the global health forum.

Social mobilization: Tunisian RC participated in the large measles/rubella vaccination campaign in April 2006 with the MoH, the Tunisian Family Planning Office and UNICEF. In addition, the regional representation supported Tunisian RC through a contribution from the global measles initiative.

Non-remunerated blood donorship: North Africa National Societies remain very active in the promotion of non-remunerated blood donors. Egyptian RC is actively preparing the next International Blood Colloquium to be held in Cairo in January 2008. The regional representation has supported the National Society in developing material for this event.

**Challenges or Constraints:** Appeal funding for the health and care programme has been problematic. Additional funds were sought locally or regionally to support a strong dynamic work in the region, particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS and AI. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia RC are in the process of consolidating their own health and care team.

## Disaster Management

**Objective:** The North African Red Crescent Societies have become more credible and reliable partners to their governments and civil society; owing to the increase in their capacity to support disaster management activities in vulnerable communities.

**Achievements:** Most of the small scale emergencies were covered through DREF allocations in 2006-2007 as the disaster management funding was strictly earmarked for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction programmes in Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. The use of DREF had an immediate impact, raising the visibility of the National Societies being immediately on the site. In the case of Egypt, the systematic replenishment of the stocks led to a better stock management by the National Society and contributed to them being prepared and responsive in each situation. The middle to long term impact of the DREF is the reinforcement of the National Society contingency planning. Algerian RC is exploring the possibility to create its own emergency fund.

Date	Country	Type of Disaster	Allocations	Beneficiaries
February 2006	Egypt	Ferry Disaster	CHF 50,000	2,518 persons
February 2006	Egypt	Avian Influenza	CHF 40,000	600 youth and volunteers
May 2006	Egypt	Dahab Bomb Attacks	CHF 30,000	750 persons
July 2006	Egypt	Middle East Crisis	CHF 75,000	5,000 persons
March 2007	Egypt	Fire in Zeinhom	CHF 70,000	2,000 persons
May 2007	Tunisia	Floods 2007	CHF 45,000	2,705 persons
July 2007	Egypt	Palestinians stranded on the Al-Areesh and Al-Rafah Borders (Gaza border closure)	CHF 100,000	5,000 persons
October 2007	Tunisia	Flash Floods	CHF105,000	541 families

**Disaster response:** Emergencies in the region have been characterized by floods, cold waves, earthquakes, landslides, fires, and train and ferry accidents. National Societies are most of the time on the forefront of these emergencies and have always responded to support those who are worst affected. During the reporting period, 13 emergencies were supported in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Algerian and Moroccan RC have increased their capacity to respond to small scale emergencies (earthquake in Bejaïa, cold wave in Morocco, flash floods in Algeria and Morocco) as well as to successfully mobilise local resources for affected people. National Societies have also increased their knowledge of International Federation mechanisms such as DREF, disaster management information system (DMIS) and Emergency Appeals. The support of the International Federation was timely in providing logistical and financial resources when needed. The multiplication of these small scale emergencies are often linked to the consequences of the climatic changes which have indicated the large vulnerability of communities who are unprepared to respond to and cope with these new types of disasters. This has reinforced the need to develop a disaster risk reduction strategy and programmes in order to build the response capacity at community level and better address the impact of the climatic change in National Societies' disaster management programmes. As part of the recommendations highlighted in the Declaration of the Mediterranean Conference, a specific follow up is ensured by the regional representation in collaboration with the RC/RC Office for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

**Contingency planning:** North African National Societies were trained on contingency planning through various regional workshops organized jointly with the Middle East regional representation. Two out of five National Societies have developed their plans, which unfortunately were not shared, discussed, tested, and disseminated; remaining as a theoretical instrument on the shelf. During the reporting period, some national platforms were established in Morocco and Tunisia thanks to the support of the regional UNSIC

representative and the UNDP Office. The process is led by the UNDP but involves very closely the other key humanitarian actors including National Societies; bilateral PNSs operating in the region; international NGOs like Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF); UN agencies like Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), UNICEF, WFP, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and AECI. Contingency planning was also promoted through some regional mechanisms such as INSARAG and ECHO.

