

Middle East & North Africa Zone Annual Report 2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011.



In brief

Mitigating the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest

Programme(s) summary

In line with Strategy 2020, the MENA Zone support to the National Societies in 2011 was based on a comprehensive approach to enable them to build sustainable capacities to do more, do better and reach further in the effort to tackle the humanitarian and development imperatives in the region. The specific lines of focus and the indicative result areas are summarized as follows

<u>Main lines of focus</u>	<u>Indicative result areas</u>
Disaster Management	Building capacities/resources to enable the MENA NSs to ensure effective preparedness/response based on coherent and comprehensive planning and implementation; supporting NSs to maintain their Unity Neutrality and Independence in the changing context (the Arab Spring) as part of the response focusing on the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest
Health/social services	Enabling NSs to contribute to healthy living with support in community-based health (CBHFA), water/sanitation, prevention/ control of HIV/AIDS (communicable and non-communicable diseases), emergency health and psychological support.
NS development and knowledge sharing	Enhancing the role of youth volunteers with overall re-poisoning of NSs in the changing context; improving diversity within increasing gender awareness and mainstreaming as part of the effort to develop strong NSs through coordinated partnerships; cooperation/coordination frameworks among the Components of the Movement in the priority countries for the emergency operations in response to the civil unrest.

Financial situation

The total budget in 2011, including opening balance and income received during the year, was CHF 2, 353, 887 out of which CHF 1, 408, 387 (68 %) was implemented during the reporting period. The reason for the relatively low expenditure is related to the increasing shift of focus towards emergency operations to respond to the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest which affected several countries during the reporting period.

Click here to go directly to the financial report

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA8000311arf.pdf>

See also (insert related appeals here).

No. of people reached

The Zone support to the National Societies directly feeds into the development of their capacities and scaling up of their services to the most vulnerable communities. Beneficiary count is more appropriately and directly done in relation to the specific services provided by the National Societies and their branch/sub-branch networks with more direct contact with the vulnerable communities benefitting from RC/RC services. The mechanism of capturing this in a systematic recording and reporting is to be further developed with the full implementation of the Data Bank Initiative and Federation-Wide Reporting System representing some of the key operational tools to facilitate implementation of Strategy 2020

Our partners

The funding received from the DFID –Federation partnership, supporting the key areas of focus including disaster management, health/social services and NS development/knowledge sharing, represents the major source of funding in 2011. The Norwegian Red Cross has been consistently supporting the Zone programmes and the support received in 2011 focused on health and social services as well as NS development/knowledge sharing with particular focus on gender awareness and mainstreaming.

Context

The overall context in MENA is increasingly dominated by the direct and indirect effects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, sectarianism, the persistent lack of security/instability (with the highest concentration of refugees and displaced persons) and vulnerabilities related to natural disasters and socio-economic conditions. In addition to the pre-existing conditions, the humanitarian consequences of the recent civil unrest - the Arab Spring sweeping through a number of countries in the region - have increased the complexity of the humanitarian context and the need to enhance RC/RC preparedness and response capacities with increasing solidarity and partnerships.

The MENA Zone also represents a context of opportunity.

- Within the changing socio-economic and political context, the RC/RC National Societies can maximize the opportunity to re-position themselves with stronger auxiliary role and humanitarian mandate and enhance their capacities to do more, do better and reach further
- With the right package of support including support in '*good donorship*', most of the National Societies in high income economies have a big potential to contribute significantly to the humanitarian endeavours broadening the scale and impact of RC/RC operations not only within the region but also in a global context.

Progress towards outcomesDisaster Management

Shelter RDRT training, Morocco Dec. 2011 Photo: Ibrahim Mall - IFRC

Outcome(s)

- Integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation tools including CBHFA are developed and adopted by the MENA zone disaster management network and disaster management steering committee.
- The disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes, implemented at country and /or regional levels, are effectively supported and monitored.
- The zone disaster management coordination working more closely with the disaster management steering committee and network building up awareness and capacity to use standard International Federation tools for preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction
- A comprehensive MENA disaster management human resources strategy developed and adopted by National Societies.
- Disaster response and cooperation has the capacity to support and if required coordinate disaster management operations and programmes.
- National Societies' disaster management role is fully acknowledged by governments and National Societies' disaster management mandates are clearly determined.

