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MENA Zone support to the Lebanese R.C Annual Report 2012

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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MAALB001

This report covers the
period 1 January 2012 to
31 December 2012.

The Lebanese RC volunteers
contribute to a culture of peace
and non-violence - 2012
Source: LRC



In brief

Programme outcome

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) support to the Lebanese RC, aiming to enhance the Society's organizational and operational capacities, is creating a momentum towards building up a strong national society with country wide coverage, effective leadership and management, a strong culture of volunteering and effective service delivery with sustainable resource base. The key programme outcome areas in 2012 include the following;

- Increased engagement and contribution of the youth volunteers based on review of progress and challenges leading to more integrated and unfired approaches
- Effective and sustainable service delivery with stepped up efforts in mobilization and management of resources including financial resources.
- Increasing awareness and practice focusing on more effective /efficient leadership as well as planning and management skills and competencies including PMER skills and competencies at HQ and branch levels.

Programme summary

The International Federation support to the Lebanese RC is anchored in the long term planning framework which focuses on assisting national societies in their effort to implement their priorities within the parameters of Strategy 2020 of the Federation and the specific business lines:

- To raise humanitarian standards
- To grow the services for the most vulnerable
- To strengthen the specific RC/RC contribution to development
- To heighten the RC /RC influence and support for our work
- To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

Financial situation

[Click Below](#) to go directly to the financial report:

http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF/Process/LTPF/2012/SP681LBLTPF_12arf.pdf

No. of people reached

It is estimated that, on average, the Lebanese RC reaches up to 100 thousand beneficiaries benefiting from the various humanitarian and social development services provided by the Society including emergency medical services, first-aid, blood collection and distribution disaster response and risk reduction.

Partners

In addition to the Federation, the Lebanese Red Cross closely works with other Movement partners including the ICRC, Norwegian RC, Belgian RC, German RC and Swiss RC as well as relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Context

The cycle of wars within the last thirty years has put the Lebanese people and the National Society in a situation where money comes with conflict and post war investment is automatically fuelling the economy. The Lebanese Red Cross has also been operating with increasing dependency on its donors and partners over the past many years.

Due to the complexity of the humanitarian challenges affecting the country, the Lebanese RC has been expanding the sphere of its operations while it is still relying on minimum human and organizational resources. There is no system for fundraising apart from the limited and non-regular private donations and financial support from the Ministry of Public Health which is often affected by the economic fluctuations and political tensions.

With the increasing influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon, the Lebanese RC is facing growing challenges to ensure adequate preparedness and response with the main operational and organizational infrastructure depending on 46 emergency medical service(EMS) stations covering more than 75 % of the needs in the country based on an MoU with the Ministry of Health, more than six thousand active volunteers including youth volunteers, 32 regional/local committees (branches), four operation rooms, 40 medico social Centres , 16 mobile clinics, 33 youth clubs , 12 blood banks, one orthopaedic workshop, and four nursing institutes.

The Society has a clear mandate, strong and transparent relations with the community and the various parties on the ground as well as with the other Components of the Movement. It also draws strength from its wide volunteering base in the provision of First Aid and related humanitarian services guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Progress towards outcomes

Business line one: To raise humanitarian standards

Increasing contribution raising humanitarian standards

The Lebanese RC volunteers contribute to the effort being made to raise humanitarian standards through effective dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and Values within the Society as well as among the general public using various ways and means including print and electronic media.

The Society's volunteers play exemplary roles in enhancing humanitarian standards with consistent application of a set of working principles and attributes with which they operate.

NEUTRALITY(serving all without discrimination);

RESPONSIBILITY(performing the humanitarian mission with the required quality, outreach and impact);

COMMITMENT (delivering services even under the most difficult circumstances);

SACRIFICE (serving the community with little or no limitation in terms of time, readiness and effort);

DISCIPLINE(consistent compliance with the laws and regulations of the Movement and respect for the emblem);

CREDIBILITY(playing a key role in building and maintaining the integrity of the Society);

GOOD PERCEPTION(promoting positive public image that can help to influence and mobilize support for the humanitarian and social services of the Society)

The consistent application of these principles by the volunteers and the youth has enabled the Lebanese RC to earn a high degree of respect and trust as a result of which it continues to operate across religious, sectarian and political divides with little or no limitation of access not only in side Lebanon but also when the Society currently transports the wounded and the sick affected by the Syrian crisis.

Business line two: To grow the services for the most vulnerable

Robust preparedness/ response with increasing contribution to community resilience and risk reduction

The Lebanese RC is actively involved in assisting the Syrian refugees coming into Lebanon with increasing numbers. The services in support of the refugees focus on transporting the wounded and the sick to the nearest health facilities in Lebanon.

The Lebanese RC continues its efforts based on a comprehensive disaster management linking preparedness/response to recovery and long term development. The Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Programme, implemented by the Society between 2009 and 2011, was evaluated in May/June 2012. The CBDRR programme was supported by the Federation with funding from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, American Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross.

