

# **IRAQ/JORDAN/LEBANON PALESTINE RC/SYRIA**

## **REGIONAL PROGRAMMES**

### **CHF 932,000**

#### **Programme No. 01.43/98**

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The Regional Delegation (RD) in Amman, established in 1993, covers the National Societies (NSs) of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Red Crescent. In 1998 it will expand its coverage to include increased co-operation with the National Societies of the Gulf States.

The priority areas of the Regional Delegation so far have been the relief operation in Iraq and the unification and capacity building of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the Occupied and Autonomous Territories (*see separate entries*), plus development support to other NSs in the region and the furthering of regional co-operation.

To this end, the Delegation provides support and inputs to the Regional Development Committee (RDC), a forum where NSs in the region exchange their experiences and strengthen regional co-operation. Other development programmes and activities aim at strengthening institutional capacities, resource development and services, with a special focus on health/Community Based First Aid.

The Regional Delegation also maintains close contact with the Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel and has provided support in co-ordinating programmes and activities between MDA and PRCS. In 1998 these activities may expand to include improving the ambulance network between the West Bank and Gaza and Israel, and organising joint MDA-PRCS training courses in first aid.

In 1998 existing programmes and activities will be maintained, redirected and strengthened as necessary, to improve the ability of the National Societies to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance the capacities of people to cope with various disasters and socio-economic changes. In Iraq, it is envisaged that relief will be coupled with rehabilitation and capacity building of the NS, especially at the branch level, with a view to shifting the emphasis when conditions allow. The CBFA Programme will be further expanded. Regional co-operation will focus more on the national level implementation of the existing plans prepared at regional meetings and training courses.

### ***Objectives in 1998***

- w To strengthen the capacity of NSs in the region to render vital services to the most vulnerable in emergencies;
- w to facilitate regional co-operation;
- w to establish better strategic planning and create a regional identity;
- w to achieve a more effective use of resources;
- w to ensure that NSs in the region further integrate gender issues into their programmes and structures.
- w to ensure that RD co-operation with National Societies is based on an overall strategic approach, rather than a vertical programme approach;
- w to contribute to the realisation of the concept of working as a Federation.

### **Assessment of Needs**

The current regional development strategy is based on: the resolutions and recommendations of the four Regional Development Committee (RDC) meetings held on specific topics during 1995-1997; the regional training courses; Regional Disaster Preparedness Seminar (1995), and the Regional Planning Workshop (1997).

The RDC resolutions and recommendations were reviewed and prioritised in a regional working group meeting in April 1997. It was agreed to focus more systematically on resource development in order to strengthen NS fund-raising capacity towards financial self-reliance. All five NSs reconfirmed their interest in implementing the Community Based First Aid Programme as an essential component of their health services. Social welfare programmes, an important part of NS services, require assistance mainly for the identification and planning of appropriate projects/programmes.

Project/programme planning capacities need strengthening at all levels, and none of the NSs have an updated development plan. Further, basic youth, disaster preparedness and dissemination activities will continue to need some external advice and assistance. More country-specific needs to be addressed in 1998 include branch development in Iraq in order to ensure sustainability beyond relief, and assistance in Syria to establish effective headquarters co-ordination and support to branch activities.

## ***Programmes in 1998***

### **Regional Development / Institutional Development**

#### ***Objectives:***

- w To consolidate a systematic approach to institutional development (HQ and branch level depending on the NS), with a special emphasis on planning, to move closer to achieving the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society;
- w to start developing long term consolidated development plans containing programmes designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable;
- w to develop the fund-raising capacity of NSs in order to increase their level of self-reliance;
- w to assist in strengthening the basic RC/RC service programmes, including disaster

preparedness, social welfare, youth and RC/RC dissemination;

- w to continue support to human resource development, both NS staff and volunteers;
- w to develop stronger partnerships between operating and participating National Societies.

### ***Regional Development Committee (RDC)***

Regional Development Committee meetings, established in 1995, are held twice yearly and deal with a specific topic each time. By the end of 1997 four meetings had been held, covering health/CBFA, resource development, social welfare, and youth and volunteers. In 1997 a systematic follow up of the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations was carried out and priorities set for future activities. In 1998 two meetings are planned, plus one meeting for NS presidents, as in previous years. Emphasis on implementation follow-up will continue.

