

Plan 2010-2011



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

North Africa

Executive summary

The North Africa region, made up of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, is economically diverse with rich, resource abundant economies like Algeria and Libya and countries that are resource scarce relative to their population size such as Egypt and Morocco. The five North African middle income countries are generally on track in achieving the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target by 2015, but still face significant rural and urban disparities in health outcomes and gaps in health coverage.

Like other regions, North Africa is facing two main challenges. The financial and economic crisis is increasing vulnerability and poverty both at a macro and a household level, which represents both a development and a humanitarian defy for vulnerable communities and marginalized groups. The second challenge is climate change. Since the past years, the North African Red Crescent Societies have responded significantly to more weather related disasters. Many of these were of a relatively small scale (heat wave, cold wave, flash floods, tornadoes, coastal sea rise) but they do appear to be part of a changing climate. According to the World Bank, the five North African countries top the list of the twelve countries at the highest risk. These are frequently poorly predicted, and underline the imperative of early warning and early action. These two challenges will have a significant humanitarian impact and result in higher number of death and injuries; damage to shelters; loss of property and possessions; increased food insecurity; loss of coping mechanisms and livelihoods; exposure to diseases; and potential migration.

The 2010-2011 Plan and budget is resulting from a large consultation process undertaken with the Red Crescent Societies concerned. It is based on priorities identified by the National Societies and the commitments taken through various regional and global meetings. The ongoing monitoring and evaluation of recent disasters and health crises have outlined the critical gaps at National Society level. The regional Plan aims at supporting the development of stronger and integrated community based programmes, as well as adapting current disaster response and preparedness strategies to emerging challenges. These include climate change, population movement, migratory fluxes, and influenza pandemic preparedness. Programme evaluations and recommendations from previous years are used to build up responsive programmes. Specific focus will be put on the National Societies' community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) projects, actively involving communities at risks, empowering women and youth as key-agents of behavioural change in the communities and integrating social aspects related to disasters and health (community based health and first aid, and psycho-social support).

In line with the global humanitarian partnership policy, the North Africa representation will also seek to further improve its cooperation with other key humanitarian players - both the traditional partners (national government, non-governmental organisations, European Union and United Nations Agencies) and increasingly with private sector partners sharing the same humanitarian objectives. At regional level, it will ensure knowledge and experience sharing through the development of active networks, thematic platforms, cross-border cooperation, pools of experts and exchange programmes.

The new emphasis on humanitarian diplomacy will enable National Societies and the International Federation to more effectively engage in the humanitarian debate, maximise its resources and build partnerships. Engaging in more robust humanitarian diplomacy with the range of external actors will foster greater understanding of the role of the Red Crescent in the development and capacity building contexts. Enhancing greater awareness of the work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC), and the Values that underpin their work, will flow from the stronger and more consistent emphasis on communicating RC/RC positions that humanitarian diplomacy necessarily entails.

The total 2010-2011 budget is CHF 3,860,059 (USD 3,741,169 or EUR 2,539,918) [Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

Regional context

North Africa is the most heavily populated sub-region of the Arab world, but is rarely seen at the heart of developments in the broader Middle-East context despite the fact that countries in North Africa radiate stability. The rate of economic growth is on average 5-6%. Abounding energy supplies and cooperation in the war on terror have led to close partnerships with Europe and the United States, but appearances can be misleading. In Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, socio-economic as well as political tensions seriously threaten the consensus between the government and the people making the concept of human security in the region more fragile. This new concept, which complements that of national security, brings into perspective the kind of material and moral foundation that secures lives, livelihoods and an acceptable quality of life for the majority. Human security is a prerequisite for human development, and its widespread absence in Arab countries has held back their progress¹.

External interest in North Africa tends to highlight the more violent manifestations of insecurity in the region, whether these are related to terrorism, drugs and arms-smuggling or clashes between police and migrants seeking entry into Europe. However, the real security threats are not so much transnational as local and human ones. Economic reforms have certainly improved overall growth rates and nominal income levels, but insufficient institutional reforms have encouraged different forms of parallel engagement to take root. Both the increase in Islamist activism across the region and the rise in illicit migration and economic activity can be traced to the weakening bonds between state and society.

