

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon

Appeal No. MAALB001

09 September 2009

This report covers the period 01 January 2009 to
30 June 2009.



On 8 May, the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the Red Cross humanitarian bus started its four months tour across Lebanon. **International Federation.**

In brief

Programme purpose: The overall priority of the Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanese RC) is to continue the implementation of institutional changes, to strengthen quality performance of first aid and ambulance services, to continue assistance through the primary health care and social centres, to strengthen the volunteer base through the youth as the future capital of the National Society and to ensure quality performance of the services performed through the blood banks.

Programmes summary: As predicted, the situation in Lebanon remained tense but calm during the first six months of 2009. The decision to hold the national parliamentary election on 7 June caused some concern as it was the first time the election was to be held on one day. This decision created a political unstable situation and a “wait and see” reaction. Lots of decisions had to be postponed until after the parliamentary election, including the national budget. Even if the election itself was carried out in a democratic and peaceful way, the tense situation continued after the election. The next couple of months, until the new government is established, will show if the new political situation will be stabilized.

The implementation of the programmes has also been affected by the parliamentary election and the election taking place in Lebanese RC. Some of the planned programmes had to be postponed until the elections were finished and new local and national committees were in place. Even so, the Lebanese RC maintained a high level of emergency preparedness during the first half of the year. The fact that the General Assembly of the Lebanese RC adopted the new strategy in December 2008 made it easier to develop a strategic plan and address the legal base through a statute revision process while internal capacity reviews provided assurance of a willingness to address the role and responsibility of the National Society within disaster management and health and care.

Each department used the first months of 2009 to develop plans of action, very much in line with the new strategy. Progress was made on finance and logistics development in terms of support to improved structures and systems within the headquarters. The International Federation additionally provided support to the five years strategy of the emergency medical services (EMS) in particular targeting the improved functioning of the fleet base.

A cooperation agreement between Lebanese RC and the International Federation was signed in February 2009 and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Lebanese RC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation was signed in April 2009.

Two community based health and first aid (CBHFA) pilot projects were initiated in two branches, one in south and one in north. The feedback from the two pilot projects has been very positive.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget was revised from CHF 867,733 (USD 800,570 or EUR 569,580) to CHF 701,369 (USD or 647,083 or EUR 460,379), of which CHF 499,072 (71 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 242,619 (35 per cent) of the budget.

The 2009 budget was decreased taking into consideration the anticipated donor response to the Plan. The revised budget figures are also in line with the implementation capacities of the National Society to spend the existing funds until the end of the year.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: Through the support to disaster management (EMS) and health and care activities (including the blood bank and medico-social department activities) the National Society covered 95,338 first aid missions, provided 22,449 medical consultations (14,167 female and 8,282 male) and delivered 8,384 blood units during the reporting period. For activities related specifically to HIV/AIDS, including both prevention and stigma and discrimination, the National Society targeted 4,020 youth in a public campaigns.

In addition, capacity building activities targeted headquarters and branch staff in the logistics, finance, information technology, blood bank, medico-social, youth, internal affairs and planning departments.

At least the same number and target groups of people are expected to benefit from the programmes during the second half of the year.

Our partners: The partners of the Lebanese RC have been relatively few but stable over the past few months with the Norwegian Red Cross being the main donor to the International Federation supported programmes during the reporting period. In addition, bilateral support has been forthcoming from the Belgium Red Cross and the ICRC. The Lebanese RC has also been able to attract non-Movement partners for short and long term programmes.

Norwegian government, Norwegian Red Cross, and Canadian Red Cross have been the main contributors to the Plan during the reporting period.

Context

Lebanon is one of the most complex countries in the Middle East. Despite its small size and population, its diversity baffles policy makers. The sectarian differences have been at the base of violent clashes over the past few years, fuelled by deep political divisions regarding representation of factional groups within the political system, which seem to ignore changing demographic realities. In 2008, Lebanon had experienced wide-spread clashes between rival fractions of some of the groups,

fuelling speculations that the sectarian grievances would continue into 2009, particular in the run-up to the new parliamentary elections on 7 June.