Achievements**Global events**

The Zone hosted the global DM coordinators meeting in Damascus (March 2011). The Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum was also hosted in Damascus (at the end of March 2011). The Forum was attended by 117 participants representing around 70 R.C/R.C Societies as well as the International Federation, international and non-governmental agencies. The Forum focused on the following objectives:

- To assess and summarise RC/R.C progress in community safety and resilience programming at national and community levels.
- To discuss progress and agree specific practical recommendations and measures to improve delivery, impact and accountability including a broad work plan for the coming two years.
- To share and investigate approaches to safety and resilience programming that integrate DRR (including climate change adaptation-CCA) into ongoing and new sector and multi-sector programming at community level.

- To discuss strategies for DRR and CCA advocacy activities at the national, regional and global levels.

Disaster response information system

A disaster response information system was developed to be used by the NSs and the IFRC offices in the region

- A two-day consultative meeting was organized in Amman in which six NSs (Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Qatar) participated in the discussion to agree on the database structure & use.
- All the NSs in the MENA Zone will be able to enter their volunteers/staff into the HR database, manage their data and choose the persons when there is a need for deployment. The database commonly serves all the MENA NSs, as the resources (including the HR) will be deployed in different countries in time of emergencies that exceed the capacities of the host NSs
- The DM coordinators in each NS will have access to the data base that can enable them to edit and update their own NS data in the system and enter current stocks of their NS central DM warehouse, in accordance with RC emergency catalogue, with certain quantity of shared items, that will be considered as a common resource to be mobilized in time of need based on a “virtual warehouse” concept. The system will reflect positively on the quality of response plans for the NSs & the IFRC.

Disaster risk reduction

- Supported NSs in implementing the community based disaster risk reduction programme in Morocco, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, and Palestine providing technical support, manuals and materials.
- The 2020 Arab DRR strategy was shared with DRR working group together with the implementation plan for comments. DRR letters of agreement were signed with Egyptian RC and Morocco RC to support DRR activities with focus on climate change; this was based on the global DRR alliance fund.
- A DRR working group was established with members drawn from eight NSs to exchange and document information, experience, and lessons learnt and to support partnerships in risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and to provide the NSs in DRR programmes regionally and nationally during the planning and implementation of their activities.
- A DRR manual was developed with adequate gender mainstreaming with participation of MENA DRR working group and gender experts. The manual was produced in Arabic and shared with all national societies in MENA as well as the NSs of Sudan and the Africa Zone
- Facilitated exchange of DM materials with a focus on climate change and DRR activities between NSs by sharing best practices, lessons learned and challenges.
- A film highlighting the effects of climate change was produced jointly with Egyptian RC with focus on the school based climate change adaptation programme

The humanitarian response in the context of the on-going civil unrest in MENA

- The DM steering committee, consisting of NS representatives, met with the MENA zone DM coordinator and discussed the planning and implementation of the appropriate response to the humanitarian effects of the civil unrest
- Two RDRT training exercises were conducted: the first (in Iran) with 47 participants and the second (in Morocco) with 31 participants. The training helped to consolidate NS preparedness/response capacities with a possibility for regional deployments in time of emergencies. The RDRT roster database was also strengthened using the disaster response information system and RDRT members were deployed to facilitate operations in Tunisia and Yemen.
- NS representatives from the Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon participated in the Field School Training organized by the Norwegian RC in cooperation with the Federation, while NS representatives from Morocco and Kuwait attended the UNDAC training focusing on DM
- A disaster response mechanism was developed highlighting the need to adhere to standard operation procedures at all levels in the zone. It clarifies roles and responsibilities in the sequence of steps in the planning and implementation of the response interventions. The mechanism will also enable the NSs to use the IFRC disaster management tools in more effective and efficient way.