Cross cutting disaster management programme - Institutional Development for West Africa Red Cross (IDWARC): In 2007, the International Federation concluded a two years partnership with AECI in West Africa countries and Morocco. This project focused on:

- Pre-positioning of stocks for 2,000 families to be used for small scale emergencies (acting as a local DREF in the country)
- Procuring equipment for 16 regions - decentralized approach and willingness to invest in National Society staff, reinforcing project management and response capacities at local level

Due to the limited resources of the regional representation, the project was delegated to the Spanish RC for its implementation in the field. The regional representation provided support mainly in the capacity building areas, complementing this regional approach.

National intervention team: Simulation exercises were organized annually in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, providing the opportunity for national and regional teams to test their response capacity, their equipment and recycle and train volunteers on new disaster management modules, tools and systems.

Risk reduction: In line with the promotion of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the regional representation has been focusing in 2006 and 2007 on moving towards a more integrated, holistic and developmental approach to disaster management through strengthening the preparedness and capacities of communities. This enabled the National Societies to be in a better position to respond when a disaster occurs and support actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards. Concretely, it was translated through an increased networking, information sharing, support to national disaster risk reduction programmes in Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and capacity building as a crucial cross cutting component of the disaster management programme.

Vulnerability and capacity assessment: The regional programme continued to be implemented in Algeria (six provinces), Tunisia (three provinces) and Morocco (three provinces), thanks to the support of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC) in 2006 and the support of Netherlands RC (Morocco) and Norwegian RC (in Algeria) in 2007. The regional dynamic was very helpful, providing a platform for the National Societies to develop complementary tools, approaches and resources (trainers). Algerian RC focused on the development of tools with the necessary adaptation of disaster preparedness awareness tools to their respective context which were used by both Tunisian and Moroccan RC. Unfortunately, due to an internal crisis, the National Societies had to put on hold the VCA programme in 2007. In line with its priorities and specific context, Tunisian RC focused more on the provision of a large CBFA programme and PSP to the communities. Moroccan RC was more advanced in the VCA process, having completed the process of research, enquiry, studies, analysis, included the communities in the identification of the risks, and developed together with the communities some small scale mitigation projects. In fact, at community level, the Moroccan RC committee has substantially gained through this process in terms of recognition of their role within the community, as well as with the authorities (in some cases convinced by the process, the public authorities provided to the local committees land or building for improving their local headquarters and warehousing facilities). A significant gain was also the new partnerships developed with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local associations, media, ensuring the funding for new projects. Both Algerian and Moroccan RC have expressed their interest to reinforce the VCA program and to expand it to additional provinces. Egyptian and Libyan RC have also expressed recently their interest to test the process in pilot regions. A pool of trainers has been created and ready to support the new comers. The process was very instrumental in the development and elaboration of local contingency plans. However, due to the lack of adequate resources at central level (disaster management coordinator) the process was not enough optimized, recognized and used to build

on its positive impact and lessons learned. It is expected that the National Societies will identify the right resources for this programme in 2008.

Knowledge sharing and networking: These are vital to increase the profile of the International Federation/National Societies as well as to understand the regional context based on the national realities. By collaborating and interacting more closely with external partners and organizations, the regional representation and National Societies are gaining opportunities to understand better the disaster risk reduction global trends, to position themselves as partners and identify potential resources for on going projects. Networking has been successful through the participation in regional inter-agency and inter-governmental conferences. At the regional level, it has been fostering National Societies' programme dynamics and cross-regional cooperation (Tunisia-Algeria cross-border cooperation on HIV/AIDS, Tunisia-Libya twinning projects focusing on prevention work on road safety, CBFA, HIV/AIDS). The regional representation actively promoted the dialogue with governmental delegations present in the conferences, platforms and workshops to be the bridge connecting the local, national thinking and challenges with the disaster management framework developed in the region and the global trends. Positive impact was recorded from this increased networking, optimizing resources and connecting National Societies with other partners.