North Africa offers good conditions for positive development: economic and cultural exchange with the Mediterranean region, proximity to the European Union, a wealth of resources and economic stability from tourism, construction, textiles and agriculture exports. Therefore, North African countries have acquired prosperity that has stimulated development in other African countries. Morocco, Algeria and Libya could even settle part of the debt of other countries. At the same time not everybody is profiting from the development. The current system hinders political and economic engagement outside of elite circles. As long as civil societies show a variety of socioeconomic and cultural cleavages and remain seriously divided along religious-secular, urban-rural, male-female, modern-traditional, literate-non-literate concepts, it will be difficult to envisage a real development for the population without addressing several in depth social reforms. The countries still lack a skilled and qualified workforce that can adapt to the challenges of globalization; a targeted public and private investment in the education, health and welfare systems; and a political and economic environment that encourages innovation, creativity and endeavour.

Less immediately controllable are also the outburst of social and economic discontent that hit the whole region, especially during the sharp price rise affecting imported foodstuffs, above all the wheat which rose by 30% in 2008-2009. Recent fluctuations in global food prices as well as the current global economic crisis have put even more people into poverty and malnutrition. Health systems leave many beyond their reach. Algeria has seen the most sporadic unrest in both urban and rural areas, but Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco witnessed sudden outbreaks of violence during 2008 in a region of high youth unemployment. Unemployment is a major source of insecurity in the region. The knowledge that North Africa's economies are not impoverished but are directing too few resources to meet the younger

¹ Arab Human Development Report (AHDR) 2009

generation's needs can be very destabilizing for those forced to stay. Two-third of the population of Egypt, Algeria and Morocco (the three most populated states) are currently under 25 years of age; yet it is in these states that education and training for the market place and the opportunities for officially supported entrepreneurship are at their weakest. Female rural illiteracy rate is 80% in Morocco; 72% of the under 30s are unemployed in the tertiary education. Even in the demographically smaller Tunisia and Libya, the lack of job opportunities has created rising tensions among unemployed Tunisian graduates, while 80% of Libyans remain dependent on the state employment, housing and subsidized living costs. Unemployment also often wears a female face. Unemployment rate for Arab women are higher than those for Arab men and among the highest in the world.

Added to this dimension, the North Africa region is facing growing challenges to the security of its population from environmental stresses, resulting from population pressures, urban growth, water scarcity/water pollution (impacting food security and livelihoods), desertification (second highest ratio of desert with over three-fourth of the land), and climate change (which causes shortage, reduced agricultural production, large population transfers to foreign countries, lower level of economic activity and threat to national security).

Another challenge is the absence of a proper North African intra-regional trade. One of the main reasons remains the lingering conflict over the future of the Western Sahara, affecting the relations between Algeria and Morocco. The net effect has been to stall not only the exploration of complementarities of trade between the two countries but also the prospects of developing a wider regional framework for cooperation and trade despite the willingness of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). Yet recent studies have estimated that the benefits of regional integration would almost double current levels of regional trade and account.

<i>(Source: AHDR 2009)</i>	Morocco	Algeria	Tunisia	Libya	Egypt
Surface Area	446,6th sq km	2,381th. sq km	163,6th. sq km	1800th. sq km	1,001 th.sq km
United Nations Human Development Index rate	123	102	87	64	111
Population	31 million 31.5% is under 15 years of age.	32.4 million 30.4% is under 15 years of age.	10 million 26.7% is under 15 years of age	5,7 million 30.4% is under 15 years of age	72.6 million 33.9% is under 15 years of age
Population growth (%)	1.2	1.5	1,0	1.9	1.7
Urban population (% of total pop.)	58,7	63,3	65,3	84,8	42.8
Life expectancy	68	71	71,5	71	69
Poverty (% below the national poverty line)	19%	22.6%	7.6%	n/a	16.7%
Language	Arabic/French	Arabic/French	Arabic/French	Arabic/English	Arabic/English
Religion	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam
Gross Domestic Product per capita (USD)	4,555	7,062	8,371	10,335	4.337
School enrolment	58%	73%	75%	94%	76%
Literacy of adult	52.3%	69.9%	74.3%	83.44%	71.4%
Men	65.7%	79.6%	83.4%	92,8	83%
Women	39.6%	60.1%	65.3%	74,08	59.4%
Health services and social security	Weak – poor access in rural areas	Have deteriorated, preventive services to improve	Good level of health care & social security	Health services reasonably well developed	Limited access for poor people

HIV/AIDS Prevalence % 15-49 years (2005)	0.1 [0.1-0.4]	0.1 [<0.2]	0.1 [0.1-0.3]	[<0.2]	<0.1 [<0.2]
Disasters/crisis	Earthquake, floods, violence, avian influenza	Earthquake, floods, landslides, violence, avian influenza	Floods,		Earthquake, violence
Others	Migrants, food security	Migrants, food security	Migrants, threat for terrorist attacks	Economic embargo lift up	Earthquake, avian influenza, food security, population movement

National Society priorities and current work with partners

In line with the vision of Strategy 2020 *“To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view of preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world”* (Article 4, Federation Constitution), the five National Societies of North Africa are concentrating their efforts to reduce vulnerabilities through focused programmes in the field of disaster management and health and care.