- The MENA zone provided the necessary support to the operations in North Africa, Syria and Yemen facilitating planning, resource mobilization, communication and reporting
- A field guide (in English and Arabic) for RDRT members was developed and tested in the RDRT training in Iran; the guide was sent to all the NSs in the region.
- A Disaster Response Information System User manual was developed in both English and Arabic and shared with all national societies.
- The role out of the Global Logistics Service (GLS) strategy 2015 has started in MENA with the deployment of a delegate in 2011 to strength the coordination of services between operations, NSs and the GLS logistics units specially Dubai office. The advocacy of the logistics activities and procedures has been done in 2011 integrating logistics sessions in the RDRT trainings conducted during the reporting period. Field visits have been conducted to support NSs in their effort to enhance their logistical capacities

Opportunities / Challenges

- As more than 40 percent of the NSs are engaged with the emergency response related to the on-going civil unrest, the comprehensive support provided by the Federation consolidating NS preparedness/response capacities has enabled them to rise to the challenge maintaining the necessary humanitarian standards including Unity, Neutrality and Impartiality
- Frequent change of management and technical counterparts within the NSs, often, imposes a condition in which time and effort is required to build new relations with new people.
- The lack of sustainable resource base is a major challenge in the effort to ensure comprehensive support in DM including response, rehabilitation and recovery.

Health and Care

Outcome(s)

- Strengthen NS capacities in community based health and the integrated approach in addressing public health challenges.
- Support NS contribution in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Support the integration of psychosocial support programme (PSP)/activities within relevant programmes of the NSs.
- Strengthen a Zone wide emergency health and water/ sanitation programme.

Achievements

Community Based Health

- The Arabic version of the summary of Strategy 2020 shared with the MENA NS health focal points to enable them to integrate Strategy 2020 in their health strategies and programmes.
- Supported NSs in implementing the community based health and first aid approach; Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, UAE, Palestine. Providing technical support including manuals & materials. The community based approach reflected in better hygiene habits and behaviours among the local communities. Supported NSs in the mapping of community health priorities .
- Supported the training workshops on CBHFA conducted by the NSs; Yemen, Iraq and UAE; providing related materials and sharing agendas and presentations.
- Facilitated exchange among the NSs providing material on community based activities/ and cases of behavioural changes.
- Sharing best practices, lessons learned and challenges between the NSs and providing them with relevant health material and documents.
- Facilitated a meeting for the CBHFA Reference Group which decided to implement a school based health & first aid programme to build resilient and safe communities by developing healthy living habits and promoting safe behaviours among school children of different ages. Established a task force (NSs focal points) to develop a curriculum.

- Supported the participation of two NS representatives (Egypt & Palestine) in the CBHFA Global Meeting conducted in Geneva.

Prevention of diseases

- Technical advice provided to the NSs regarding their auxiliary role in vaccination campaigns. Special attention to the Yemeni & Iraqi RC regarding their roles in the prevention of communicable diseases.
- Subsequent to the alert and announcement of H1N1 cases in the region during the winter, a follow up plan implemented and a bulletin issued on H1N1 virus; infected cases in MENA countries and role of NS in prevention and preparedness were highlighted and shared with the NSs, Fed. Representatives and the Secretariat.
- Provided the MENA NSs' with "Epidemic Control Manual for volunteers" with suggested actions, disease and community message tools,
- Follow up on NS HIV programme performance for the year 2010 including volunteer hours and resources mobilized. Disseminating HIV/AIDS materials/(electronic) articles to NS focal points in coordination with the American RC
- Coordinated with Blood Global Advisory Panel (GAP) and assisted in translating the blood manual, self assessment & guidelines for NSs.

Psychosocial Support Programme:

- Translated the Psychosocial Support Newsletter "Coping with Crisis" into Arabic. Supported PSP training courses by the NSs providing them with training manuals; Yemen, Libya, Qatar, Tunis, and Iraq.
- Supported Yemeni RC PSP programme; deployed a regional PSP expert from Palestine RC to facilitate their workshop and the development of a plan of action.
- Held a meeting for Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) Reference Group; discussed the regional challenges/trends, support to NSs during the civil unrest situation where the need for increased PSP has been increasing.
- Provided special support to Yemeni & Syrian RC PSP programme/drafting revised plan; implementing ToTs in supporting volunteers and school children in PSP in the context of managing/reducing stress on vulnerable people.

