

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

16 August 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. MAALB001

Appeal target: CHF 931,209

Programme Update no. 1,

Period covered: 1 January-31 May 2006;

Appeal coverage 2006/2007: 25 per cent; [Click here for Interim financial report](#)

Related Annual Appeal: Lebanon Annual Appeal 2006/2007; for details please go to the website at:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAALB001.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Middle East and North Africa region; for details please go to the website at:

<http://www.ifrc.where/mena.asp>

Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East appeal, operations updates and news stories; for details please go to the website at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/middle-east.asp>

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) 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 <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational Developments

Following an eventful last year, the first five months of 2006 were calm. This situation changed dramatically in mid July, with conflict breaking out in Lebanon, which had repercussions in neighbouring countries in the region. This report covers the early part of the year up to the end of May, prior to these tumultuous events.

A national dialogue involving all political parties and factions was held in Parliament to find consensus over contentious issues. UN Security Council Resolution 1559 called for the disarming of all militias in Lebanon and dialogue aimed at finding a solution acceptable to all parties began.

The government of Lebanon has repeatedly called for a demarcation of the border between Syria and Lebanon. This has not yet started and the status of the disputed Shebaa Farms remains unresolved. The UN peacekeeping mission, UNIFIL, had its mandate renewed in December for another six months.

The Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanese RC) finally received funding from the government of Lebanon to run the national ambulance service, 48 clinics and dispensaries as well as nine blood banks. The funding remains too low to be sustainable and will be high on the agenda for the new executive committee.

After almost 40 years without proper elections and a general assembly, the Lebanese RC finally held its first ordinary general assembly in December 2005. This paved the way for elections to the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. Almost 85 per cent of the members in the new Central Committee (48 members) are new, and 11 of the 14 Executive Committee members are also new. This is the start of a new era for the Lebanese RC and the new President has promised accelerated reforms. In spite of the President and Vice-President being appointed by the President of the Republic, they were both members of the Central Committee and experienced volunteers in the Lebanese RC. Their appointment was positively received by the organisation.

Disaster Management

Disaster management is a priority activity area for the Lebanese RC. Based on the findings of the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA), the extended DM programme will have a participatory approach, involving local communities in planning community based preparedness risk reduction and awareness programmes.

Objective: The Lebanese RC position as the key humanitarian actor in disaster management is reinforced through effective disaster response, preparedness and mitigation aimed to preventing and alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities

Achievements:

- § The committee and coordinators of VCA developed a plan of action which will be applied at a later stage, once internal challenges within the Lebanese RC have been resolved.

Impact:

- § Even though the implementation of the VCA plan has been postponed due to internal challenges, it has helped to increase awareness of the importance of assessment and planning;
- § The assessment of the Lebanese RC ambulance service clearly showed two urgent needs that are directly linked to each other: very weak fleet management and maintenance on the one hand and huge financial constraint due to complete dependence on government support for this service.

Constraints:

- § The limited knowledge of key people in the VCA steering committee from the Lebanese RC affected the process and finally led to its postponement until further notice;
- § Coordination and cooperation between the departments which are members of the Disaster Management team still needs to be improved;
- § Roles and responsibilities of each of the departments that are member of the Disaster Management team should be clearly and properly defined. Internal competition should be resolved, or it will lead to more severe problems within the Lebanese RC;
- § Leaders and managers of several departments see VCA as a threat to their work and so tried to control its results by biasing the tools and process. This is an issue that needs to be addressed before resuming VCA;
- § The delay in the VCA caused a delay in the development of a Lebanese RC strategy as it was supposed to be based on the VCA results. As soon as a new executive board is elected, the plan of action and process will be once again presented to the National Society by the Federation, with more strict conditions and criteria on membership, and clearer roles and responsibilities of different parties involved with the VCA.

Health and Care

The Federation is assisting the Lebanese RC strengthen its complementary role in health and social services and in addition will support the Lebanese RC strengthen its operational capacity and effectiveness through the expansion of the existing network of qualified volunteers to reach vulnerable communities.

Objective: To provide improved and sustainable community based health services by strengthening preventive health and care programmes and capacities with a focus on disease prevention and health promotion.