North African Red Crescent Societies are the longest established humanitarian organizations in each country, benefiting from relatively strong structures and well present across the national territory through their network of regional, local branches, structures (hospitals, clinics, blood banks, community centres, first aid training centres, youth clubs) and volunteers.

	Algerian RC	Egyptian RC	Libyan RC	Moroccan RC	Tunisian RC
Date of foundation	1956	1912	1957	1957	1957
Number of branches	48	27	32	71	24
Strategic plan	NA	✓	✓	✓	✓
Programmes	Health, disaster response, social welfare, migration	Health and care (first aid/CBHFA/psychosocial support/HIV-AIDS/blood), pandemic preparedness (influenza), community health, disaster management, social welfare, road safety	Health and care (first aid/ psychosocial support/ HIV-AIDS/blood), disaster management, social welfare, road safety, migration	Health and care (first aid/CBHFA/psychosocial support/HIV-AIDS), pandemic preparedness (influenza), community health, disaster management including disaster risk reduction, community health, social welfare, road safety. migration	Health and care (first aid/ psychosocial support/ HIV-AIDS), pandemic preparedness (influenza), disaster management, social welfare, road safety, migration

North Africa Red Crescent Societies priorities are regularly assessed, reviewed and identified in line with the regional and international context, and emerging vulnerabilities resulting from the new humanitarian context and challenges. Since the last few years, external and internal challenges have multiplied. From environmental pollution, international terrorism, big population movements, the global financial crisis and the rise of other cross-border threats such as pandemics, the drug trade, human trafficking, all have changed the traditional order of priority, placing the focus on climatic change, influenza pandemic preparedness, DRR, and community based programmes. However, the National Societies will continue to address as part as their long term plan, their traditional priorities within the four core areas.

The five Red Crescent Societies are well represented in the several regional networks, reference, technical and thematic working groups (disaster management/DRR, health, youth) and task forces (influenza pandemic preparedness), contributing effectively to the Strategic Dialogue initiated in 2008 by the MENA zone.

Partner Mapping

	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
ICRC	International humanitarian law (IHL), detention, cooperation (first aid; psychological support)	IHL, cooperation with the Arab League, capacity building for National Society staff	IHL Restoring family links (RFL)	RFL, IHL exploring humanitarian law (EHL), cooperation	IHL protection/detention, EHL, cooperation
<u>Donors' Funding channeled through bi-lateral programs</u>					
French Red Cross	First Aid, HIV-AIDS			First aid (including psychological support, emergency preparedness), community health prevention, nurse training centre, twinning projects	
Spanish Red Cross	Relief assistance to Western Sahara			Water sanitation, DRR awareness programmes, IDWARC ² , equipments (car, blood bank bus)	Punctual support to T equipment
Gulf NS	UAE RC			Qatar	
Global Fund for Tuberculosis Aids and Malaria	HIV-AIDS			HIV-AIDS Tuberculosis	HIV-AIDS
UN Agencies	UNHCR, WFP	UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, OCHA, UNFPA, UNDP			UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP
Regional Networks					
Spanish RC Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean (climate change, youth, migration, partnerships,					
Arab Secretariat of RC/RC Societies (IHL, youth, climate change, disaster management)					
Federation networks: Pan African networks, MENA zone networks (disaster management, DRR, youth, organisational development, health, PSP, HIV-AIDS, CBHFA, influenza/H1N1 task force)					
Donor funding channeled through the International Federation Appeal					
EU	Promotion of Principles and Values, VCA, capacity building, awareness campaigns, branch development				
DFID	Disaster Management, OD , Health				
Norwegian Red Cross	Disaster management, VCA, summer camps, CBFA/first aid (Algeria), Disaster Risk Reduction support through the Global Alliance				
Finnish and Swedish RC	In Kind donation for Disaster Preparedness (Pre-positioning of Relief stocks)				
Donor funding channeled to the Regional Office from the Federation Global Programme					
Global Alliance	Disaster Risk Reduction (Morocco initiated in 2009, possibly Algeria in a near future)				
USAID	Pandemic Preparedness (Egypt)				
DFID	Pandemic Preparedness (Morocco, Tunisia)				
UNHCR	Promotion of Principles and Humanitarian Values, Protection, Migration				
DREF	Funding of small scale emergencies				

² International Development of West African Red Cross Programme

The National Societies, many with existing good relations with their respective ministries, are developing a more structured and strategic dialogue on the basis of concrete programme delivery.