During the first six months of 2009, the run-up to the parliamentary election increased regional tension in the country. The parliamentary election was for the first time in the history of Lebanon organised for one day, and was finalised in a calm, democratic and peaceful way. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to be tense over the next couple of months until a new government is established. In the meantime, and following the election, continuous security incidents were reported linked to ongoing underlying tensions particularly in the north of the country as well as from within the Palestinian camps.

While the results of the parliamentary election could create the foundation for more positive investments in the country, in particular linked to tourism, increased construction, trade and finance, the situation could be short-lived if the different fractions can't agree in building a sustainable government respected by all political groups in the country.

As elsewhere around the region, the Lebanese economy faced rising fuel and general consumer prices, which - with little increase in basic salaries – have affected middle to lower income families. While the country was not as severely affected as some of its regional neighbours, there were increasing concerns for the most vulnerable in the suburbs of large towns and in rural and remote areas.

A deterioration in the situation in the country resulted in the Lebanese RC having to consolidate the need to maintain a high level of emergency preparedness while ensuring the momentum of institutional change as well as addressing new vulnerabilities.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes

- The ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences is increased.
- Capacity in skilled human resources and materials for effective disaster management is improved.
- Self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health in emergencies and disasters is improved.
- Disaster response assistance to meet the needs of those people affected by disasters is improved.

Achievements

In the line with the new strategy for Lebanese RC that was approved in December 2008, and as part of the process to have a more integrated approach within the National Society towards disaster management, the disaster management committee developed a plan of action for 2009 including the roles and responsibilities of the operational departments at the headquarters as well as at the local branch (committee) level. It identified specific objectives in terms of building the capacity and assuring the national role of the Lebanese RC in man-made as well as natural disasters. These objectives were:

- Finalising the implementation of standard logistics operating procedures at the headquarters level and disseminating them to the local branches to encourage uniform usage of logistics procedures;
- Completing the rehabilitation of the warehouse at the headquarters;
- Developing further the very elaborated security system for the EMS (developing a standard security package to be disseminated to all operational departments);

- Identifying necessary tools to enhance the response during disasters to prevent and alleviate the suffering of affected communities;
- Initiating a disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme including the planning of a risk reduction analysis in six selected regions;
- Establishing a disaster management steering committee to ensure an improved follow-up of disaster management activities in 2009;
- Developing a response plan and engaging the following operational departments through the setting of a disaster management committee consisting of EMS, medico-social, youth, blood bank and logistics departments;
- Purchasing a data base for logistics called "KOMPASS" as part of the ongoing logistics development activities and as a tool for Lebanese RC to use for mapping suppliers of all kind of services;
- Carrying out a search and rescue assessment by Norwegian Red Cross in close cooperation with Lebanese RC and the International Federation representation.

Based on the above, all departments have developed their own plan of action for 2009, and projects agreements have been signed. A tripartite agreement between Lebanese RC, the ICRC and the International Federation regarding the logistics capacity development was signed in April 2009. Standard logistics procedures have been developed and approved by the executive committee to be followed by all departments at the headquarters. The local branches will be trained and encouraged to follow the same procedures. Continued financial and technical support to the logistics department's core areas of warehousing, procurement and fleet management was provided. Financial support was also provided to maintain the current warehouse until a permanent solution can be found, while technical support was given in assuring the continuation of the procurement and fleet management systems.

A DRR programme has been planned and Lebanese RC is in the process to employ a local resource person to lead this programme.

Constraints or Challenges

One of the constraints is the fact that Lebanese RC has no disaster management department. Disaster management programmes are divided between six operational departments. The cooperation between these six departments has improved after the establishment of a disaster management committee and a disaster management steering committee. The disaster management steering committee consists of the directors of the six operational departments at the national headquarters. With a highly fractional structure to the National Society, as well as very autonomous local committees, the main challenge for the disaster management steering committee is to centralise the disaster preparedness and response functions and ensure that all are represented with their respective roles and responsibilities within any response plan. Furthermore, the technical skills vary significantly between the departments. This is being addressed through capacity building activities.

Lebanese RC will have its three years election in July 2009. One of the big constraints has been the lack of decisions and delay in implementation of the programmes due to this election.

