

MAA82001

NORTH AFRICA

Annual Report 2011

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



Libyan Red Crescent volunteers providing first aid

In brief

Programme outcome

The regional plan for 2011 had a strong focus on supporting the National Societies in the region to enhance stronger and more integrated community based programmes, as well as adapting current disaster response and preparedness strategies to emerging challenges. These included climate change, population movement and migration. The plan also articulated the emphasis on Humanitarian Diplomacy in line with Strategy 2020 to enable National Societies and the Federation to more effectively engage in the humanitarian debate.

IFRC- supported programmes in 2011

Strategy 2020, strategic aim 1: save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises

Disaster Management. Programme outcome: The National Societies in North Africa have contributed to reducing the vulnerability and increasing the capacity of the population living in high-risk areas

Strategy 2020 strategic aim 2: Enable healthy and safe living

Health and Care. Programme outcome: The capacity of the North African National Societies in enabling vulnerable groups to reduce risk and the impact of diseases, accidents/injuries, to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crisis in partnership with stakeholders, is increased.

Strategy 2020, enabling action 1: Build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Organisation Development/Capacity building. Programme outcome: Well functioning National Societies in North Africa are contributing to civil society through efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision regarding their role.

Strategy 2020, strategic aim3: promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace
Principles and Values. Programme outcome: Community concern and responsibility for the most vulnerable is increased with increasing respect for humanitarian values, mutual understanding and increased tolerance.

Programme summary

The North Africa region is experiencing an unprecedented and decisive moment in its history, marked by socio-economic and political upheaval and violence, together with opportunities and hope. The risks remain great and the outcome far from clear. Nevertheless, the winds of the massive civil unrest that started in Tunisia in December 2010 have irrevocably modified the socio-economic and geopolitical map of the region.

The youth have found new ways with which to voice their aspirations, to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and continue to call for transparent and accountable governance.

Each of the five countries of North Africa – Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia - appears to be embarking on crucial political, social and economical changes which will indelibly mark the years ahead. At this stage, no one can predict the duration of the current transition. The overall expectation is that the process of transition will culminate in the establishment of more democratic governance.

Tunisia and Egypt, where the socio-economic situation is very fragile due to the political transition, have both held elections in autumn 2011 (October and November, respectively). Libya faced a state of civil war since Mid-February, with involvement of NATO in support of the opposition fighting against the previous government. The conflict ended in October and the National Transitional Council currently ruling the country has announced that election will be held by mid-2012. Morocco and Algeria are proposing political reforms, with a view to reducing the levels of popular discontent. All countries in the region are affected by the current wave of civil unrest which is generally referred to as 'the Arab Spring'.

In this new context, the North Africa Office of the Federation has continued its support to the National Societies guided by the 2010-2011 plans with a focus on youth and migration. It also supported the National Societies in their effort to ensure effective response to the humanitarian consequences of the civil unrest. A series of DREF applications and emergency appeals have been launched during the reporting period. Work has also been undertaken to preserve NS integrity, independence and image, as well as to develop plans of action to respond to the new needs and challenges of the most vulnerable.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 1,101,840, of which CHF 898,273 (82%) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 619,715 (56%) of the budget.

The original 2011 budget was CHF 1,369,243, this budget was later revised downwards to CHF 1,101,840, taking into consideration the low level of funding received especially for the health and care programme as well as for coordination and management.

On the other hand, the changing context in the region has also substantially modified the focus and scope of the Federation's intervention and support in the region. During the reporting period, the IFRC North Africa office focussed on emergency response activities in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. As a consequence, the implementation of a number of planned development projects was delayed. The Office has asked for an extension of the regional project for "improving protection and living conditions of migrants in North of Africa", supported by the EuropAid to be implemented until the end of September 2012.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA8200111arf.pdf>

No. of people reached

The North of Africa office of the Federation supports the five National Societies. Much of its work is focused on institutional strengthening and capacity building of NS staff and volunteers who, in turn, reach vulnerable communities through knowledge-sharing and improved service delivery in areas such as Humanitarian Diplomacy, Disaster Preparedness and Management, Community Based Health and First Aid, and Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change/YABC (with focus on migration). Except in cases of specific response to emergencies (briefly mentioned below in the Disaster Management section), specific and detailed accounting of all the indirect beneficiaries of the IFRC support in the different countries remains a challenge.