The regional support Plan for 2010-2011, in line with the Strategy 2020 of the International Federation, focuses on facilitating the building of strong North African National Societies by strengthening their capacities and providing technical support to the four core programmes of disaster management, health and care, organizational development, as well as the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. Assistance will continue to be provided at regional level through knowledge sharing, exchanges of best practices, and strengthening of effective networks. At national level, tailored assistance will be provided to meet the National Societies' priorities and needs, ensuring that both approaches complement and are coherent. Forging new and effective partnerships within and outside the Movement to mobilize the resources needed and to effectively advocate on behalf of the vulnerable, remain vital for achieving the outlined objectives and outcomes.

Strong networks are established in North Africa, providing a regional platform for National Societies participation and strengthening the relationships between themselves. Cross border programmes are developed in the field of DRR, road safety, youth and Principles and Values. Twinning projects are developed and others are envisaged. The objective is to build confidence in working as a International Federation and capitalizing on partner National Societies' (PNSs) or partners expertise and resources in the region for the benefit of the hosting National Society. It implies increasing harmonized planning, developing common and complementary approaches.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

The International Federation and its National Societies are facing many contemporary challenges and a flexible approach is developed to adapt to a fast changing world. Simultaneous efforts need to be made at household and the community as well as at national or global level.

The two-year plan mainly focuses on supporting the National Societies to scale up their programmes, to develop adequate structures to support their service delivery to communities, to pursue humanitarian diplomacy, raising awareness at government level as well as for the public and corporate sector, highlighting the new challenges raised by new sources of vulnerability in the region - migration, increased violence, health risks/emerging diseases, and climate change.

This plan is built on a shared programme vision for the Secretariat at country, regional, zonal and Geneva levels, seeking for complementarity and best use of the resources available at all levels. This vision is translated through a coordinated and integrated field approach.

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose³
Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 1,117,019 (USD 1,082,615 or EUR 734,999).

The plan is placing a specific emphasis on building local institutional capacity to respond to disasters and to reduce vulnerability and risk as well as on building resilience at community level. The components are interdependent and constitute an integrated approach to disaster management at all levels of action. It should be understood in conjunction with the International Federation policies, the MENA disaster management strategy and the global health and care strategy, as health plays an important part of the disaster management action.

³ In this plan, 'purpose' is defined as 'the publicly stated objectives of the development programme or project'. Source: OECD-DAC glossary.

In order to ensure an integrated approach, the North Africa representation is promoting and supporting community based initiatives including first aid, psycho-social support, food security, nutrition, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion and HIV-AIDS interventions in emergencies to reduce the risk of public health emergencies and build community resilience.

Programme component: Community and organizational preparedness

Outcome: Communities in target areas are aware of disaster hazards and are well prepared to effectively cope with effects of localized disasters.

The International Federation is encouraging and strengthening the self-reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters. During 2010-2011, focus will be given on mapping and programming. Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) will be conducted and communities' capacities and involvement in programme design and implementation will be increased. Policies and planning (disaster management plans, contingency plans, DRR strategy), human resources (disaster management units, national and regional intervention teams (NIT); regional disaster response teams (RDRT)), and development of tools and systems will be prioritised. Three National Societies will have replicated the VCA process in 20 additional branches and National Society contingency plans will be updated and reviewed both at local and national level in three National Societies. Involvement of community leaders or marginalized groups in the planning process will be increased.

Programme component: Disaster response and recovery

Outcome: The impact of disasters on people's life in affected areas is reduced through effective and timely emergency response.

The recovery programmes will mainly aim at developing National Societies' capacities in the field of livelihoods and shelter programming. The regional representation is working with National Societies to ensure that national, regional and international disaster response tools and guidance are improved and used in a harmonized way. National Societies' capacity to mobilize teams, and respond faster and effectively to disasters will be increased. Two simulation exercises will be organized at country level on specific themes together with partners and stakeholders. In addition, three NITs and RDRTs in North Africa will be strengthened and operational. The number of new volunteers involved/recruited in disaster management operations will be increased as well.