Emergency Health & Wat/San

- Provided the MENA health focal points with MENA Update Bulletin on the situation of the civil unrest including the health situation and related activities
- Organized a field visits to IFRC operations in North Africa, visiting the Libyan-Tunisian border and checked the health services and psychosocial support provided to the displaced people in the IFRC camp clinic.
- Coordination the follow up, with the operations team, focusing on the health needs/activities regarding the civil unrest in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen and Syria.
- Recruitment of RDRT Health in Emergency Officer for two months and recruitment of Health in Emergency consultant for three months supporting the HIE programme.
- Organized the MENA Public Health in Emergencies Workshop in which 26 participants from 13 NSs participated Gaining knowledge and experience on PHIE key concepts and principles, relationships with other emergency preparedness and response actions, assessment process, coordination, IFRC tools and the roles and responsibilities of a health member in disaster/public health emergency response.
- Recruitment of Wat/San delegate to strengthen the support to the NSs in water and sanitation

Opportunities/challenges

- The focused support to NSs in responding to the civil unrest has increased the practical application of some of the key health components, including PSP and public health in emergencies, with a benefit of experience/ knowledge in the same fields for NS staff/volunteers as well as IFRC personnel
- Instability of some of the NS health focal points in their positions, coupled with lack of funding for some of the activities, poses a challenge in the effort to strengthen NS capacities in the planning and management of health and social services.

Organizational Development

Outcome(s)

- NS organizational development including capacities to initiate and facilitate strategic planning and change management
- Support in NS leadership and management development with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with the desired level of competencies
- Support in volunteer/youth development and management as well as branch development
- Support in partnership development enhancing the capacity to ensure coordinated efforts

Achievements

Supporting NSs to redefine their strategic positioning in the changing context

- A strategic dialogue session was organized at a side meeting during the 7th MENA Conference (Abu Dhabi, March, 2011) providing NS leaders with a timely forum to reflect on the common strategic issues including the need for a more coordinated response to the humanitarian consequences of the on-going civil unrest (the Arab spring). The need to project a common identity with a coordinated action was emphasised as an important factor that enhances the success of RC/RC humanitarian efforts within the changing context.
- A comprehensive framework of cooperation developed in support of the Egyptian RC to facilitate emergency response including emergency, first-aid, logistics, humanitarian diplomacy, Principles and Values (during the 1st phase), capacity building including volunteer development, resource development, humanitarian diplomacy (during the 2nd phase) and further development (during the third phase) in all organizational and operational areas of focus including development of strategic and operational partnerships. The framework is planned to be implemented as a joint effort between the Egyptian RC, IFRC and ICRC. A similar effort is also being made involving the NSs of Libya and Syria

Increasing focus on gender and diversity

The Federation facilitated a consultation on gender awareness and mainstreaming organized in Beirut, Lebanon (May 2011). Attended by 16 volunteers and staff from eight NSs including Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen (one-third of the participants were male), the consultation enabled the participants to address the following:

- Introduction to Strategy 2020 and sharing experiences and best practices related to gender awareness and mainstreaming in MENA summarizing the efforts made since 2001 including the establishment of a gender network
- Prioritizing gender within Strategy 2020. MENA feedback incorporated into the Global Gender Strategy of the Federation
- The MENA gender framework of action was developed (in line with Strategy 2020 and the evolving Gender Strategy).
 - National Societies implementing country level activities according to their specific priorities. The Palestine RC trained the staff in the Rehabilitation Department on the skills on how to mainstream gender in the specific activities of the programme. The Jordan RC trained staff/volunteers from HQ and branches on how to mainstream gender at all levels of programming and organizational development of the Society.
 - The DRR manual, produced in Arabic with adequate integration of gender issues, has been distributed to the National Societies. Similar efforts to continue to ensure adequate gender mainstreaming in the key operational tools supporting NS efforts in the different areas of engagement including community-based health and first-aid.
- A follow up consultation with NS representatives was conducted in December 2011 focusing on the mechanisms of strengthening gender awareness and mainstreaming with gender focal points at NS

and country level and reactivation of the MENA Gender Network with updated Terms of Reference and consisting of all the NS Gender Focal Points.