Partners

The North African National Societies benefit from solid partnerships with their respective ministries of health, interior/civil defence, education and solidarity. They are also connected to local thematic and regional networks, including the Arab Secretariat of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (ARCO), the Pan African Group and the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Good relations and collaboration are maintained with all United Nations agencies, as well as with the European Union. The relations are established and fostered in compliance with the Fundamental RC/RC Principles and Values which are implemented in most of the countries within the region.

On a bilateral basis, both the French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross are presently engaged in the region supporting the emergency response programmes in Algeria and Morocco, and they have started development support to the Tunisian Red Crescent at the end of 2011 focusing mainly on first aid. The Turkish Red Crescent has been active in Libya during 2011 supporting the National Society's Blood Centre and relief operations. The Libyan RC also benefited from the cooperation with the Danish RC, Italian RC and the Palestinian RC focusing on psychosocial support.

A good level of cooperation and working relationship is maintained with the regional ICRC Delegation based in Tunis, and the three country offices in Algeria, Egypt and Libya.

The European Union (EuropAid) and the Norwegian Government (NORAD) have been the main contributors to the plan during the reporting period.

Context

The deep social and political changes that originated in Tunisia in the early days of January 2011 and spread quickly across the region, has resulted in a radical transformation of the socio –

economic and political order. To date, the process has led to the change of governments in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Many of the underlying causes and the key drivers behind the call for change include the very high levels of unemployment among youth, and educated youth in particular; the entrenched and, in some cases, very high levels of poverty and regional disparities within countries and the modest progress in areas related to freedom of expression, accountability and transparency. These dimensions of social and economic inclusion are increasingly considered as part of North Africa's unfinished agenda for the years ahead.

Each of the five countries of North Africa appears to be embarking on a path of crucial political, social and economic change over the years ahead, and at this stage it is difficult to predict the duration of the current transition increasingly expected to lead to greater democratic governance.

Tunisia and Egypt, where the social and economical situation is very fragile due to the political transition, have held elections in Autumn 2011 (October and November, respectively). Libya faced a state of civil war since Mid-February, with the involvement of NATO in support of the opposition fighting against the previous government. The country is currently ruled by the National Transitional Council (NTC) with elections expected to be held by mid-2012. Morocco and Algeria are proposing political reforms, with a view to reducing the levels of popular discontent. All countries in the region are affected by the current wave of civil unrest (the Arab Spring) .

Youth unemployment, endemic poverty coupled with regional disparities, migration, increasing Islamic fundamentalism, urban violence and civil unrest, traffic injuries, as well as the slow pace of transformation of economic structures are among the most important challenges to be tackled in the process of ensuring stronger and more inclusive growth across the region

The North African region also continues to face growing challenges from environmental degradation, resulting from population pressures, urban growth, leading to water scarcity and pollution, desertification and climate change (the latter, also exacerbating water shortages). The region also remains prone to natural disasters, in particular risks of earthquakes and flooding in Morocco and Algeria.

The "Libyan crisis" deserves special attention in this report, as it has strongly impacted on IFRC 2011 support to the region and will continue to impact the future cooperation in North Africa.

Due to the magnitude of the conflict and the high number of displaced people to be evacuated or temporarily settled, the concerned National Societies were fully engaged in the emergency response.

Progress towards outcomes

The regional wave of civil unrest which started in Tunisia at the end of December 2010 has substantially modified the context of the Federation intervention and support throughout the region.

During the reporting period, the IFRC North Africa office focussed on emergency response activities in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. As a consequence, a number of planned development projects faced some delay in their implementation. Nevertheless, at the same time, IFRC has been working with most National Societies in the region on developing new action plans, which integrate emergency preparedness and capacity development concerns –as per the requirements of the current context and immediate needs-.