Programme component: Community based disaster risk reduction

Outcome: Communities are better prepared to prevent the risk and to cope with the impact and stress of the disasters.

Under this component, focus will be given on climate change, pandemic preparedness, road safety and emergency health. Disaster preparedness awareness, prevention and mitigation is crucial, as well as road safety, CBHFA and programmes targeting schools.

The CBDRR strategy is expected to be in place in two North African National Societies in the end of 2011. Morocco and Algeria will be included in the International Federation's DRR global alliance. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) and partnerships with Ministry of Education and the private sector will be activated in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt. Two DRR awareness campaigns will be conducted.

Programme component: Migration

Outcome: The protection and living conditions of migrating people will be increased.

The focus of this component is to defend/present a plea for the migratory issues in order to create a more secure environment based on the Principles of humanity, fairness and Humanitarian Values such as tolerance, respect and fighting discrimination. Providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and expelled people and protecting and integrating marginalized groups in general is crucial.

One field survey and two awareness campaigns will be conducted in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The promotion of Principles and Values module will be integrated in all National Society programmes. Migrants will be able to continue to access the Red Crescent structures such as clinics, health centres, vocational training centres, and community centres, etc.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies

The health and care programme budget is CHF 697,455 (USD 675,973 or EUR 458,925).

Under the health and care programme, the National Societies will mainly focus on prevention, fight against stigma and discrimination, capacity building, strengthening volunteers' and staff skills, addressing advocacy and public awareness and reinforcing partnerships and networking.

Programme component: HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases (including psycho-social support)

Outcome: National Societies' response capacity to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases is strengthened.

The programmes will be scaled up in line with HIV and AIDS national strategy through IEC⁴. Peer education project activities will be enhanced and the regional HIV/AIDS network will be strengthened. Two anti-stigma campaigns will be organised and formal partnerships with national AIDS networks and further partners will be strengthened. National Society staff will be participating in networks, forums, trainings and meetings. PSP component will be integrated in the activities.

Programme component: First Aid /CBHFA (including psycho-social support)

Outcome: Communities' capacity to reduce the vulnerability related to the public health preparedness and response is increased.

CBHFA will be reinforced through three country training of trainers and local trainings will be conducted in communities according to the vulnerabilities. There will be increased integration of first aid and CBHFA activities into the disaster management programme. National Societies' initiative on small scale projects will be supported. Promotional materials will be produced and translated into Arabic and French. A first aid professional training will be delivered as an income generating activity. PSP component will be integrated in the activities.

Programme component: Community based development programmes

Outcome: Focused and effective community development projects are adequately supported to respond to a real vulnerability.

Community development programmes are integrating several components (first aid, PSP, health education, disaster preparedness, road safety, risk reduction programme) to empower the vulnerable communities to be responsive to their needs.

Real vulnerabilities will be assessed through the VCA programmes leading to identification of DRR activities such as summer awareness programmes and health caravans. Health promotion including mother and child health and nutrition programmes will be supported as well. Communities can and will be strengthened through educational and vocational social welfare programmes addressing challenges such as literacy and social exclusion of marginalised groups (elderly, handicapped, homeless, and migrants).

⁴ Information, education, communication programmes

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose:

Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The organisational development/capacity building budget is CHF 413,476 (USD 400,741 or EUR 272,067).

The organizational development programme seeks to address the global agenda goal linked to the ten areas of improvement of the Federation of the Future. The regional programme aims to contribute to the development of well functioning societies in North Africa that are 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.

Organizational development, together with disaster management, is one of the key issues in the region. The Red Crescent Societies are increasingly aware of the importance of such a process but remain slow to address it and to build on appropriate structures, invest in professional staff, which somehow explains the limited absorption capacity in terms of programme implementation

Programme component: Support to governance

Outcome: Strategic planning and issues on integrity and legal basis will be addressed.

Support will be given to governance at regional conferences. Strategic plans will be reviewed in Morocco and in Algeria. One leadership training will be conducted in Arabic and one will be conducted in French. Two National Societies will review their statutes. A consultation process with North Africa leaders will be established.

Programme component: Branch development

Outcome: North Africa National Societies have improved their branch capabilities and the interaction of volunteers, staff members with their communities.

Under this component, three pilot programmes will be developed in the branches. In addition, five twinning programmes will be developed between the National Societies, and two National Societies will develop a capacity building plan.