Achievements:

- § HIV/AIDS youth to youth peer education programme is still running its training for newly recruited young volunteers so they can promote safe behaviour among their peers. Four youth centres participated in HIV/AIDS training for two days: Nabatiye, Jezzine, Chouf, and Furn el Chebbak;
- § The launching of the HIV/AIDS Hotline was postponed to overcome some internal challenges. This project is now in progress;
- § The Psychological Support Programme (PSP) organized a two-day Training of Trainers workshop for 30 participants from different departments of Lebanese RC. This step was urgently needed since the programme was facing a severe lack of trainers. A follow up presentation session by the participants was held to appraise the performance of these trainers and ensure the information they will deliver is good;
- § In order to respond to the emerging need to increase awareness about Bird Flu, the Lebanese RC produced brochures, developed by the Medico-social department in coordination with the Public Relations and Communication Department, and distributed them throughout the country.

Impact:

- § The HIV-AIDS youth to youth programme has increased its regional and international trust supported by an improved and well perceived image in the Lebanese community;
- § All operational departments¹ of the Lebanese RC participated in the PSP training of trainers, reflecting the increased interest, understanding, and awareness of the importance of psychological support. More time is needed in order to measure the integration of PSP in Lebanese RC programmes and activities.

Constraints:

- § Several departments are still working on the HIV-AIDS programme without any proper communication and coordination between them. This situation is increasing internal competition.
- § The postponement of the VCA caused a delay in developing a preventive health strategy, which will be developed once the VCA or another needs assessment tool has been implemented by Lebanese RC.

Organizational Development

Continued support to the election process and governance programme is critical to ensure successful development. The Federation is supporting the Lebanese RC establish a web-page and improve the computer network within its headquarters.

Objective: A well functioning and adequately resourced Lebanese RC Society with sufficient governance and management capacity to ensure focused and responsive programmes addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people in Lebanon.

Achievements

- § In April 2006, a new central committee was elected for the first time since the appointment of the previous central committee by the Government in 1992. The newly elected central committee was formed from both new and old members, with 85 per cent of the members being new to the committee;

¹ Blood banks, medico-social, first aid, youth, education.

- § The recently appointed president of the Lebanese RC is the first president since 1990 that comes from within the Lebanese RC. The Vice President is also an experience Red Cross volunteer and member of the Central Committee. It is expected that the elections for the executive committee will take place in July and elections for the local branches will take place before the end of September 2006;
- § A network has been set up in the Lebanese RC headquarters to improve internal communication. All old computers have been replaced with new ones in the different departments. This means all departments to have internet access and will improve access to information and external communication.

Impact:

- § The youth and volunteers participation in decision making bodies has been improved by allocating a certain quota of representation in the different bodies of the National Society to volunteers. Discussions are ongoing in order to have an open membership;
- § A working group within the Lebanese RC internal affairs department has prepared the election process. Once the elections are finalized, a committee from the central committee is expected to form and start the statutes revision process.

Constraints:

- § Resistance from the old central committee and the general assembly members caused many delays in the election process;
- § Internal disagreement on the procedures delayed the election process. This was addressed in the governance and management training provided to the Lebanese RC governance and senior managers.

Humanitarian Values

Promotion of tolerance, co-existence and respect for human dignity are integral aspects of the Lebanese RC work. The Lebanese RC is determined to continue its mission in challenging all forms of discrimination and intolerance and promoting respect for diversity and human dignity. Another key aspect of humanitarian values is reducing stigma, discrimination and marginalization among groups such as people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), homosexuals, drug addicts and prisoners.

Objective: Further develop the Lebanese RC capacity to advocate for the respect of human dignity, promote tolerance and reduce stigma among marginalized groups in Lebanon.