Through the newly established ISDR regional office in Cairo, a working partnership was reinforced particularly with the MENA global platform on disaster risk reduction. Its first conference was held in Cairo in April 2007 with the support of the World Bank. Specific attention will be placed on country level (Algeria and Morocco) as well as on a regional community based programme review to be organized with the support of the Libyan RC (planned for 2008).

The increasing need to look at supporting vulnerable communities in a holistic manner through a disaster risk reduction approach was discussed at the International Federation workshop organized in Nairobi in October 2007, which the head of the regional representation attended. The meeting focused on how to build on existing expertise and develop an effective global alliance in disaster risk reduction that inspires a valuable and integrated work at community and national level.

In line with the discussion held in Nairobi, the head of regional representation made a presentation on "involving children in VCA and communications for disaster risk reduction" and on "building safer school communities" at the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) disaster reduction workshop in Cyprus in October 2007. These exchanges allowed the representation of a full range of actors – key international actors, governments, NGOs, national/regional institutions and organizations networks. This active network has led to the provision of disaster risk reduction booklets, CDs and interactive games to the North African French speaking National Societies. The platform is mainly aiming at strengthening its network, creating new partnerships, identifying gaps and sharing member's priorities, determining key areas and advancing together towards effective results which can help countries achieve the Hyogo Framework goals through knowledge sharing and education.

Youth disaster awareness programmes were expanded in Morocco together with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment. In Egypt, the National Society is implementing very challenging educational programmes in poor areas. The support is provided through several donors, among them being the World Bank, a German bank and related authorities. Algeria has continued its disaster awareness programmes in schools and summer camps. Programmes will be expanded in 2008 in Tunisia and Morocco.

Road safety: National Societies are conducting active awareness programmes, and scaling up substantially their activities in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya. The regional representation supported the conception and production of communication materials. It has also supported the local mobilization of financial resources for these programmes forging sustainable and long term partnerships for the Red Crescent Societies in the region. Road safety is increasingly perceived as a high priority in all the countries of North Africa. Several Red Crescent Societies took part in the UN road safety week and Egyptian RC representative participated in the global road safety partnership workshop in Accra, Ghana.

**Challenges or Constraints:** Internal changes within National Societies (high turnover of staff) affected continuity of processes and implementation of activities related to the national contingency plans. There is also a need for National Societies to develop a consensus on the concept of the auxiliary role to the government in disaster management, create the environment at local and national level for a reinforced dialogue with concerned authorities describing the responsibility of the National Societies as neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian organizations. This dialogue will help to change the perception of governments and their relationships with the Red Crescent Societies.

Limited capacity of absorption at national and local levels affected the flow of cooperation, resources and suggested precautions in negotiating new sources of funds. The disaster management structures of most National Societies are not enough resourced in terms of staff, equipment, and stocks to allow an effective response.

North African National Societies have not yet developed effective systems and mechanisms to measure and record better their work at community level. In the absence of proper disaster risk reduction indicators, little information can be gathered on the beneficiaries, including the beneficiaries' participation at community level in the project, limiting the impact and the visibility of the programmes' achievements.

## Principles and Values

**Objective:** Promotion of the Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values are increased and integrated in all Red Crescent programmes and activities, raising National Societies' profiles and visibility, and improving their image.

