

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon

MAALB001

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This report covers the period 01 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.



Community Volunteers during the assessment in one of the villages with one of the beneficiaries. International Federation.

In brief

Programme outcome:

The overriding priority of the Lebanese Red Cross is to continue the implementation of institutional changes, to strengthen quality performance of first aid and ambulance services, disaster response and disaster preparedness, to continue assistance through the primary health care and social centers, to focus on most vulnerable communities and build up higher education and capacities, to strengthen volunteering through the youth as the future capital of the National Society and to ensure quality performance of its services.

Programmes summary:

Each department of the LRC spent the first few months of 2011 developing plans of action, very much in line with the National Society's five-year strategy. Progress was made on PMER and management development in terms of support to improve structures and reporting systems.

Implementation of the programmes has been affected by increasing uncertainty of funding which also affected the stability of the Federation's in-country presence and support in Lebanon. However, given the fragility of the humanitarian context, the Federation is trying to continue to support the Lebanese RC with increasing involvement of the MENA Zone and through different arrangements including engagement of a consultant, cooperation and coordination with the Belgian RC in which their Delegate was, for a period of time, acting as Federation Representative. Discussion is also underway to consolidate the IFRC in-country presence and support to the Lebanese RC through a broader consortium in which the NSs working in Lebanon can contribute

Financial situation:

The total 2011 budget is CHF 704, 485. However, due to funding difficulties during the year, the budget has not been covered to a satisfactory degree. The community-based DRR (CBDRR) project, was extended from 2010 with a total amount of CHF 55,008, In May 2011, a DREF was launched, with a total amount of CHF 36, 849, to cover the action related to the Population Movement following the on-going crisis in Syria. A total funding support of about 150, 000 CHF was

also approved in June through the DFID–Federation Partnership. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 123,594. The budget has been revised downwards (from CHF 704, 485 to CHF 585, 723).

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached:

Through the Disaster Risk Reduction project, the LRC has provided support to nine villages with a total population of more than 65,000 in one of the most vulnerable areas.

No. of Volunteers:

The LRC engaged up to 160 volunteers to implement the community-based DRR (CBDRR) project with an equal number of male and female volunteers participating in the action

Our partners:

The partners include the Norwegian R.C, the Swedish Red Cross, the American Red Cross, the Swiss Development Agency (SDC), the Belgian R.C and ICRC. The LRC also attracts support from the government and other non-Movement partners.

Context

The Lebanese economy is facing increasing stress related, generally, to the global financial crisis. Rising fuel and essential consumer product prices - with a little increase in basic salaries- continue to hit hard individuals and families within the middle to lower income categories. .

There has been increasing concern for the most vulnerable in the suburbs of large towns and in rural and remote areas. Furthermore, the situation has been coupled with escalating economic hardship for the population as businesses suffer from the unstable image of the country...

- The new government was recently formed five months after the collapse of the previous one.
- The investigation has just been concluded bringing to a close the work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) deliberating on the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005. An official announcement was released about the findings of the STL, accusing members from Hezbollah as responsible for the assassination. The rumours circulated and increased the tension within Lebanon.

In facing up to these challenges, the LRC had to consolidate and maintain a high level of emergency preparedness, while ensuring the momentum of institutional changes as well as addressing new vulnerabilities.

During the first half of the year, several countries in the Middle East and North Africa region have experienced ongoing civil strife and unrest that have provoked significant population movements and concerns related to security, safety, protection, and threats to livelihoods. The IFRC was responding to the evolving humanitarian situation by working with its partners to ensure that they can continue to deliver vital assistance based on the principles of neutrality and impartiality. The Federation in Lebanon contributed to the effort with one of its staff members mobilized to assist in the North Africa operation. Trained volunteers from the LRC were also mobilized to contribute towards the same mission

With the spread of the unrest and violence in Syria, the Lebanese local authorities estimate that between 1,000 and 4,000 Syrians crossed to northern Lebanon during the month of May (from Tall Kalakh region in Syria to Wadi Khaled and Tall Bire areas). Most of those who crossed the border in recent weeks are women and children. Many of those came without any belongings, and found shelter with relatives or host families. With the official closing of the border between Lebanon and Syria, the number of people entering into Lebanon has gradually decreased. Since early June

Within the RC/.RC Movement, coordination in relation to the population movement from Syria to Lebanon has been facilitated by a committee established by LRC to ensure effective Movement coordination. The committee includes LRC, IFRC, and ICRC.

The LRC volunteers have been very active in the provision of first aid and ambulance services to the wounded and the sick among the beneficiaries, and have been working closely with ICRC colleagues. The IFRC launched a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) through which CHF 36,849 was allocated to facilitate the delivery of services, especially health assistance to the beneficiaries who crossed from Syria.