- The consultation facilitated the development of the draft Terms of Reference for NS Gender Focal Points at country level and the MENA Gender Network. The draft ToRs shared with the NSs for further review and approval
- Efforts being made to mitigate the possible effects of inertia enabling NS gender focal points to help one another in terms of knowledge sharing and peer support

Greater understanding of the NSs and the context in which they work

- Consolidating the basis for NS organizational development and capacity building, an overall mapping of NS capacities, priorities and gaps was conducted as part of the effort to update the base line and facilitate the roll out and implementation of Strategy 2020 within the MENA Zone. The summary of the profile was presented at the 7th MENA Conference. The profile is being used as a main source of reference to redefine the menu of services the Federation can provide to the NSs in line with their priorities and in alignment with Strategy 2020. It will also enable the NSs to develop strong data banking on the basis of which they can contribute to the Federation-wide reporting system.
- A comprehensive report was compiled summarizing the changing socio-economic and political context in MENA with an overview of NS capacities in each country

Promoting NSs in terms of WHO THEY ARE & WHAT THEY DO

In October, 2011, a consultation on data banking and Federation-wide reporting was conducted involving the NSs of Qatar, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, This is done to consolidate the basis for better credibility/visibility based on systematic recording and comprehensive reporting enabling the NSs to demonstrate the full value, purpose and usefulness of their services.

Promoting compressive NS development based on diagnostic self assessment

- The first stage of the diagnostic self assessment has been carried out by the Tunisian RC based on the new S2020 tool that facilitates organizational capacity assessment and certification (OCAC).
- Similar efforts to be carried out involving other NSs based on the experience to be gained from the experience in Tunisia

Supporting National Societies to improve performance and accountability

- In October, 2011, 20 NS staff and volunteers were trained on monitoring and evaluation. The trained staff and volunteers are expected to enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities in the planning and management of NS services and programmes
- Based on the experience gained from the training and the recommendations received from the participants, subsequent efforts to be made in terms of training of trainers in monitoring and evaluation in order to multiply the effort at regional/country level

Increasing focus on exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing

- Technical support provided to the NSs that developed and presented papers (case studies) on the various thematic areas during the 7th MENA Conference: Egyptian RC on community development, Iranian and Lebanese RC on youth/volunteering, Syrian Arab RC and UAE RC on disaster preparedness and management, and the Iraq RC on humanitarian messaging. The key issues from the presentations and discussions were included in the Abu Dhabi Commitments issued at the end of the Conference summarizing the key areas of focus until the next Conference in 2013
- In June, 2011, the Head of Finance from the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) visited/worked with the MENA Zone Office strengthening exchange of experience between the Federation and ARCO
- A staff on loan from the Algerian RC (in cooperation with the Centre for the Coordination in the Mediterranean – CCM) worked with the zone focusing on strengthening youth/volunteer structures and services including development of initiatives that can ensure greater activation and more optimal utilization of the MENA youth network

Supporting NSs in the development and management of youth volunteers

- NS youth volunteers (21 from 11 NSs) participated in the consultation process organized by the Zone (December 2011) to reactivate and consolidate the Network for Youth Volunteers .
- The consultation helped to develop the updated, draft Terms of Reference for the MENA Youth Volunteers Network as well as for the youth volunteer coordinators at NS level
- The draft ToRs have been shared with the National Societies for review and approval

Supporting and encouraging learning among NS staff and volunteers as well as IFRC staff

- An increasing number of NS staff/volunteers and IFRC staff are improving their knowledge in the different areas using IFRC E-Learning Platform
- However, the leadership development course, that was planned to be launched in cooperation with the Bahrain Regional Learning Centre, did not take off, due to difficulties including the problem encountered in the development of the required curriculum

