

# **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

## **REGIONAL LOGISTICS CENTRE**

CHF 415,000

Programme no 01.52/99

### **The Context**

Regional Logistics Centres (RLCs), a concept developed by the Federation over the last three years, are a means of further decentralising logistics while maintaining the necessary checks and balances required to provide cost effective and efficient logistics functions. RLCs are not programme oriented but are support services for programmes in their area of operation.

The RLC in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be the fourth in the Federation's network of RLCs, following Nairobi, Zagreb and Abidjan, all of which operate on the basis of cost recovery for services provided.

### **The Operation**

A Regional Logistics Centre will be opened in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates. The RLC will not only provide logistical support to the Middle East and North Africa region, but will also operate on a global basis for purchasing, transportation and warehousing. Direct operational support will be provided to the ongoing programmes in Iraq.

The RLC will provide technical support and advice to the National Societies in the region and will conduct and host technical training seminars, the first of which is planned for early 1999. The RLC will also operate on a global basis for other logistics functions as required by the Secretariat in Geneva; this may include purchasing or transportation of relief items for operations in Africa, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent. The RLC is expected to be operational in January 1999, subject to the signing of a status agreement with the government of the UAE.

### **Objectives of the Operation**

The overall purpose of the United Arab Emirates Regional Logistics Centre (UAE RLC) is to provide logistics support to Federation operations, National Societies and Federation delegations. Its primary mission is to ensure that Federation operations in the region receive the necessary goods, services and technical advice in an efficient, timely and appropriate manner. Additionally, it will ensure that the standards and procedures of the Secretariat are maintained in the field.

The main functions/activities of the UAE RLC will be as follows:

- Logistics support

Logistics support functions include procurement, transportation, vehicle fleet management, maintenance, warehousing, asset management and disposal. The RLC will:

assist delegations in planning logistics support to operational programmes, including the logistics considerations of appeals and projects; conduct field logistics visits and assessments and respond to operational requirements; carry out, or assist in the conduct of emergency or disaster assessments; initiate relief operations in support of an emergency situation; and provide general logistical support.

- Observance of Federation logistics standards

Conduct periodic reviews of each Delegation's logistic support functions to ensure proper systems and standard procedures are in place. Provide reports on system deficiencies and assistance in instituting remedial action. At the request of the National Societies in the region, and upon approval from the Secretariat the RLC may also provide technical advice to the National Societies.

- Procurement of support for all programmes in the region or beyond

All regional procurements over CHF 10,000 must be referred from Country Delegations to the RLC for action or review. The RLC will also assist HoDs in the design and implementation of service contracts (transport, warehousing, etc.).

- Regional fleet management

Give technical direction and assistance to Delegations. Manage the regional leased vehicle fleet when not under active lease. Provide fleet management guidance to the HoDs.

- Regional warehousing support

Review Delegation warehousing and ensure the system for monitoring stock is consistent with Federation procedures. Provide warehousing advice and instruction as required. Provide asset visibility at regional level. Co-ordinate reallocation of stocks within the region when required. The RLC may also be used to provide storage for Federation or PNS emergency stocks, including ERU equipment.

- Training

Develop briefing and training packages for delegates and National Society logisticians. Conduct regional logistics workshops.

- Communications support

Provide standard support for telecommunications and computer requirements. Maintain a regional database of telecommunications and computer systems. Provide maintenance of software systems and ensure adherence to Federation standards (for regional telecommunication functions).

- Optional Services:

The RLC may undertake the following at the request of delegations or Operating National Societies:

1. Perform ongoing tasks such as warehouse management, vehicle fleet management, dispatching and maintenance, local purchasing, transporting, etc. in support of a specific delegation if the RLC is in proximity to the Delegation and the Delegation funds these tasks.
2. Co-ordinate the clearance and onward movement of Federation goods (to include donations of goods in kind) en route to other Federation operations within the region, or beyond.
3. Liaise with the NS and determine their capability to assist in providing logistics support in any of the functional areas.

#### Resource planning

Funding for the set up phase of the UAE RLC will cover specific capital equipment and administration costs. It is anticipated that 50% of the total costs of the RLC will be recovered in the first year, with 100% recovery thereafter. The recruitment of a manager for the centre will take place early in 1999.