Programme component: Volunteers and youth management

Outcome: National Societies' management systems and databases are strengthened.

Volunteers and youth policies will be revised and strengthened. Work will be conducted with public authorities and partners towards the establishment of a legal framework for volunteers. Effective representation of youth in the general Assemblies, conferences and forums is planned.

Structure of the Red Crescent youth will be strengthened and their involvement into National Society planning and decision making will be increased. The National Societies' volunteers database will be computerized. Peer education and school programmes will be emphasized and the national youth network will be strengthened.

Programme component: Gender

Outcome: North Africa National Societies have developed clear gender policies and integrated the gender issue across their programme activities.

The National Societies' programmes will be reviewed based on the gender perspective. A pilot project will be designed in three National Societies. Regional gender planning and experience sharing will be focused on and gender tool kits will be adapted to the National Societies' context.

Programme component: Capacity building

Outcome: North Africa National Societies' capacity building plans are completed and implemented.

During 2010-2011, two National Societies will review their programmes and design of capacity building plans. Workshops in the field of planning, monitoring/reporting, finance, and resource mobilization will be conducted.

International Federation mechanisms such as the capacity building fund, intensified capacity building and Empress Shoken Fund will be utilised. National Societies will invest in appropriate management systems such as a database, computerized system for logistics, relief, finance, human resources, archiving, etc.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

The Principles and Values programme budget is CHF 1,543,330 (USD 1,495,795 or EUR 1,015,511).

The declaration "Together for Humanity" adopted by the 30th International Conference reads the following: We will intensify efforts to mobilise community respect for diversity and action against racism, discrimination, xenophobia, marginalization and other forms of exclusion, faced by all vulnerable groups, also empowering volunteers and youth in humanitarian activities to prevent, defuse or mitigate violence.

As North Africa will continue to have flow of migration, a regional Humanitarian Values based approach to the communities hosting migrants has been adopted. A future where children, women and men risk their lives to reach other countries cannot be allowed and it is a priority concern of all Red Crescent Societies in the region. Specific public and awareness campaigns and assistance programmes are planned for the next two years.

The two years programme focus on creating a safer environment for national communities exposed to the consequences of migration, combating exclusion, marginalization, act of xenophobia, promoting dignity and respect for all, ensuring assistance to vulnerable groups deprived of any access to basic rights such as health and information. The programme integrates the promotion of Principles and Values at all levels of Red Crescent activities in order to promote a culture of diversity and peace and reduce the violence in the communities.

Programme component: Fundamental Principles and Values

Outcome: The communities' awareness of the Fundamental Principles and values is strengthened.

Principles and values will be integrated in all Red Crescent activities. National Society programmes will be reviewed and adapted in line with the Principles. The youth as agents of behavioural change and gender networks will be utilised to implement activities at field level.

Programme component: Migration

Outcome: Safer environment at community level is enhanced.

National Societies will be supported in defining their position on migration and in their dialogue with concerned authorities (clarification of the auxiliary role of the National Society). Emphasis will be given on communications strategy and awareness campaign (production of Principles and Values tool kits). Harmonised communications support will be provided by RC/RC partners. In addition, a regional migrant webpage will be set.

Field research will be conducted and participatory approaches developed through a VCA process. Community based projects will be identified and implemented aiming to change the behaviours of the community

Programme component: Information and communication

Outcome: National Societies' active network with media is in place.

Under this component, media workshops will be developed as well as new partnerships with media. RC/RC and other special World Days will be celebrated through various communications events.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The measurement of target population is posing a real challenge. There are no standard tools and baselines available at the National Society level and the way of measuring differs not only from country to country but also from branch to branch. There is little consensus on measuring the population based on gender or other categories such as elderly, youth, handicapped and rural versus urban groups. As a result, the monitoring and the reconciliation of these figures provided may become a difficult exercise at the time of the analysis.

Another challenge lies with the data collection. In most North African National Societies, the branches have great autonomy and do not systematically report on detailed programme achievements. Communications between the branches and the headquarters is often weak, adding to the fact that most of the headquarters are not equipped with adequate staff and systems to collect, monitor or analyze all this data.

Due to limited resources of the National Societies, programmes are often built through an effective integrated approach. Thus, attempting to segregate the data per programme for the calculation of beneficiaries may lead to duplication of beneficiaries and wrong interpretation of the final data collected. One of the focuses of the regional programme is for the North African Red Crescent Societies, together with the International Federation, is to develop a coherent and comprehensive statistical data collection system that could be applied at national and local level and be used for all Red Crescent programmes and activities in the region.