Consolidating the process of planning and reporting based on a long term perspectives

- A long term planning framework (LTPF) developed to cover the period of operation 2012-2015

Opportunities/challenges

The changing context in MENA (the Arab Spring) provides not only challenges but also opportunities for the NSs to reposition themselves with greater auxiliary role and humanitarian mandate that can enable them to attract broad-based and sustainable support in the effort to consolidate and scale up the services for the most vulnerable

The lack of adequate coordination among the Movement partners often makes it difficult to ensure coherence in addressing issues of common interest including service delivery and development/capacity building of host National Societies. This challenge is now being addressed with the continuing efforts being made to enhance cooperation and coordination in the context of the civil unrest and the humanitarian response.

Working in partnership

The effort towards greater cooperation and coordination has been intensified throughout 2011 following the extended involvement of the Federation and the National Societies in the management of the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest (Arab Spring). Efforts made to develop cooperation/coordination frameworks involving the NSs in transition within the context of the Arab Spring including Egyptian RC, Libyan RC and the Syrian Arab RC. The information updates organized by the zone and circulated to all the supporters helped to strengthen the basis for partnerships not only for the emergency operations but also for the continuing engagement focusing on long term humanitarian and capacity building needs.

A number of National Societies, including Kuwait RC, United Arab Emirates RC, Algerian Red Crescent, American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Moroccan Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, have supported to the operation related to the civil unrest.. Other partners and stakeholders include governments, represented by Ministries of Health,(local health facilities, social services facilities), local communities, Medical Associations/Societies, Universities and Medical colleges, local NGOs, UN agencies: OCHA,WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and international NGOs.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The continuing support to the NSs in the different areas including DM, Health and OD/CB will take into account the need to enable them to achieve their strategic and operational objectives including the need to reposition themselves in the changing socio-economic and political context. This includes support not only in the usual operational areas but also in terms of humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilization as well as communication and external relations More efforts to be made enabling NSs to attract youth and women with

the right environment for participation and through specific interventions including DRR and CBHFA in which the key aspects of branch development and gender awareness and mainstreaming will be included as integral components in the effort to enhance RC/RC contribution to development and achievement of Strategy 2020 Aims and the Millennium Development Goals

Looking ahead

Ensuring scaled up and sustainable results through the development of strong National Societies will remain the overarching objective to be achieved in the implementation of the Strategy 2020 in MENA with the specific approaches focusing on the following: .

- Humanitarian standards(including in the changing context) where NS compliance with the Fundamental Principles directly contributes to the maintenance of the required degree of credibility and acceptance
- A holistic model that addresses service delivery and OD/CB needs in a balanced way
- Integrated approaches(thematically and geographically) to enhance synergy and concentrated impact
- Evaluation, analysis of lessons learnt, knowledge sharing and replication of successful models
- Streamlined support to the NSs based on commonality of needs in a framework of distinct clusters

NS clusters	Indicative framework of relevant support(by cluster)
I: NSs in transition (Enhancing service delivery, NS transition/ re-positioning in the changing context factoring inn the impact/ /implications of the Arab Spring)	<u>In the immediate, emergency phase:</u> preparedness/ response capacities, maintenance of NS Unity, Neutrality & Independence , volunteering, humanitarian diplomacy, leadership support <u>In the medium to long term phase:</u> humanitarian diplomacy, statutes, elections, volunteering, leadership development support with increasing participation of youth and women, NS self-assessment/development, partnerships and resource development
II. NSs in high-income economies (Enhancing optimal utilization of potentials for greater contribution to humanitarian endeavours at all levels)	Tailored support with emphasis on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘good donorship’ development support promoting visibility and accountability • efficient systems /procedures • coordination of efforts and harmonization of approaches including multilateral and bilateral modes of cooperation
III. The rest of the NSs (Ensuring continuing support in priority countries with long term humanitarian and capacity building needs)	<u>Conventional support to enhance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service delivery with enhanced quality, outreach and impact , and • comprehensive organizational development/capacity building

How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

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 Saving lives, changing minds.



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 nonviolence and peace.

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