**Achievements:** Despite limited funding, significant work was carried out in this field. To compensate the lack of funding, the Principles and Values activities were integrated in the operational programmes such as health and care, disaster management and communications. Since 2003, the regional representation, with the support of the Principles and Values department of the International Federation, has promoted a pragmatic approach to integrate and apply Principles and Values in all programmes through interactive workshops on disaster management, health and migration. National Societies are increasingly promoting and highlighting the Values in their programming as their driving force and unique added value. Fundamental Principles were mainly used in the National Societies' advocacy strategies, in the dialogue with partners and public authorities, in explaining their mandate, outlining the importance of the concept of independence (auxiliary role), and impartiality. During the reporting period, two large regional public campaigns were developed, raising National Societies' visibility and profile:

- Volunteers campaign in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco aimed the recognition of the volunteers' work in all National Society programmes. The campaign was launched on 8 May 2006, activated on each international or national day (youth, health, road safety, FA, AIDS, risk reduction, launch of the World Disasters Report) and was ended on the volunteers day.
- HIV/AIDS campaign was conducted in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco from June to December 2007.

In 2006-2007, focus was placed on non-discrimination and behaviour changes within communities in the context of the challenges posed by migration flows in North Africa. Considering the high sensitivity of the topic, a series of meetings, visits and briefings were organized with National Societies' leaders, as well as with key partners in order to explain the RC/RC Movement, the International Federation's position, and the National Societies' role in the field of migration. National Societies' and governments' commitments made through international and regional conferences were highlighted as well as the importance to address this vulnerability through a safe and adequate working environment for the National Societies. With the support of DfID, a regional workshop gathering North African and some West Africa (Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal) National Societies to share best practices, experiences and humanitarian challenges was organised. This enabled the regional representation to provide a platform for discussion with North African National Societies, PNSs and ICRC delegations.

During the reporting period, emphasis was put on preparing a specific application to EU/AENEAS<sup>3</sup> in the field of migration, focusing on combating discrimination. The process was initiated in 2006 with the support of the Principles and Values and the communications department of the International Federation's secretariat. Consequently, a contract of EUR 900,000 for two years (2008-2009) for Morocco was granted to the International Federation in December 2007 to promote Principles and Humanitarian Values and combat acts or xenophobia against migrants. Another regional application will be submitted in 2008 covering Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The four National Societies have committed to address this challenging problem in their respective countries through a partners' Declaration in April 2007.

<b>Migration workshops, conferences and forums during 2006 - 2007</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Outputs and regional and local commitments</b>
Regional planning meeting (January 2006)	North African National Societies, ICRC, migration officer, Geneva secretariat	Review of existing programmes, National Societies' positions, and planning for 2006-2007
Movement meeting (April 2006)	Bilateral PNSs, ICRC	
Round meetings with key partners on Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria	UNHCR, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), EU Delegations, secretariat migration focal point and EU focal point	Briefing on International Federation's position on plan of actions and activities supported in the region
MENA Conference (May 2006)	MENA National Societies	Marrakech Declaration
Follow up on international conferences	Algiers conference (April 2006), Rabat conference (June 2006), EU, Tripoli conference (October 2006), African Union	Declaration, plan of action, positions and commitments of North African governments
RC/RC Office for Cooperation in the Mediterranean workshop (December 2006)	Algerian, Moroccan, Egyptian and Tunisian RC	Youth seminar on migration
Morocco workshop (December 2006)	National Societies of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, France, Spain, Italy, and ICRC	Sub-Saharan Migration Colloquium at Oujda University and regional workshop on this specific humanitarian challenge in North Africa
Mediterranean conference (March 2007)	North African National Societies, Moroccan RC migration focal point (chaired the migration panel)	Athens Declaration and two workshops - "Non-discrimination and Respect for dignity" and "Migration"
Oslo reference group (April 2007)	Moroccan RC	Moroccan RC focal point's attendance and presentation of National Society activities
UNHCR/Tunisian RC workshop (June 2007)	Tunisian RC field managers and presidents of branches	Facilitation of the migration session by the regional representative (policy, RC/RC's position, National Societies' role)
The Hague process workshop (October 2007)	North Africa regional representative and Central Africa regional representative	Migration between West Africa and the Maghreb, "Towards joint responses to the protection gaps", and challenges and opportunities for cooperation
Statutory meetings (November 2007)	Moroccan RC migration focal point (chaired the migration panel)	Report, resolution, and workshop on "Promoting respect for diversity and non-discrimination"

All these events helped to reinforce the dialogue with other partners and stakeholders and set the ground for proper RC action. The migration programme gained a considerable momentum during the reporting period; and Principles and Values will continue to be high on the regional agenda. Red Crescent Societies are and will continue to scale up their activities in these areas.