The majority of beneficiaries of the programmes outlined in this plan are:

- Direct beneficiaries: Red Crescent staff, volunteers, trainers, members and youth. More than 65 per cent of National Society volunteers are female.
- Indirect beneficiaries: Communities. Within these communities, female youth and specific groups at risk represent the most vulnerable and exposed groups.

c) Potential risks and challenges

North Africa is prone to natural disasters and has over the past years experienced a range of emergencies. Earthquakes continue to be a threat as countries – particularly Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia – lie on a major fault line. The consequences of climatic changes are posing new challenges in these countries: flash floods, tornadoes and cold waves. In addition, the effects of the terrorist attacks in Egypt, Algeria and Morocco and the volatile political climate cannot be underestimated, as they pose serious security risks. Health crises and local health hazards, technological disasters, mass accidents, road accidents also represent a significant risk to the region.

Migration is still perceived as a very sensitive issue linked to security, which has an impact on the development of a humanitarian approach based on dignity, respect and support to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Delay in implementation of the activities is a risk and advocacy with the public authorities remain a priority.

Challenges in terms of management capacity were identified such as lack of adequate structures and systems to support programmes, high centralization of responsibilities, unbalanced distribution of authority, inadequate human resource management (staff and volunteers), and project and financial management. Significant progresses were achieved in the last years. National Societies are increasingly addressing these issues, working on capacity building plans and are needed to be supported on a long term in those efforts.

Role of the secretariat

The secretariat's budget for its support role is CHF 88,779 (USD 86,045 or EUR 58,417).

a) Technical programme support

The International Federation representation for North Africa focuses on facilitating the strengthening of the five North African National Societies by building their capacities and providing technical support in the four core areas. Accordingly, the regional representation is adopting a flexible approach to meet the diverse needs of the National Societies and the challenges faced, supporting a country tailored approach which complements the MENA zone strategic directions. Continuity for long term programme objective will be ensured. Expertise and human resources support will be sought through the regional platforms, thematic networks, the pool of experts within the National Societies and the RC/RC Movement partners present in the region.

b) Partnership development and coordination

The regional coordination is based on the enabling actions of the new Strategy 2020 which are to function effectively as Federation (strengthening the cooperation and coordination processes, supporting arrangements to deliver outcomes, improving planning, performance management and accountability) and to pursue humanitarian diplomacy (providing the basis for a greater humanitarian access). Hence, the regional representation will continue to actively support regional exchanges, cooperation and networking. All these components are integrated in the approach developed for programmes in the four core areas.

In 2009, Moroccan RC joined the global alliance for DRR and has been working on a three years strategy. This global alliance will enable a better mobilization of capacities and resources to provide harmonized, effective support to Moroccan RC for implementing programmes that will contribute to the achievements of the global agenda. Algerian RC is planning to initiate a similar process in the end of 2010.

The coordination with Movement partners in disasters is part of the contingency planning exercise at national but also Secretariat level. Several lessons were drawn from the Gaza operation such as the role of Egyptian RC, the International Federation, ICRC and the PNSs in the management of the emergency crisis; use of the International Federation emergency mechanisms at time of the crisis; relation with the authorities; understanding of the concept of auxiliary to the government; and access to the beneficiaries.

Cooperation and coordination with ICRC is good in North Africa mainly in the field of humanitarian concerns generated by international migration, disaster management, governance support (National Societies' statutes and leaderships), RFL as well as in communications. Both regional offices have a clear common interest in supporting the development of a network of strong National Societies that can respond rapidly and effectively to humanitarian needs. Joint planning processes do ensure that realistic priorities are set, that activities complement each other, and that there is no duplication of efforts and resources.

Regular planning and monitoring meetings are held with between Movement components present in the country (French Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross) looking at complementary approaches and reinforcing the RC/RC Movement image in the countries and in the region to the benefit of the National Societies.

It is essential for National Societies and the International Federation to engage in non-Movement operational level coordination and planning processes. This will contribute to avoiding duplication and gaps in responses while at the same time strengthening the Movement's position and profile in the humanitarian sphere. Special attention is placed on reinforcing the cooperation with the regional development institutions, development banks, donor missions, European Union and UN agencies and other key NGOs to investigate for deeper public and government support as well as greater resources for National Society programme implementation and service delivery to communities in needs. On the basis of successful approaches, for the sake of long term sustainability and as an exit strategy, the regional representation is also encouraging direct contact with the National Societies to increase and build partnerships with the corporate sector.