Progress towards outcomes

Strategic aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises

Outcomes:

- The ability to predict for disasters and plan to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences is increased.
- Increased capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross to respond to disasters through the creation of coordination mechanisms at a regional and local level.
- Capacity and skilled human resources and materials for effective disaster management are improved.
- Self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health in emergencies and disasters is improved through a disaster risk reduction programme.
- Disaster response assistance to meet the needs of those people affected by disasters is improved.

Achievements:

In line with the strategy of the LRC that was approved in December 2008, and as a part of the process to have a more integrated approach within the National Society towards disaster management, the Disaster Management Committee developed a plan of action for 2010 including specific roles and responsibilities at the headquarters as well as at the local branches. The implementation of this plan has continued throughout 2011. It focuses on specific objectives in terms of building the capacity and ensuring the role of the LRC in time of disasters including man-made and natural disasters.

Disaster Risk Reduction:

The pilot project on Disaster Risk Reduction in the community has progressed during 2011. Akkar, which is one of the most vulnerable regions in Lebanon, continues to be the area of implementation of the pilot project. A new coordinator was employed by the LRC to facilitate the implementation of the CBDRR. In cooperation with the Federation, a review of the initial plan of the project has been conducted.

The local committee between the members of the different RC branches has started to play a more active role. The number of villages selected has been revised to match the reality and the capacity of the LRC, the time frame and the budget of the project. Nine villages were selected with respect to a specific methodology; Akkar region was divided into three sectors based on LRC EMS stations: Qobayat, Hrar and Halba. Four villages from Qobayat and four villages from Hrar were selected for the assessment. A small survey was done before choosing the villages according to the agreement reached with local authorities. As for Halba, CBHFA community volunteers conducted the assessment in one village: Kleeiaat using the VCA methodology.

A CBDRR analysis of the assessment was done in the pilot region in which micro projects were implanted and community volunteers were trained as a first step. After the analysis in the region, the local steering committee is to develop micro projects during the coming months.

These micro projects are focused on local vulnerabilities and risks. A micro project currently running focusing on forest fire fighting. Up to 20 volunteers from each of the villages to be trained and equipped to aid local authorities combating forest fires in the second half of the year.

The sustainability of the DRR project will be consolidated by the local DRR committee, which will be a component of the National DRR programme. Future projects and future assessments could be undertaken by this committee based on availability of support.

Thirty-two community volunteers (four from each village) were trained to conduct the assessments side by side with the RC volunteers. The recruitment of the community volunteers was done with the help of the RC volunteers and some local key persons in the villages.

This selection was based on the following criteria:

- The volunteer must be 18 years and above.
- . Have some knowledge of the Red Cross.
- . Educated with good communication skills.
- . Neutral.
- . Good knowledge about their villages and Akkar region.
- . Commitment to the project lasting for at least three week-ends.

About ¼ of the community volunteers were female volunteers. Underscoring the importance of gender balance, efforts are being made to encourage women to play active roles in their societies. However, due to the specific local traditions in the region, it has been difficult to achieve the desired results in this respect...

Within the Disaster Management Strategy, the CBDRR programme was linked to other ongoing programmes in the National Society such as Climate Change and CBHFA. This linkage was very successful with the CBHFA programme in Kleiaat village in Akkar. The linkage of the Climate Change programme in relation to the youth department to be looked at more in detail in the future..

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) was used within DRR in order to benefit from the powerful capabilities of Geographical Information Systems in Disaster Management and Disaster Preparedness. DM staff was trained on GIS aiming to integrate GIS into the LRC managerial activities, where a Geo-database of risks and possible disasters, that can affect the selected villages, could be built.

Constraints/Challenges:

One of the constraints is that the LRC has no disaster management department. Programmes are divided between six operational departments. Cooperation between them has improved following the setting up of a disaster management committee and a steering committee, which consists of the directors of the six operational departments at the headquarters as well as autonomous local committees. Furthermore, the technical skills vary significantly between the departments. This is being addressed through capacity building activities supported by the Federation.

Due to limited funding, the number of villages, expected to be covered through the project, was decreased. In addition, the slow pace of progress in 2010, has influenced the progress in 2011, where the time to implement the whole project was squeezed. Also the overall instability in the MENA region has had some impact especially in terms of shifting the focus away from capacity building in CBDRR including the capacity building of the CBDRR coordinator.

Strategic aim 2: Enable healthy and safe living

Outcomes:

- Healthy communities able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community based integrated health and first aid activities are increased.