**Challenges or Constraints:** Efforts are need to be made to increasingly integrate Principles and Values and gender into operational activities like disaster management and health.

<sup>3</sup> Financial and technical assistance to third countries in the field of migration and asylum

## Capacity Development

**Objective:** Capacities, structures and systems are reinforced in the Red Crescent Societies to support effective, focused and responsive programme implementation.

**Achievements:** During the reporting period, the Federation of the Future outcomes were disseminated as a booklet, along with a DVD in French, Arabic and English. Federation of the Future sessions were included in all trainings, planning or thematic workshops thanks to the support of the Tunisian RC secretary general; also the co-chair of the process.

**Strategic planning:** The regional representation supported actively the Moroccan RC in the development of its four year Strategic Plan. A first draft was presented in May 2006 at the National Society's General Assembly. The work continued in 2006 and a second version was presented in 2007 (2007-2011). The plan was tested in few branches with the National Society's president and secretary general. This field testing led the governance to realize the importance of an increased communication and a better involvement of the branches. A mapping of field activities, resources and assets was conducted which was supported by the regional representation and Spanish Red Cross. A strategic planning workshop was organized in April 2007 in Algeria to support the National Society set up its process. A planning committee was created; however, due to the integrity case prevailing, the process was stopped. The new Algerian RC team is keen in 2008 to reactivate the process, building on the commitment made.

**Legal basis:** In November 2006, in collaboration with the International Federation's Legal Base Reform Centre, a regional legal base workshop hosted by the Danish RC and the International Federation was organised for the North African National Societies. The workshop addressed issues related to governance and management, National Societies' legal statutes, Movement coordination (Seville Agreement), integrity and accountability. The impact of the workshop was very positive and was measured by the request from some National Societies to replicate this work at country level. Thanks to Norwegian RC, two similar workshops were organized in January 2007 in Algeria, gathering presidents and secretary generals of the 45 wilayas, out of 48. Joint sessions with the ICRC cooperation delegate were held on the Seville Agreement. These workshops marked the starting of three important processes: the revision of the Algerian RC statutes submitted at the General Assembly in August 2007 (separation of the governance and management functions and responsibilities); the strategic planning process; and the consultation process at branch level. Moroccan RC undertook similar consultation processes and revision of their statutes. The regional representation, with the governance support department of the International Federation, followed up the feedback provided on the North African National Societies' statutes. So far, both Algeria and Moroccan RC submitted their revised statutes in line with the comments of the joint International Federation and ICRC commission. Algerian RC is still working on some adjustments to be made. Follow up still needs to be done with Egyptian RC and Libyan RC. Tunisian RC is planning to address this issue at their General Assembly in 2008.

**Integrity case (Algeria):** The critical situation of Algerian RC finally ended with the organization of their General Assembly in August 2007. The regional representation, with the support of the governance unit of the secretariat and in close cooperation with the ICRC country delegation, has addressed this very sensitive integrity issue through several meetings, seminars and missions. The International Federation, ICRC as well as the French and Spanish RC were invited to attend the General Assembly. Unfortunately, during the last quarter of the year, as emphasis was placed on the 2008 planning and programmes, there was a slow down in this area.

**Capacity building:** Workshops in areas such as reporting, financial management, and project cycle management were supported at country level through identification of local management training institutes and development of partnerships with the National Societies. This effort was also supported by Spanish RC through the IDWARC funding. The regional representation supported the attendance of

Egyptian RC participants to the resource mobilisation and skill share workshop in London in 2006 and 2007. A regional financial management workshop was organized in Tunis in July 2006 with National Societies' finance managers and programme managers. By the end of 2007, Moroccan and Tunisian RC have managed to present a draft of their financial procedures and guidelines. These guidelines include minimum standards in human resources required for finance services and the control tools to be used. Moroccan and Algerian RC are requesting the support of an external consultant to help them in this effort. Discussions were held at the end of 2007 with international audit firms to carry out these consultancies, aiming to provide a solid ground basis for National Society programme management.