With an increased number of partners active in the region such as the European Union, the World Health Organization (WHO)/Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), WHO/Mediterranean Center for the Reduction of Vulnerabilities, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Global Fund for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (GFTAM) the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), NGOs and country authorities, the regional representation has a key role to play in supporting better advocacy and coordination of support to National Societies. Increased National Society participation and ownership will be promoted through the process of building strategies, priorities and needs.

The National Societies, which are already experiencing good relations and contacts, with the assistance of the International Federation, are developing a more structured and strategic dialogue with their governments and respective ministries on basis of effective programme delivery. This dialogue helps to clarify and address their unique role of auxiliary to the public authorities, re-defining the terms of their cooperation and the specific added value they can bring within the civil society.

c) Representation and advocacy

North African National Societies have been well represented in the past years in the RC/RC governance (Egyptian RC, Tunisian RC and Algerian RC being governing board members for eight years respectively; the secretary general of the Egyptian RC being the vice-president for Africa and currently the chair of the health commission as well as the board member of the RC CCM; the secretary general of Tunisian RC being the co-chair of the Federation of the Future process, and currently a member of the high advisory group working on the Strategy 2020 as well as the Pan African coordination team representative for North Africa). These experiences and extensive knowledge of the International Federation and the International RC/RC Movement is a strong asset for the advocacy work done at country level.

Through their programmes and activities and the RC/RC global campaigns conducted in the region, the North Africa representation and the National Societies' leaders are mainly focusing their advocacy work on key messages and the International Federation's position. The focus is on:

- the international organisation status of the International Federation, and the auxiliary role of National Societies;
- The worldwide membership of the International Federation, and its community base through National Society presence in virtually every community, everywhere;
- The unique network of tens of millions of trained volunteers, as indispensable partners
- The International Federation's global agenda and the Strategy 2020 it drives;
- The value of partnerships, driven by the 2007 International RC/RC Conference declaration, "Together for Humanity";
- The Fundamental Principles of the International RC/RC Movement and more particularly the independence of the Movement components including National Societies.

The 2010-2011 Plan provides many opportunities for National Society governance, middle management and youth to increase their representation on international conferences, thematic forums, as well as exposure to statutory meetings such as the General Assembly. These opportunities are also reinforcing the membership and partnership with RC/RC global networks.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

Although progress on gender indicators and gender equality in North Africa has been recorded over the past few years, the gender gap remains a challenge for the region. Significant advances are made on social gender indicators, notably faster improvements in female education than any other region, while progress on gender empowerment indicators such as participation in the economy and politics has lagged behind. There are great intra-regional disparities in women's participation in the economy and the extent to which this participation has increased or decreased. There has been an increase in Algeria and Tunisia, while Morocco has seen a decrease. Despite an annual growth in gross domestic

product (GDP), most North Africa countries continue to struggle with high unemployment rates and women are disproportionately at risk. The widest gap between male and female unemployment can be seen in Egypt.

Following the operational framework, the MENA gender network, three objectives were defined for the agenda of the regional representation's support in 2010-2011. These are upgrading knowledge and skills of women in the National Societies; considering the specific needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of women and men in the disaster management and health programmes; and increasing the involvement of women at all levels of the societies. Training and networking are key components as well as empowering women through Red Crescent activities and participation in project management. All National Societies are encouraged to develop a more specific plan of action, with time-lines, including revising at least one of their current programmes from a gender perspective; updating data on the participation of men and women in their National Society; and designating a gender focal point if a National Society has not yet done so.

The focus for the next two years, in line with the recommendations and adoption of resolution at the General Assembly, will be placed on programmes reducing the violence to women. Youth and women constitute the best agent for behavioural changes in the communities.

Quality, accountability and learning

Efficient and timely support is provided to the National Societies in North Africa on the basis of approved regional strategies and country plans. Focus is placed on developing National Society capacity building plans to improve the management, accountability of programs supported by the International Federation. The efficiency and effectiveness of the International Federation work and assistance correlates directly with the willingness and capacity to promote open and transparent cooperation based on agreed and shared goals, priorities set up by the National Societies and the ability to work together by using existing resources and structures. Expertise, potentials and resources are present in the region. The regional representation will continue in 2010-2011 to map, analyze and share resources among the National Societies, thus allowing them to call upon inter-regional expertise whenever needed.

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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