The evaluation report concludes that the CBDRR programme has been a valuable experience, as it has managed to train community volunteers in fire-fighting; these volunteers have demonstrated their effectiveness when they brought a wildfire to a halt in May 2012, preventing much more

substantial destruction and damage. The report also highlights some of the organizational challenges the Lebanese RC faces due to its ineffective organizational structure and culture including the gaps in the area of planning and management, volunteer development and fundraising

The report further explores the potential: if the will and the courage can be mobilized within the organization to reform and to fill the gaps, and if support from its partners can be secured, chances are high that the Lebanese RC may experience a quantum leap in its effectiveness in facilitating community services working with the most vulnerable in Lebanon.

Business line three: To strengthen the specific RC/RC contribution to development

Sustained engagement strengthening RC/RC contribution to overall development

In addition to the role they play facilitating community resilience/risk reduction; the volunteers of the Lebanese RC are actively engaged in various areas that contribute to overall development including social development:

- Disaster risk reduction including climate change adaptation;
- Social activities for children;
- Visits and service(supporting patients at home, hospitals or foster houses);
- Services for the physically challenged;
- Prevention programmes;
- Health in schools;
- Visits and services(supporting inmates in prisons);
- Increasing awareness with continuing dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law.

Enhanced engagement of the youth promoting the culture of peace and non-violence

The Lebanese RC is one of the few National Societies in the region that actively mobilizes the youth and engages them as agents of behavioural change (YABC). Organizing festivals and campaigns that can promote stability and peace at all levels of society, the Society's youth volunteers play exemplary roles in the effort to enhance the culture of mutual understanding, respect, tolerance, peace and non-violence.

Supported by the Federation, the 11th National Youth Congress of the Lebanese RC was conducted in December 2012 focusing on the following key objectives:

- Review of achievements made and challenges faced during the year;
- Assessment of opportunities for further contribution by the youth at all levels (HQ, branches; and centres) working as agents behavioural change and contributing to the culture of peace and non-violence;
- Consolidation of the ways and means to enhance the practice of knowledge sharing and learning from best practices with formal and informal networking;

The Congress was attended by over 100 youth representatives from 32 youth centres, including the President and Director of the Youth at national level, supervisors, centre coordinators, programme coordinators and committee coordinators.

The Lebanese RC youth volunteers successfully organized a Peace Festival in August 2012.

- Promoted as something that signifies **a victory for humanity**, the festival was organized for the second year in a row and attended by more than 8'000 people from all walks of life
- Throughout the festival, the main focus was on how to promote a culture of non violence & peace, mutual understanding, tolerance, non discrimination and the respect for diversity through a safe and welcoming environment where people from different backgrounds came to celebrate through art, music, dance, theatre, cultural events, etc.,

Capacity building to enhance service delivery with increasing effectiveness and efficiency

- Capacity building and training of NS staff and volunteers (including elected volunteers at branch level) raising skills and competencies in various areas including planning and management skills.
- Capacity building and training of staff and volunteers engaged in financial management at HQ and branch levels with continuing improvement of systems and procedures as well as facilities and equipment.
- With a multiplier effect in terms of capacity building in a wider context, the trained volunteers of Lebanese R.C provide a wide range of training courses to the general public on how to manage life threatening cases and reduce risks through various means
- The main target groups include the Lebanese armed forces, nurses in hospitals, medical and paramedical students, ministries, citizens and boy scouts, schools and universities, companies and banks, security agencies, hotels and tourist organizations, airline staff and lifeguards.

Business line four: To heighten the RC /RC influence and support for our work

The Lebanese RC enjoys a high level of trust and acceptance among the general public in recognition of the good work it has been conducting since the days of the civil war (between 1975 - 1992). The positive public image consolidates the foundation on which the Society can build its efforts in resource mobilization with sustainable and broad-based approaches.

Business line five: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

The Lebanese RC maintains cordial relations with the authorities leveraging the good image it has developed over the years. It also works with different partners including RC/RC Movement partners and other relevant organizations..

Constraints/challenges

The Federation's Country Delegation in Lebanon was closed in 2011 due, mainly, to lack of funding. The continuing dependence of the Society on external assistance also represents a cause for concern which will need to be addressed through collective efforts.

The apparent lack of political commitment, including the direct and indirect resistance of NS governance regarding the need for organizational improvement and change, poses a challenge in the effort to ensure effective planning and management. This is expected to be addressed through subsequent efforts including elections to be held at branch and national levels at the beginning of 2013.

Working in partnership

The Federation support to the Lebanese RC is planned and implemented in close consultation and coordination with other Movement partners including the ICRC and the participating NSs present in Lebanon including the NSs of Belgium, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

In overall terms, the Lebanese RC represents a case where some of the operational units are performing well while the overall organization and management of the Society tends to be slow to respond to the operational demands:

- The EMS, representing the operational side, actively continues the provision of humanitarian and social services including ambulance and first aid. This is based on a fast moving dynamics and instituting additional measures for improvement tends to be relatively easier.
- On the other hand, the dynamics of the overall institutional side of the NS continues to be slow and requires a lot of capacity building and organizational change to improve the overall process of governance and management at HQ and branch level. But the challenge of doing this often proves to be formidable and one that takes time, investment and focus.
- In a positive sense, the success recorded in achieving results working with the EMS is bound to generate opportunities to replicate the efforts in the rest of the organization overcoming the challenges through persistent and evidence-based approaches. The support being provided to the Lebanese RC, in terms of capacity building, will increasingly be based on this approach.

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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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.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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