Intensified capacity building (ICB) Morocco: Moroccan RC submitted an application for a three year grant. The objective was to allow the National Society strengthen its managerial capacity at central level, due to the headquarters being identified as not able to support the branches adequately and deliver efficient services. It was also meant to reinforce the governance in order to get it better involved and committed to the development/re-structuring of the National Society. The application was short listed and CHF 50,000 was released to support the National Society in developing its three years plans and full application. Results will be provided in February 2008.

Resource mobilization: Though no fund-raising strategy has been developed in the region, the National Societies have been increasingly exploring local funding sources, mainly with the private sector for their social and health programmes.

Regional conferences: Preparation for regional conferences was conducted. These included MENA Conference held in Morocco in May 2006; Mediterranean Conference in Athens in March 2007; Pan-African Conference and PACT meetings in South Africa in March 2006, Berlin in September 2006, Tunisia in April 2007, Manchester in September 2007, and Geneva in November 2007.

**Challenges or Constraints:** Volunteer management remains insufficient due to lack of adequate management systems, centralised data and unreliable information. Despite some willingness to position youth in the statutes (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya), youth structures are not yet properly recognized and empowered within North African National Societies (except for Egyptian RC). National youth network is not effective enough, which reflects on the regional network as well. National Societies need to invest in adequate database and reinforce their volunteers' network. Improvement in the human resource management is crucial as well as the investment in adequate programme structures. Algerian and Moroccan RC are re-visiting their organigrams.

## Working in partnership

The regional representation has continued its function as a broker of relationships through its international, national and local networks, providing visibility of National Society programmes and activities. During the reporting period, the focus was placed on exploring local funding possibilities, developing new partnerships with EU in the field of migration and reinforcing risk reduction networks (ISDR and EUROPA major hazard risk).

Movement coordination was successful thanks to the support of French RC (health and FA), Spanish RC (institutional development and disaster preparedness), Netherlands RC (disaster preparedness), ICRC (restoring family links, tracing, international humanitarian law), and Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (international humanitarian law and disaster management). Through regular contacts, briefing/debriefing, joint visits to or meetings with National Societies, the regional representation promoted a harmonized and coordinated Movement approach. These have resulted in interesting and innovative approaches to the benefit of the National Societies.

Lead was given to the French RC on the first aid programmes in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The regional representation supported the organization of three regional workshops facilitated by the French RC delegate to review and update the FA Manual, to address the re-structuring of the National Societies' FA teams and to integrate the psycho social module into FA training curricula. ICRC Cairo delegation, through their translation service centre, contributed to the translation of the manual in Arabic. In the meantime, ICRC Algeria supported the production of the Algerian RC FA manual. The regional representation invited the French RC to join the PSP MENA network workshop held in Damascus, Syria, in 2007, with the intention to support North African National Societies in the development of their PSP programmes. The FA team re-structuring experience is now used as a model for other processes such as the development of national and regional intervention teams.

PNSs have also contributed to International Federation programmes and Appeals bilaterally. The International Federation delegated the institutional development programme in Morocco supported by the Spanish government (AECI) and implemented in the field by a Spanish RC delegate (IDWARC programme). French RC contributed to the National Training Centre, and Netherlands RC to the VCA programme. In the meantime, the regional representation supported the Netherlands RC to recruit a program officer, and contracted the officer to implement the bi-lateral Netherlands RC programme. In addition, the regional representation was requested by French RC to do a mediation work between the two National Societies. The mediation was positive and improved the stakeholders' relations.