Another constraint is the lack of support to the International Federation disaster management programme. Norwegian Red Cross is the only donor, and the implementation of the community based DRR programme has been postponed to September to see if this important programme can attract more donors.

Health and Care

Outcomes

- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection.
- Vulnerability of the community to unstable supply of blood units is decreased.

- Healthy communities able to cope with health and disaster challenges achieved through community based integrated health and first aid activities are increased.
- Access to curative and preventive health services is improved in the target area.
- Access of people to social and mental health services is increased in order to reduce mental health morbidity, disability and social problems.

Achievements

Within its plan to raise youth awareness on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, the youth department of the Lebanese RC has trained 45 new peer educators in Bouchrieh and Byblos centres. In addition, the Bouchrieh centre has organised a one day rally for 25 youth in its community providing them information about sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, condom use and stigma and discrimination towards people living with AIDS. During Valentine's Day, 50 youth volunteers distributed 4,020 packages including condoms, lubricants and information sheet on condom use. The packages were distributed to male youth in the night clubs in Beirut and Batroun.

The International Federation has supported the blood bank of the Lebanese RC to produce a TV spot promoting voluntary blood donation. The spot was broadcasted on most of the local TV channels and used as part of the global communications campaign during Solferino events. In addition, the blood banks printed 250 mugs marking the different blood types and distributed it in the blood campaigns. As a result, in the first half of 2009, the blood banks have collected 8,384 blood units which were all tested and delivered to people in need of blood.

The Lebanese RC started two pilot projects on CBHFA with the technical and financial support of the International Federation. A mini training was organised for 10 staff from the medico-social department on the first three modules of the manual in order to get started. A full training on the new CBHFA manual will be organised once the manual is finalised in Arabic. Based on the criteria set, poverty rate being one of them, Hermel (Bikaa) and Kafra (South) were selected as pilot project areas. The need assessment done by the health staff together with recruited and trained community volunteers identified psycho-social support for children and community first aid as the main priorities. In Hermel, since the project started in the beginning of the year, the following achievements were recorded:

- 16 hours training on first aid was conducted for 25 community volunteers (14 to 27 years old) in Howch village.
- In the same village, the community volunteers organized a full day rally for 50 children (9 to 14 years old) focusing on health and hygiene awareness.
- Health education trainings were provided to 21 other volunteers. Based on their identified needs, the training covered HIV/AIDS, Thalassemia and H1N1.
- In Jwar El hachich, eight volunteers were trained on how to deal with children and health education. Those volunteers implemented a 10 days camp for 64 children from four villages around the area. The camp was organised to meet the psycho-social support and hygiene awareness needs of the children in this area.

In Kafra, the second pilot project area, the project is still in the set up phase. The project coordinator has organised meetings with the head of municipality in Kafra, the principal of the public high school, the mayor, and a group of 10 volunteers recruited mainly from the high school.

In 2008, the medico-social department had prioritized reproductive health as one of the main services where the Lebanese RC can create a difference, especially with the crowd in the health services in Lebanon. Five centres were selected based on two criteria, one of them being the absence of a reliable and affordable reproductive health service in the area and the second being the presence of a mid wife in the centre as a pre-requisite to avoid extra unsustainable employment.

A meeting was organised with the responsible staff to assess their needs on the information, skills, equipment, and promotion levels. This working group set the standards of the Lebanese RC reproductive health service and defined the equipment needed for each centre and the

knowledge/skills needed by the staff. For the coming period, the International Federation will coach the Lebanese RC reproductive health focal point to write proposals for local and international donors to get the missing equipment as well as to design and implement the needed training for the midwives.

Constraints or Challenges

The health projects were running smoothly despite few challenges that usually face the National Society. The first months of the year were spent in developing concrete activities based on the plans. This is related to the International Federation planning cycle that occurs normally in May-June when the National Society is still thinking of the same year projects and does not start planning for the following year. A plan to overcome this issue was developed and in 2009 the aim is to start working on the concrete plans in September and October to have them ready in the beginning of the year.

