



GCC CLUSTER OFFICE Dubai Office

COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

National Societies of countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) area are served by IFRC's cluster office in Dubai. In order of population these are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. There has never been a national society in Oman. This 2019 plan focuses on capacity-building and technical assistance opportunities that exist within the Federation, offering a menu of options while seeking funds that could help GCC National Societies make the most of ties within the IFRC and further expand the role on the global stage.

The population of the five countries totals over 50M. With a GDP per capita of over USD 64,000 in PPP terms, it is among the world's wealthiest regions. This, coupled with strong humanitarian ideals means that the countries are also leading humanitarian donors, with GCC National Societies often serving their governments as leading arms for bilateral international humanitarian assistance. With donations in the billions of dollars annually, both UAE and Saudi Arabia vie for the top of the list of top 10 donors of Humanitarian Aid (UN Financial Tracking Service). Qatar's international aid has greatly expanded in recent years, with a strong regional focus. Kuwait is among the largest global donors on a per-capita basis.

IFRC provides logistics support through its Dubai-based hub, which is part of Dubai's International Humanitarian City of (IHC) and is supported by Dubai and Federal UAE governments. Described as the world's largest and busiest logistics hub for humanitarian aid, it is home to operations for more than 55 non-governmental organizations. IFRC has also benefited from Emirates charter flights and office space in the IHC. Such in-kind support amounts to many millions of Francs and has been invaluable in IFRC being able to support its membership in rapid emergency response, saving lives and mitigating the harm caused by disasters. GCC governments have not typically supported multilateral IFRC programmes directly with cash. Notable contributions include CHF 1M for the 2016 Yemen annual plan from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and USD 300k for support to Governance and Management services (including the 2015 GMM).



NEEDS ASSESSMENT



GCC National Societies need training on Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance, including National Societies providing and receiving international assistance.



STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

CHF 658,819 REQUIRED

GCC National Societies can take advantage of training and technical assistance available through the Federation. In 2018, training was provided to Kuwait RC on leadership induction, as well as data management and donor reporting. Training can involve multiple GCC National Societies. Priority areas include Leadership and Governance, Capacity Assessment, Youth and Volunteering, Community disaster management capacity, strategic plan development and promotion of the auxiliary role. Some of the available capacity development services include:

Capacity assessment methodologies: OCAC/BOCA/PERSAFCHS

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CHF 100,000 REQUIRED

IFRC facilitates and ensures that platforms are in place for effective coordination of the emergency work of GCC National Societies, including guidance, capacity building and coordination of international disaster response in accordance with the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance through the IFRC emergency operations framework approved in 2017, which defines roles and responsibilities in emergency response and recovery operations.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Both as domestic and international humanitarian actors, GCC National Societies are engaged in effective and innovative work that merits greater coverage in international media. IFRC Communications offers one channel for emphasizing the work of GCC National Societies as part of the Federation. One idea is seconding a communication staff member from a GCC National Society to work in the IFRC Regional Office Communications Unit or alternatively in the Dubai GCC Cluster Office. This could support the work of the Unit, while enhancing the coverage and profile of GCC National Societies through various IFRC Communications products (e.g. Web and News Stories, Videos, Twitter, etc.).

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

CHF 170,000 REQUIRED

The GCC country cluster office is situated in Dubai's International Humanitarian City, in close proximity to other Dubai-based humanitarian partners, including UN agencies and ICRC. Staffing comprises 1 Head of Country Cluster, 1 Executive Assistant and 1 Office Support staff. Regular resources fund these positions and provide a travel budget sufficient for short missions to each of the GCC National Societies.

The representation provides liaison for member services and brokers technical assistance and training/capacity building activities. The Head of country cluster also facilitates the participation of GCC National Societies in Global Federation events and actively promotes the work of GCC National Societies globally, including using IFRC communication channels to give visibility and recognition to the GCC National Societies and their respective Governments.

CONTACTS

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