Disaster Management

Outcomes

The programme placed a specific emphasis on building local institutional capacity to respond to disasters while reducing vulnerability and building resilience at community level focusing on community and organisational preparedness, disaster response and recovery, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and migration.

The programme was aligned with IFRC policies, disaster management strategy and the global health and care strategy, as health plays an important part of the disaster management action. In order to ensure an integrated approach, the North Africa Office is promoting and supporting community based initiatives including first aid and community resilience.

Achievements:

- The Tunisian RC was supported to play a significant role in mobilizing 12 trained teams of volunteers who provided first aid during the National Constituent Assembly in October 2011
- A similar effort has been done by the Egyptian RC which mobilized the trained volunteer teams that provided first aid cover during the elections in the capital and other major cities
- Two micro-projects were carried out by volunteers from the Moroccan Red Crescent as part of risk reduction associated with climate change, in Meknes for protection of hydrological resources and in Azillal for agricultural purposes,
- A training of regional disaster response teams (RDRT) focusing on shelter was organized in Morocco involving the National Societies of the region and in cooperation with the MENA Zone Office. Thirty five participants took part in the training with most of them from the N.A region and some participants invited from the Middle East. This will strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of the National Societies with possible exchange of resources as required
- The Egyptian RC is promoting awareness on risk reduction focusing on selected schools in the capital
- A study on the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups has been completed in Algeria, Gardaia.

In addition, as the emergency response during the reporting period has been strongly linked with National Society development and capacity building, the main achievements related to the MENA civil unrest emergency appeal are summarized as follows (more detailed information can be found on the latest Operations Update at: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDR82001eu10.pdf>)

In summary:

- National, regional and international disaster response tools were put into action as from February 2011, in response to the civil unrest and subsequent population displacement. This included the deployment of a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), five ERUs and RDRTs to Tunisia (19 National Societies participated multilaterally in this operation and six bilaterally). A Movement Coordination Platform was also established in Libya.
- Needs of people displaced by civil unrest in North Africa, particularly Libya, have been met by National Societies in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya through emergency relief distribution (food and NFI), and provision of emergency and basic health.
- In Tunisia, a Transit Camp was established at Ras Jedir (in April 2011) and jointly operated by Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) and IFRC sheltering the large numbers of third country nationals (TCNs) fleeing Libya. The transit camp was handed over to the UNHCR in July 2011. Additional support has been provided to the displaced Libyans in the south-west of Tunisia.

- DREF operations were launched to support the Tunisian and Egyptian R.C in the response to the civil unrest and the Moroccan R.C in the response to flash floods:

Constraints or Challenges

The balance between the emergency and the development support to National Societies has considerably changed, modifying the rhythm and the nature of the IFRC North Africa work, putting a high level of pressure on the regional office. The working relation with National Societies affected by civil unrest (Egypt, Libya and Tunisia) has been very intense. Despite the increasing pressure related to the emergency, the IFRC North Africa Office managed to keep close relations with all the National Societies of the region including Algeria and Morocco.

Health and Care

Outcomes

The main purpose of the programme is to increase the capacity of the North Africa National Societies in enabling vulnerable groups to reduce risk and the impact of diseases, accidents/injuries, to prepare for and respond to basic health needs and crisis in partnership with stakeholders. To achieve this, the National Societies focus on prevention, fighting against stigma and discrimination, building capacity, strengthening volunteers and staff skills, addressing advocacy and public awareness and reinforcing partnerships and networking.

Achievements

- Three VCAs(vulnerability and capacity assessments) focusing on migration, have been finalized in Morocco with proposals for micro-projects, Tanger and Guercif. Two of them have been approved and will be conducted in 2012.
- A ToT on CBHFA was conducted in Algeria in order to increase the capacity of 20 branches located within the Southern part of the country. These branches have been selected due to the poor access to health facilities for the community
- A workshop on PSP was conducted in Tunisia involving 17 participants

Constraints or Challenges

The balance between the emergency and the development support to National Societies has considerably changed, modifying the rhythm and the nature of the IFRC North Africa work, putting a high level of pressure on the regional office.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Outcomes

The regional programme aims to contribute to the development of well functioning Societies in North Africa able to reinforce their position in the civil society through efficient service delivery and advocacy, based on a clear vision and mission regarding their role. For this purpose five components were identified: support to governance, branch development, volunteers and youth management, gender and capacity building.