The CBHFA project was initiated in the National Society before that the International Federation finalised the new CBHFA manual and before the first master facilitators training was done. This led to the need to readjust and repeat the assessment that was previously done by the National Society which caused some confusion and delay in the project. In addition, the manual is not finalised in Arabic yet which is limiting its use and understanding by the National Society and leading to the incompliance of some tasks with the manual approach.

The psycho-social support programme has endured a number of challenges since the mid of 2008, the main challenge being the loss of most of the qualified volunteers working in the programme. In 2009, the management of the programme was moved to the medico-social department which improved the integration of the programme in the other health activities such as CBHFA and reproductive health. In addition, the International Federation has coached Lebanese RC to design a new plan of action which will be implemented in the second half of 2009 and includes recruitment and training of new volunteers who will work on providing psycho-social support to Lebanese RC staff and volunteers as well as training them on the integration of psycho-social support in their daily activities.

Organisational Development and Capacity Building

Outcomes

- The National Society has approved and implemented basic statutes and internal regulations in order to develop and implement strategies to ensure good performance and accountability.
- New financial and human resources systems and procedures are effectively applied.
- Systems to manage and deliver programmes at grassroots level are improved as per a structural adjustment in the youth department.
- Efficient membership and volunteer management systems are in place.
- The implementation capacity of the youth centres is strengthened resulting in improved delivery of services to beneficiaries.
- The National Society is able to analyse community needs and adapt its strategy accordingly.
- Headquarters staff and branch level programme leaders are able to develop, run, improve and report on programmes and projects.

Achievements

The drafting commission of the new Lebanese RC basic statute has organized two meetings to discuss with the executive committee the proposed draft, the changes and its influences on the National Society.

The internal affairs department has also planned and implemented the election process. For this purpose, it has organized a couple of training sessions to explain the election procedures mentioned in the Lebanese RC election's by-laws. The sessions were organised in the Lebanese RC headquarters in cooperation with the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections for 30 participants who were chosen among the employees of the National Society.

The election process started on 13 June and will continue till September 2009. It includes the election of the local branches' boards, members of the General Assembly, members of the central committee in addition to representatives of the youth and EMS in the local branches boards, General Assembly and central committee. The central committee which was formed has elected the executive committee or the board out of which the president of the republic has chosen the president and the vice president of the National Society.

The internal affairs department responsible for the membership to the National Society is currently preparing all the data needed for new membership to be included in a software provided by the International Federation. The software is expected to assist the department to electronically organise the members and the volunteers' profiles and history in the National Society, issue the identity card of the membership as well as help better in managing the next election in terms of people eligible for running to the election and voting. The software will also help the management to maximise the use of available human resources and better map and know the volunteers and the members of the National Society.

The finance department of the Lebanese RC has been working since the end of 2006 on a major development plan that was mostly achieved with the technical and the financial support of the International Federation representation in Lebanon. After finalising all internal policies and procedures, the department has started the implementation phase of Microsoft Dynamic Navision which went live at the end of June. The software will be in a testing period for the coming three months, when the implementation of the payroll module will start.

To put their strategy into action, the Lebanese RC youth has organised a training session for the youth trainers where they have explained the strategy and discussed many case studies related to coaching the centres on its implementation. Later on, the youth trainers have organised the same discussion with the coordinator of the centres, the program coordinators and the coordinators of the administrative committees. Out of these discussions, a plan was designed to disseminate the strategy to the centres and coach them on its implementation. A coaching skills training was given to the centres' coordinators to develop their skills in supporting the centres as per the recommendation of the new youth strategy.

Constraints or Challenges

During the reporting period, a number of challenges were faced with regards to the organisational development projects. The election process that started in May resulted in a very slow implementation in the National Society especially in the activities related to organisational development.

The discussion process of the new Lebanese RC statutes was planned to continue by meeting the central committee but was not achieved, mainly because most of the governance decided to keep this issue to be discussed with the new elected members. In the meantime, the youth department decided not to apply any structural amendments.

The finance development project, the fixed assets count and the membership database were all delayed due to decision making and lack of human resources who were busy preparing for the election.

Principles and Values

Outcomes

- Knowledge, understanding and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) within the Red Cross/Red Crescent is enhanced.
- The community or target population is sensitized to humanitarian values and is changing behaviour.