The team spirit and the cooperation with RC/RC colleagues are improving the impact of the Movement support to the National Societies in North Africa. The increased coordination of partners' approaches provides a better framework for multilateral and bilateral development. Working with this attitude facilitates the implementation of the Global Agenda Goals and the Algiers plan of action: "Together, we can".

In the meantime, North African National Societies have strengthened their partnerships with local counterparts and developed new conventions with the Movement (ICRC, French RC, Spanish RC, Netherlands RC, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent); ministries (health, education, family/youth, transport, agriculture, civil defence); embassies and governmental agencies; and UN Agencies - UNHCR, WFP, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, UNFPA, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and INSARAG.

The role of the RC/RC Movement as a leading humanitarian player was consistently promoted to the partners' community - ISDR, EUROPA major hazards risk, EU – Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED), AENEAS, and ECHO), UN and other relevant organizations including major funding/grant agencies. Good working relations were built in several forums at global or local level.

Active exposure and participation of National Societies' leaders and staff supported by the regional representation in international forums provided opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning and increased the profile of the Red Crescent Societies as key organizations of their respective civil societies.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Greater coordination of activities was brought in the region during the reporting period, further contributing to the Global Agenda Goals and the MDGs (mitigating the impact of natural disasters and technological accidents, creating a community based first aid network, fighting HIV/AIDS and major health crises, building safer environment with stronger and resilient communities that fosters tolerance, and promoting respect and non-discrimination). The new operating model, as defined by the Federation of the Future process, represents both a challenge and an excellent opportunity to achieve the common mission.

More attention needs to be provided to gender perspectives, with gender equity promoted within all programmes. The SPHERE standards are integral part of the Red Crescent trainings for disaster response teams and are applied in disaster response operations. Through migration and HIV/AIDS awareness and communication programmes, Humanitarian Values in the communities are increasingly addressed and advocated.

North African National Societies are realizing the importance of diversifying their funding. Many efforts to invest in new partnerships were made to balance the National Societies' insufficient programme coverage. As one of many examples, Algerian RC managed to raise EUR 410,000 for their social activities in 2007. Specific planning meetings were organised in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria with the corporate business to discuss programmes and to secure funding.

## Looking Ahead

In 2006-2007, National Societies have demonstrated their capability, identified gaps and needs for support, becoming more strategic and specific in their demands/expectations from the regional representation. On basis of these demands, the regional representation will continue to provide targeted membership services to support and build on National Societies' responsive programmes, their developments in the four core areas and consolidation of the emerging programmes (AHI pandemic preparedness, migration, climatic changes, disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster prevention).

Capacity development and coordination will continue to be a key element for the region, with focus on increasing management skills and competences on project management, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation. In the meantime, the development of adequate structures and resources will be supported; enabling North African National Societies to manage effectively donors' requirement and meet the needs of vulnerable communities.

The regional representation will continue to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between National Societies, partners, and governmental bodies in the region through thematic platforms, joint workshops and active networking.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">http://www.ifrc.org</a></p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
<p><b>For further information on this Appeal, contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Tunisia: Ms. Anne Elizabeth Leclerc; Regional Representative, North Africa Regional Representation, Tunis; e-mail: <a href="mailto:ae.leclerc@ifrc.org">ae.leclerc@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +216 71 86 24 85; and fax: +216 71 86 29 71.</li> </ul>	

- In MENA Zone: Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of Zone Office (temporary in Amman); email: [marwan.jilani@ifrc.org](mailto:marwan.jilani@ifrc.org); phone: +962 6 562 79 34; and fax: +962 6 569 45 56 or Mr. Eduard Tschan, Deputy Head of Zone Office; email: [eduard.tschan@ifrc.org](mailto:eduard.tschan@ifrc.org); phone: +962 79 504 29 22; and fax: +962 6 569 45 56.
- In Geneva: Jaeryul Kim, Officer, Management Support Unit; email: [jr.kim@ifrc.org](mailto:jr.kim@ifrc.org); phone: +41 22 730 4260; and fax: +4122 730 0395.