Achievements

- Support in the preparation and conduct of an Extraordinary General Assembly in order to revise the Algerian RC statutes
- Recruitment of three national senior staff (focusing on operations, monitoring and communication) to strengthen the capacities of the Tunisian and Libyan RC
- A diagnostic self-assessment conducted as a first step for the development of a comprehensive self-development plan of the Tunisian RC. The process and sequence is based on organizational capacity assessment and certification (OCAC) as a tool that can facilitate the development of strong NSs with sustainable capacities.
- An external assessment conducted and a report produced on the IT capacities of the Tunisia R.C

- Overall operational and organizational development support being provided to the Libyan and Egyptian RC
- Three logistics workshops conducted at national level in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia to strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of the three NSs,,
- Initial steps taken to design a plan of action for 2012 on volunteers management and communication for the Tunisian Red Crescent and for the Libyan Red Crescent
- OD Delegate recruited to strengthen the OD/CB support to the National Societies

Constraints or Challenges

The balance between the emergency and the development support to National Societies has considerably changed, modifying the rhythm and the nature of the IFRC North Africa work, putting a high level of pressure on the regional office. The recruitment and deployment of the OD Delegate is expected to improve the conditions with the necessary level of focus on OD/CB based on more integrated programming that will enable the National Societies and the IFRC to address the critical priorities related to emergencies and development in a comprehensive and complementary approach

Principles and Values

Outcomes

North Africa has progressively become an important migratory route especially for people passing through on their way to Europe, but also has increasingly grown as a route of destinations, while being at the same time a place of origin, especially in the frame of the new political context.

Specific public and youth awareness campaigns/awareness-raising and assistance programmes are being carried out to deter people from risking their lives journeying to distant countries so that they can live in dignity and without suffering. Equally, combating exclusion, marginalization and acts of xenophobia, while assisting vulnerable groups in gaining access to health and information, remains at the forefront of the programme.

As the majority of volunteers in North African National Societies are youth, they've played a major role in the humanitarian scene in North Africa: active on all fronts, they've worked together, advancing the call for *doing more, doing better, reaching further* and demonstrating an increasing sense of responsibility and leadership.

Achievements

- Draft review of YABC *Development of activities guidelines* and of the YABC *Peer educators manual* in collaboration with IFRC-Department of Principles and Values
- Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change/YABC sessions undertaken by TRC YABC peer educator for TRC volunteers working in the transit camp
- Development of migration promotional and sensitization tools based on YABC approach, developed by YABCs from the five North African National Societies
- Advanced training on "Migration and project development" with 29 participating from the YABC team of Moroccan R.C
- Advanced training "Migration and project development" with 14 YABC peer educators of TRC
 - Design of three proposals for youth pilot project on migration in Morocco within MRC with focus on sensitization on and prevention of migration
 - YABC peer educator training for six trainers on Principles and Values aiming at the standardization of peer education knowledge. This training was addressed to the participants of previous peer educators training raising the standard criteria of YABC PE training at the international level,
 - Identification of some common areas of collaboration between the Italian Red Cross and the TRC has been supported