### ***Institutional Development/Planning***

The Regional Planning Workshop held in June 1997 concentrated on National Societies' strategic, development and project planning. (In addition to the five NSs, representatives from the Gulf States also attended.) As a follow-up to the Workshop, NSs will carry on national level training as appropriate for the further development of their planning processes -- which in 1998 will comprise the processing of development/long term plans, and the improvement of programme and project planning. The Regional Delegation will provide technical and financial assistance as necessary.

In Syria a feasibility study on water safety and rescue services and an initial assessment for establishing a health department in SARCS headquarters were carried out in 1997. Further implementation of their recommendations will continue in 1998 (separate funding).

### ***Branch Development in Iraq***

In Iraq, 15 of the current 18 RC branches were established to implement the ongoing Federation/IRCS relief operation. The sustainability of these branches needs to be assessed, and relevant programmes and activities identified and/or strengthened. In addition to relief, branches are presently involved in health, blood services, first aid and disaster preparedness, youth, tracing, dissemination and social welfare activities.

By the end of 1997, with Federation support, three branches (Kerbala, Amara and Mosul) had established a sewing centre to provide vocational training for women and to produce inexpensive clothing for communities. These projects will be further consolidated in 1998. There is interest in introducing a similar project in other branches, and various rehabilitation projects (water and sanitation) and income generation projects (bakeries, small shops etc.) are being planned.

Support in 1998 will go to: training for staff and volunteers (directors, administrators, accountants, warehouse managers and volunteers/CBFA); small projects (identification, planning, and finance - budget to be submitted later), expansion of the CBFA programme; office equipment and / or furniture; Branch Development Delegate.

### ***Resource Development/Finance***

National Societies began a more systematic approach to resource development, their needs and their priorities in 1997. This work will continue, concentrating on setting up an appropriate infrastructure and sound management procedures in order to improve fund-raising capacity and so increase the level of financial self-reliance. The 1998 activities will include a training course at the regional level to be followed by national level training and initiatives.

### ***Training in Management***

In order to improve the competence and experience of NSs' human resources, opportunities will be

provided for individual training, and exchange/study visits with other National Societies. It should be noted that training of staff and volunteers is an essential part of most development activities, both at regional and national levels.

### **Disaster Preparedness (DP)**

A regional DP seminar held in October 1995 was followed by national training in Iraq and Jordan. The Regional Delegation will assist National Societies in drawing up DP plans that complement government plans and will work with them in establishing relief/disaster inventories, including a pool of trained personnel, and identifying training and material needs. Basic community level disaster preparedness and response issues are being addressed in the ongoing Regional CBFA Programme.

### **Youth**

Youth and volunteers was the specific topic of the RDC meeting in October 1997. The plan of action it compiled to strengthen youth activities in the region put a special focus on gender issues, and the building of a human resources reservoir for NSs. Its implementation will require external support.

### **Social Welfare**

At the RDC meeting on social welfare in January 1997, it was agreed to name a social welfare co-ordinator in each NS and to strengthen exchanges in the region in order to consolidate ongoing social welfare projects and programmes. The Federation will support NS efforts, especially in identifying projects to meet the social welfare needs of the most vulnerable.

### **Dissemination / Information / Public Relations**

The ICRC supports dissemination in all National Societies. However, there is a constant need to increase awareness of the Movement and of NS programmes: RC/RC dissemination, which is already an essential component of the CBFA Programme, needs to be integrated into all NS activities. The Regional Delegation will support the production of NS material (brochures, posters, calendars, etc.), and publish a regional brochure for general distribution.

### **Health / Community Based First Aid Programme**

Regional health activities have focused mainly on introducing and initiating Community Based First Aid (CBFA) in the region. The Regional Development Committee working group meeting in April 1997 confirmed that the CBFA programme is a priority programme for all NSs. In 1997 it was successfully started in Iraq where 25 trainers covering all 18 Governorates were trained and training of volunteers took place in six branches. Introductory workshops were conducted in Syria and Jordan. The Palestine Red Crescent Society initiated two pilot courses for training volunteers. Federation training manuals were translated into Arabic and are being adapted to local needs.

CBFA will be expanded throughout **Iraq** in 1998: 12 courses for volunteers and one course for trainers are planned. A local counterpart to the Regional Health Delegate will assist in training and monitoring.

In **Syria** the establishment of a Health Department at NS headquarters will enable the planning of a unified national CBFA programme to move forward.

In **Jordan** JRCS trainers, trained at national level in 1997, will carry out eight courses for volunteers.

The CBFA concept needs further defining in **the Palestinian OT/AT**. After a first workshop for key persons in Gaza in late 1997, a one-week training of trainers and five one-week courses for volunteers will take place in 1998.