- Vulnerable communities are empowered with enhanced ability to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence.

Achievements

The biggest achievement under the Principles and Values programme was the celebration of the “Our World Your Move Campaign”. In Lebanon, the movement launched a campaign on the 8th of May in a press conference at the National Society headquarters. The Solferino bus, decorated with the seven Fundamental Principles and the logos of the three Movement components toured most of Lebanon and was received by the local branches of the Lebanese RC. The local branches organised many activities and celebrations such as plays, kermes for children, first aid manoeuvres, distribution of flyers and etc., all in order to promote the campaign and the Fundamental Principles especially in the remote areas.

The “Our World at War” exhibition occurred also as part of the Our World Your Move” Campaign. ICRC sent five award winning photographers to eight conflict affected countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines) to examine up-close the suffering caused by war and violence. The stories of the people they met and photographed focused on the impact of displacement, families separated by war and sexual violence as well as on those individuals working to alleviate the suffering. The exhibition was moved with the bus to all the Lebanese cities.

The humanity song, which was composed by a famous Lebanese musician Ihsan El Mounzer was launched on the 8th of May and broadcasted on all local radios during the period of the campaign.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to the lack of funding, most of the planned Principles and Values activities were integrated in different activities of the National Society. The HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination activities were mostly integrated in the HIV/AIDS awareness project of the youth. A unified training of peer educators was designed to include both awareness and stigma and discrimination sessions.

For the prisons project, only the psycho-social support component was taken further and integrated in the general psycho-social support project in the health programme. The youth department is working on mobilising financial resources for the prison project.

Finally, the public relations and communications department decided to fund the two issues of the newsletter that the International Federation used to fund which guaranteed the sustainability of this activity.

Working in partnership

The strength of the Lebanese RC is to permeate all levels of the Lebanese society. Its leadership has actively sought to engage with other actors although at all times maintaining a principled distance. The National Society is now represented in a newly established emergency response taskforce developed by the authorities in which the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors have been identified.

Within the Movement, close coordination has been maintained between the Lebanese RC, the ICRC and the International Federation through joint meetings and open information exchange. A MoU between the three partners were signed in February 2009. The heads of ICRC and the International Federation representations in Lebanon have regular meetings to discuss a common ground for the support to Lebanese RC.

Monthly Movement coordination meetings are held with participating National Societies (PNSs) engaged in the short or longer term programmes, either directly through the Lebanese RC or through the International Federation and/or ICRC. This includes representation from the four permanent

PNSs: the Belgium Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Society – Lebanon Branch, the Netherlands Red Cross and the French Red Cross. Close partnership will continue to be maintained with the longer-term partners such as the Norwegian Red Cross.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The new strategy for the Lebanese RC developed and adopted in December 2008 will be the common platform for future development of the National Society as well as the roadmap for its priorities over the next three years.

The ongoing commitment of the National Society to concentrate on its systems, structures and strategic direction at a national and local level aims to ensure a longer term vision and approach to address the changing needs and vulnerabilities within the context. This can be seen through its initiative to create a development plan and drawing on resources from the International Federation and others, ultimately aiming for improved longer-term performance and accountability. A strategic process addressing its mandate, role, vulnerabilities and needs takes into account the fact that the National Society is the only organisation in the midst of a plethora of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which can claim in Lebanon to transcend all political and confessional boundaries. The religious and general diversity within its network of 9,000 volunteers promotes respect and tolerance within a highly politicised society. This is either achieved through its EMS teams or through the network of youth centres and medical dispensaries.

Looking ahead

The International Federation supported programmes will continue to maintain an approach linked primarily to facilitate the ongoing strategic process of the National Society in terms of defining its role and responsibility as a key civil society organisation as well as maintaining and increasing the diversity of its current disaster management and health and care portfolios. The DRR programme will be given priority to improve self-reliance of individuals and help communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

The process of the youth review and the medico-social capacity analysis will continue as a key component to improving the added value of the Lebanese RC in vulnerable communities. The two CBHFA pilot projects, one in north and one in south, will continue to be implemented during the second part of 2009.

At all times, security remains a risk not only in the implementation of longer-term programmes but also for the volunteers in the field.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
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