Constraints and Challenges:

CBHFA Program:

Due to financial difficulties, the Federation was not able to support the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) projects. However, this project has continued at the beginning of 2011, within the financial capabilities of the LRC. Local branches in the area have continued to support their communities at a local level with a spirit of sustainability and ownership. Discussion has started with the Norwegian RC to enable them to include CBHFA as one of their funded projects in the bilateral arrangement with the LRC.

Strategic aim 3: Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace **Outcomes:**

A close cooperation on Principles and Values was initiated with the Belgian Red Cross especially regarding Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change in order to integrate the YABC tool kit among the activities implemented by the LRC Youth Department. Other projects such as the services in prisons were not supported by the Federation for lack of funding.

Enabling action 1: Build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies **Outcomes:**

Achievements:

Revision of the statutes by the Internal Affairs Department continued during the reporting period. A new proposal was prepared and presented taking into account the different points of view of the board members. The Federation facilitated the process allocating a small grant from the residues of 2010. Capacity building workshops have been planned and agreed with the LRC, one on leadership/ management and another on planning and evaluation. Both workshops will be implemented during the 2nd half of 2011

Constraints and Challenges:

The main OD challenges include

- the difficulty in ensuring the required level of compliance by all the LRC Departments in implementing rules and procedures including procurement procedures, and
- the lack of funding which caused the postponement of planned activities

Enabling action 3: Function effectively as the International Federation

The LRC has a good profile and image with considerable respect among the population at large the leadership of the Society actively seeks to engage with other actors both within and outside the RC/RC Movement.

- The LRC is now represented in a new emergency response taskforce established by the authorities. The ToR of the task force identifies the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors especially in time of disasters.
- Within the Movement, close coordination was maintained between the LRC, ICRC and the Federation through joint coordination meetings and open information exchange.
- An MOU was signed between the three Movement partners in February 2009. The three parties frequently meet and discuss how best to support the LRC in a more coordinated approach.
- Monthly Movement coordination meetings are held with participating National Societies engaged in the short or longer term arrangement, either directly through the LRC or through the Federation and/or ICRC. This includes representation from the three long-standing partners that have physical presence in Lebanon: the Belgium Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Society/ Lebanon Branch and the Netherlands Red Cross.
- Close partnerships will continue to be maintained with the existing partners and new partners with real and/or potential interest in supporting the LRC.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ongoing commitment of the LRC to concentrate on improvement of its systems, structures and strategic direction at a national and local level aims to ensure a longer term vision and approach to the changing needs and vulnerabilities.

This can be seen through its initiative to create a development plan which can be implemented through coordinated partnerships and ultimately aiming for improved performance and accountability. The Society's strategic process addressing its mandate, role, vulnerabilities and needs takes into account the fact that the LRC is the only organisation in the midst of a plethora of NGOs, which can claim to transcend all political and confessional boundaries.

Looking ahead

As much as Lebanon remains on top of the list as regards long term humanitarian needs and emergency imperatives, the Federation will consolidate its efforts to ensure continuity of its support to the LRC. Continuing efforts will also be required to overcome the funding challenges through different means including establishment of a consortium through which interested NSs can contribute

The Federation supported programmes will continue to maintain an approach linked primarily to the ongoing strategic process of the LRC in terms of defining its role and responsibility as a key civil society organisation as well as maintaining and increasing the diversity of its current disaster management and health and care portfolios. More specifically, the key areas of focus include the following

- Governance and management development support ,
- Youth and volunteering development support with a dimension of service delivery related to first aid and emergency management
- Strategy development support including fundraising strategy

At all times, security remains a risk factor not only in the implementation of longer-term programmes but also for the volunteers in the field. Developing a plan for volunteering, including security issues for volunteers in emergencies, will be an important area of focus at all levels.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- In Lebanon: Mr. Sheikh Sami Al DahDah, President, Lebanese Red Cross, Beirut; email: president@redcross.org.lb; phone: +961 1 37 28 04/05; and fax: +961 1 37 82 07.
- In Lebanon: Ms. Samah Hassoun; Senior Finance and Program Officer, Lebanon Representation, Beirut; e-mail: Samah.hassoun@ifrc.org; phone: +961 1 34 99 44; and fax: +961 1 34 99 33.
- In Jordan: Mr. Tenna Mengistu, Head of NS Development, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman; email: Tenna.mengistu@ifrc.org; phone: +962 6 5694911; and fax: + 962 6 5694556.
- In Geneva: Ms. Carmen Corminboeuf, Officer, Zonal Fundraising Support, Resource Mobilization Department; email: carmen.corminboeuf@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4278; and fax: +4122 730 0395.
- In the MENA Zone: Paul Emes, MENA Communications and Resource Mobilisation
E-mail: paul.emes@ifrc.org | Mobile: +962 797455881