

Jordanie

COLLECTION CICR

C 1(1973)/235b

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF

JORDAN NATIONAL RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

TO THE:

XXIIInd INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

TEHRAN 1973

Founded in 1947, the Society was recognized by ICRC on September 9, 1948 and enrolled into the membership of the League of Red Cross on October 16, 1950. The Society is completely independent and has its own statutes.

The Society is authorized by a General Assembly consisting of 250 members and an Executive Central Committee of ten members. Membership does not require a definite qualification, for they range from prime-ministers, ministers to all other categories of society. The Society has 23 regional, provincial and local branches including the youth branch which has 50,000 members. Each regional, provincial and local branch has an administrative body of ten members and a general assembly from which the administration is elected. The administration usually consults and reports to headquarters all their activities.

Methods of financing:

- 1- Government aid.
- 2- League of Red Cross Societies, ICRC and donor National Societies.
- 3- Private contributions.
- 4- Membership fees.

The Society does not undertake fund raising activities because of the general economic situation in the country.

Present activities:

1- Disaster relief.

The Disaster Relief Preparedness Committee is being organized under the supervision and leadership of JNRCS and has branches all over the kingdom. The governors of governorates represent the Committee in the governorates. Both this activity and first-aid courses are undertaken in cooperation with the Department of Civil Defence.

2. Community Services.

The Society has sewing and typing centres, out patient clinics, kindergartens and orphanages all over its branches, including a hospital at the headquarters in Amman, and another maternity hospital in Jerusalem.

As an example of activities in the field of health, there is an out patient clinic at the branch of Madaba. The branch is situated in a town (30 kms from Amman the Capital) that has 30,000 inhabitants including the suburbs. It is the only out patient clinic in the area that offers mother and child care, health education and visits to suburbs. The children are offered basic feeding material like milk, apart from vitamins and medicine to cure deficiency diseases. For the same purpose of treating malnutrition, that branch has a feeding centre which offers a daily meal to 150 children and students at schools.

In the branch of Salt, (50 kms from Amman) the branch has an orphanage, a nursery and a kindergarten. These services are rendered within the activities of social welfare. The orphanage has 23 children who are fully supported until they find a substitute home or grow up to be independent. The nursery has 20 babies, whilst the kindergarten has 50 children between the ages of 3-6. Both the nursery and the kindergarten offer services free of charge and a daily meal.

The sewing centre at the Women's Branch in Amman gives courses (9 months each) to young girls of needy families. The branch has a capacity of 75 girls and their certificates are certified by JNRCS headquarters and the ministry of education. The course includes home economics and baby care. Upon graduation, the trainees are helped to find suitable jobs and the first three girls in each course are given sewing-machines as presents.

The Women's Branch in Amman also has a typing center with a capacity of 50-60 trainees for both young girls and young boys. The course is held for a duration of three months and includes typing in both Arabic and English. Again, certificates are certified by headquarters and the ministry of education.

In the field of first-aid, the society's ambulances are always available to cooperate in carrying victims of accidents or patients to hospitals. A typical service rendered by the ambulances is carrying patients, especially in the convalescence period, to and from the bridges of the West Bank to join their families for better care.

As for first-aid courses, they are usually as mentioned before- undertaken in cooperation with the Department of Civil Defence. The trainees include school teachers, government officials, bank employees and other categories of the society. The best example of such courses was the one held in June-August 1972, in cooperation with the League of Red Cross Societies. An instructor, Mr. Robert Gray from the British Red Cross, held three courses whose results are reckoned as quite successful and satisfying. The training included a refreshing course for nurses at hospitals.

Education: Although the problem of illiteracy is the complete responsibility of the ministry of education, the society gives illiteracy courses to the girls at the sewing centres of the branches. These courses are meant to give education to the girls who did not have the opportunity of going to school.

Of the disaster relief operation undertaken by the society to solve the problem of drought, the water tank vehicle that the society owns participated in circulating water to the afflicted areas, especially the suburbs during the summer of 1973.

Youth. As mentioned, the youth branch has 50,000 members, and operates from the ministry of education, since all the members are students. Each school forms an R.C. branch and the students are given informations on the principles of such a humanitarian movement, based on the book of The Red Crescent and My Country. One of ~~these~~ activities was the participation to promote the World Red Cross Day of 1972. The students distributed badges and self-adhesive badges of the R.C, ~~emblems~~ on various organizations, mainly in Amman.

Future activities for youth. In cooperation with the League of Red Cross Societies, a youth camp will be held in Jordan in the summer of 1974 and invitations will be dispatched for sister Societies. The camp will have a capacity of 100 participants of young boys and young girls for the purpose of forming R.C, leadership.

Assistance to victims of armed conflicts. Victims of armed conflicts, mainly the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and the displaced persons of 1967 war are given assistance in two forms.

a) Relief: This is done through monthly distribution of any kind of relief supplies that the society receives, which mostly includes foodstuffs, clothings, blankets. Treatment is offered at the outpatient clinic or the hospital of the Society.

b) Family reunion, tracing, ICRC messages and inquiries about relatives or detained persons in the West Bank is done in cooperation with the ICRC delegation in Amman.

Activities under the Development Programme of National Societies.

One of the most significant activities held at the Society within the policy to develop National Societies was the Second Regional Training Institute of Amman(7-27 July 73). In cooperation with JNRCS the League of Red Cross Societies,

Regional National Societies were invited to participate in the Institute. Societies that answered the invitation were Kuwait, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, S. Yemen, N. Yemen, and Jordan. The twenty-nine participants were given lectures and discussion in line with R.C, activities and movement under the supervision of the League's team; ICRC, President of Jordan National Red Crescent Society, professors from the University of Jordan and high ranking officials working in the field of Social Welfare.

Dissimination of the Geneva Conventions and the Principles of the Red Cross, Red Crescent Movement.

For the purpose of achieving the above mentioned targets, the Society has issued several publications which were widely distributed among students, school teachers, the armed forces and other organizations. Of the following list, the first four booklets were issued in cooperation with ICRC, whilst the last two are the Society's publications.

- a) The Red Crescent and My Country prepared to be taught for students.
- b) The Red Crescent and My Country prepared for school teachers.
- c) A Summary of the Geneva Conventions prepared for the armed forces.
- d) Soldier's Manual.
- e) The Uses and Abuses of the Red Crescent, Red Cross Emblem.
- f) The Geneva Conventions (Arabic).

Activities carried out to safeguard and promote peace.

Ever since the 1967 war, the occupying authorities have maltreated the civilians in the occupied territories. As examples of these violations are the destruction of houses and villages, forced repatriation of civilians from the West Bank and refusal of family reunions. So far, the JNRCS, in cooperation with other Arab National Societies, has issued two publications on the Violations of the Geneva Conventions against civilians in the occupied territories. This is an activity emphasized by the Society for the purpose of implementing humanitarian treatment and to safeguard and promote peace for those populations.

Activities in the field of information and public relations:

In cooperation with the press, radio and television, the society keeps the public well-informed about its activities. A public relations officer was recently employed at the society for the purpose.