- Design of five proposals for pilot projects on migration in Tunisia within TRC, aiming at sensitization on migration risks, reinforcement of volunteers capacities related to assistance to migrants including Libyan families and refugees, and social integration of migrants,
- Mediterranean Youth Camp Atlantis VII “Young Volunteers in Action”, organized by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Tunisian Red Crescent, in Hamm met (Tunisia). International Federation of RC/RC Societies–North of Africa Office provided technical support by facilitating YABC sessions (Migration and Volunteering), Youth activities related to migration and financing the participation of the Head of Migration Department in Geneva,
- Development of two thematic brochures related to migration (Risks and Rights of irregular migrants). in collaboration with the IFRC-Migration department in Geneva
- Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) sessions undertaken by LRCS YABC peer educators for LRCS volunteers working in the refugee camp
- Discussion with Belgian Red Cross to discuss possible partnership with Tunisian R.C for a mutual work on migratory trails and challenges faced in departure, transit and arrival zones
- Design of areas of cooperation with the ICRC delegation in Tunis and Tunisian R.C for dissemination of Humanitarian Principles/ Values in Tunisia, ongoing since November 2011
- Technical support during the 31st International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the interventions by the Moroccan RC and the Tunisian RC
- Presentation of documents and projects related to the regional programme on migration, through the Migration department kiosk during the 31st International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Participation in the seminar: "Rethinking migration: for the freedom of movement in the Mediterranean area", held in Tunisia and gathering Tunisian and European associations and academics who work on migration issues, organized by Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, CIMADE (Inter-movement committee among the evacuated) and Tunis Center for migration and asylum,
- Training for launching the Youth project in Tanger «Sensitization of irregular migration risks» with 25 youth volunteers from MRC-Tanger committee and other associations involved in the project, organized by Moroccan Red Crescent and IFRC North Africa office, ,
- Participation and intervention during the Moroccan Red Crescent event in Morocco for the International Migrants day, 18 December 2011
- Training for launching the Youth project in Nador «Caravan of sensitization of migration risks», with 35 youth volunteers from MRC-Nador committee and other associations involved in the project, organized by Moroccan R.C and IFRC North Africa office
- Training on the Principles/Values and the YABC Approach, in Alger, Algeria involving 17 ARC volunteers

Constraints or Challenges

Both National Societies, Tunisia and Libya, were mostly mobilized for emergency operations (refugee camps and natural disaster operations) and involved in several projects with different actors. This has resulted in slow progress in terms of development projects.

Working in partnership

- During this 2011 turbulent year, intensive and extensive relations have been maintained with ICRC, particularly with regard to the crisis in Libya crisis. Two key Framework agreements have been signed:
- Guidelines for contributions to the Movement response in Libya and Neighbouring Countries', LRC/ERC/TRC/ICRC/IFRC, February 2011
- Framework Agreement for coordination and cooperation, LRC/ICRC/IFRC, March 2011.
- All National Societies in the region have long-established partnerships with their respective governments and local partners support their work assisting the most vulnerable groups.

The new context has pushed NSs to work differently with the authorities and with a greater number of partners, including UN agencies and INGOs. IFRC, together with ICRC, has strongly supported and accompanied NSs in their effort to consolidate and expand both strategic and operational partnerships with an increasing number of stakeholders.

A four-year long term planning framework (2012-2015 LTPF) highlighting the priorities for North Africa (along the five business lines of Strategy 2020) has been launched

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Federation and the five National Societies of the region will enhance their efforts contributing to longer term impact with effective implementation of the Long Term Planning Framework(LTPF 2012-2015) based on the new context and the challenges/ opportunities highlighted in the framework see the following link: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual12/SP682_LTPF12.pdf

Looking ahead

The evolution of the new political and social context in the region is going to influence the nature and direction of the Federation support to the NSs in North Africa including Libya. The key areas of focus include the following:

- Supporting NSs to enhance their auxiliary role in the changing context and in accordance with the Principles and Statutes of the RC/RC Movement
- Ensuring greater promotion of the R.C/R.C Principles and Values, inside and outside NS.
- Strengthening youth involvement in NS organization and operations
- Improving NS disaster management capacities, especially for man-made disasters (civil unrest, urban violence, migration, and traffic injuries),
- Re-enforcing humanitarian diplomacy and NS organisational development .

Ensuring effective implementation of the regional migration/youth project supported through EuropAid will be an important area of focus in the immediate to the medium term. Furthermore, the Regional Office of the Federation will continue to devote much of its time and resources supporting the NSs in key areas that can enhance sustainability and self-reliance including resource mobilization and 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.



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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