Achievements:

- § A Humanitarian Values and Fundamental principles youth to youth programme has been developed. It is expected to be launched in August for a period of two years;
- § The youth peer education programme has been working on promoting respect for PLWHA, homosexuals, and drug addicts. In the first part of the year, the youth department organized: two HIV-AIDS Awareness training workshop for - Jbeil (Byblos), Spears, and Achrafiye Youth Centres on a period of five and two days respectively (35 participants each); and a conference to increase youth awareness on HIV/AIDS in Zahle (in cooperation with the municipality) where 125 youth participated;
- § Awareness session on stigma and discrimination against AIDS patients during a conference in Beirut;
- § A session about drugs and HIV/AIDS was delivered by the youth department for 50 youth students in Fakhr Eddine public school in Beirut. This session tackled two topics: awareness and information in addition to stigma and discrimination towards drug addicts and PLWHA.

Impact:

- § The HIV-AIDS youth programme is helping break the silence and taboos in the country. It is also helping reduce stigma and discrimination towards PLWHA, at least among youth and volunteers of Lebanese RC;
- § The unique neutral position of Lebanese RC is still intact and gives the Lebanese RC the ability to address issues related to humanitarian values with great credibility and reach all communities in the country.

Constraints:

- § The understanding of Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles is weak among the volunteers and members of the Lebanese RC. A new approach should be developed to increase this understanding;

- § Internal cooperation and coordination is still a problem affecting the efficiency of programmes, particularly when it comes to discrimination against marginalized groups, such as PLWHA, homosexuals and drug addicts.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAALB001 - LEBANON

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAALB001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	259'679	72'727	163'636	435'166	0	931'209
B. Opening Balance	40'965	4'600	0	35'332	0	80'897
Income						
Cash contributions						
DFID Partnership	25'943			16'464		42'407
Norwegian Red Cross	15'022	13'601	6'902	61'103		96'628
C1. Cash contributions	40'965	13'601	6'902	77'567		139'035
Inkind Personnel						
Norwegian Red Cross				15'500		15'500
C5. Inkind Personnel				15'500		15'500
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	40'965	13'601	6'902	93'067	0	154'535
D. Total Funding = B + C	81'930	18'201	6'902	128'399	0	235'432

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	40'965	4'600	0	35'332	0	80'897
C. Income	40'965	13'601	6'902	93'067	0	154'535
E. Expenditure	-14'317	-10'221		-103'169		-127'708
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	67'612	7'980	6'902	25'230	0	107'724

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAALB001 - LEBANON

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2006/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAALB001
Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		259'679	72'727	163'636	435'166	0	931'209	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	22'000							22'000
Medical & First Aid	8'000							8'000
Total Supplies	30'000							30'000
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	30'500							30'500
Office/Household Furniture & Ec	11'000							11'000
Others Machinery & Equipment	20'000							20'000
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	61'500							61'500
Transport & Storage								
Storage					57		57	-57
Distribution & Monitoring					1'649		1'649	-1'649
Transport & Vehicle Costs	57'120	331			25'502		25'833	31'287
Total Transport & Storage	57'120	331			27'207		27'538	29'582
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegate Benefits					26'688		26'688	-26'688
National Staff	75'120		6'781		11'113		17'894	57'226
National Society Staff			2'248		115		2'363	-2'363
Consultants					1'071		1'071	-1'071
Total Personnel Expenditures	75'120		9'029		38'988		48'017	27'103
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	428'300	6'234			4'470		10'703	417'597
Total Workshops & Training	428'300	6'234			4'470		10'703	417'597
General Expenditure								
Travel	20'000				4'671		4'671	15'329
Information & Public Relation	116'000	3'360			458		3'818	112'182
Office Costs	21'600	58			948		1'006	20'594
Communications	47'040	47	214		13'445		13'705	33'335
Professional Fees	14'000							14'000
Financial Charges		3'357	314		1'986		5'657	-5'657
Other General Expenses					27		27	-27
Total General Expenditure	218'640	6'822	528		21'534		28'884	189'756
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societi					4'330		4'330	-4'330
Total Federation Contributions & t					4'330		4'330	-4'330
Program Support								
Program Support	60'529	931	664		6'641		8'236	52'293
Total Program Support	60'529	931	664		6'641		8'236	52'293
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	931'209	14'317	10'221		103'169		127'708	803'501
VARIANCE (C - D)		245'362	62'506		163'636		331'996	803'501