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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Morocco: Cold wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRMA008; Glide n° CW-2017-000008-MAR
Date of issue: 26/01/2017	Date of disaster: 20/01/2017
Operation manager: Amelia Marzal	Point of contact: Dr Mohamed Bendali; head of aid, disaster management department, Moroccan Red Crescent
Operation start date: 25/01/2017	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 213,679	
Number of people affected: 900,000	Number of people to be assisted: 10,000 (2,000 families)
Host National Society presence: Moroccan Red Crescent; 5 staff and 75 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Moroccan Red Crescent	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

From mid-January, a cold wave has moved across Morocco affecting most cities. Temperatures have fallen rapidly, reach as low as -13 degrees Celsius in high altitude areas, and between -2 and 0 degrees Celsius in the interior of the country. Regions in the east, north and south have been particularly affected. These low temperatures were due to a mass flow of polar air from the Arctic to Eastern Europe and North Africa. The national services of meteorology directorate have confirmed that intense cold conditions are set to continue.

Under royal instructions, and in response to the intense cold spell, the Ministry of the Interior and all external services and military services have launched a special programme of solidarity for the population groups heavily affected by the cold wave, especially mountainous, remote areas and enclosed *douars* (village communities). This aid programme has already been launched in some heavily affected areas, with some families having already received blankets and food and appropriate equipment for the winter.

This wave of freezing conditions and snow has also caused economic losses and livelihoods due to the isolation of several areas. In addition, traffic paralyzed as well by cutting roads reduced supplies to certain remote communities. The Ministry of Equipment Transport and Logistics has been mobilized to remove the isolation of those areas and continues to issue periodic bulletins on road conditions and daily weather alerts.

Thus, in addition to roads and mountain passes blocked by snowfall, electricity was interrupted and some houses suffered structural damage. With low temperatures, the water pipes have frozen, interrupting the water supply in many areas but support has been given to them by other agencies.

Most parts of the Kingdom have felt the impact of this unusual cold wave. Faced with this situation, local authorities and relevant services have mobilized all the human and material resources and activated crisis management cells to help the most affected populations.



As an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian actions and following the example of the previous crises, Moroccan Red Crescent was engaged by the competent authorities to help the affected population. As part of the coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, Moroccan Red Crescent was commissioned to intervene in three regions to help 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries) to provide food and relief non-food items. These regions are: Oriental, Tangier-Tetouan and Fes-Taza. The table below illustrates the scale of response required:

Region	Localities	Distance from Rabat	Time required to reach the locality by car in normal weather conditions (approximately)
Oriental	Bouarfa	900km	9.5 hours
Fes-Taza	Bouyeblane	450km	7 hours
Tangier-Tetouan	Chaouen	350km	4 hours

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society



Moroccan Red Crescent is part of the national disaster plan and as per its auxiliary role collaborates with local authorities, health services, civil protection, and armed forces in the field of assessment, relief, delivery of food and relief non-food items and the, provision of first aid, transport and psychosocial support.

Since the start of the meteorological alert the Moroccan Red Crescent has been active, placing its volunteers on high alert MRCS, through its regional and local committees, has been present in affected regions and communities - mobilizing and organizing intervention teams and maintaining close contact with the central headquarters to report on the changing situation and the assessed needs.

From initial weather alerts, Moroccan Red Crescent placed its volunteers on alert. Regular monitoring of the situation was conducted as the storms and cold wave evolved and will continue in order to identify subsequent needs of the affected people and communities.

The relief operation is primarily focusing on the Oriental region (Figuig province), Fes Taza region (Taza, Guercif) and Tangier Tetouan region (Chaouen Province) focusing on collaborating with the authorities on distribution of food and non-food relief items (blankets and mattresses) as well as providing services first aid, psychosocial support and transport facilities to the affected people and ongoing needs assessment.

In health, Moroccan Red Crescent mobile medical teams have been operating in the districts most threatened, providing not only first aid and basic medical services but also organizing health awareness and prevention activities (behaviour to adopt in the event of a temperature drop). At the request of national and regional authorities, Moroccan Red Crescent provincial committees have established several Red Crescent posts providing 24-hour services to these communities, In crisis situations, the MRC is asked to set up emergency stations to meet the immediate needs of those affected, such as injuries, frostbite due to falling temperatures as it is, or refer them to Specialized centers.



Under the instruction of the HRH Princess Lalla Malika, President of Moroccan Red Crescent, the National Society is transporting basic food items and blankets to isolated communities. Red Crescent volunteers have been distributing food and non-food items in Guercif, Taza, Ifrane. The National Society is preparing to reach additional provinces that remain in need.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Country Cluster North Africa Office in Tunis and the DCPRR and PMER units at IFRC MENA Regional Office in Lebanon are continuing to monitor the situation and to support MRCS if requested.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of Morocco is leading coordination of life saving and relief activities. Crisis committees have been established in affected provinces.

Under the royal instructions, HM King Mohamed VI has asked the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity to support the areas affected by the cold wave and snow and to work in partnership with the Royal Armed Forces, to assist the affected population. The Ministry of Interior, through the governors and walis is coordinating all actions to provide all necessary support to the population affected by the cold wave.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) acted immediately following weather alerts and warnings on road cuts. Since the installation of Ministry of Interior monitoring and coordination unit, MRC was asked to make available its warehouses at both central and regional levels.

In coordination with the authorities and all stakeholders and according to the first rapid assessment, MRC have been requested to cover the three areas indicated above. The needs have been identified as food, clothing and heating units.

Region	Locality	Number of families	Number of packages (2 blankets, 1 food parcel, 1 mattress)
Oriental	Bouarfa	600	600
Fes Taza	Taza	700	700
Tangier Tetouan	Chaouen	700	700

The composition of food parcel for one family (average 5 members) for two weeks:

Item	Quantity
Flour	25kg
Sugar	5kg
Cooking oil	5L
Tea	500g
Rice	2kg
Chickpeas	2kg
Coffee	250g
peas	3kg

Risk assessment

Risk	Mitigation
The limited access to the areas affected by the snow, compounded by the poor road infrastructure may impede the delivery of assistance	Transportation of assistance by military helicopters when no other options are available, especially in remote mountainous areas as it is the only way to reach the populations affected by the cold.

B. Operational strategy and plan

This DREF allocation will be used to procure and distribute food and non-food items for 2,000 families and to replenish basic blanket stocks of MRC, in addition to providing essential services such as first aid in Oriental, Fes Taza and Tangier Tetouan regions. MRC will continue to assist the authorities in the area to assist those affected by the cold wave.

Overall objective

To provide humanitarian assistance to 2,000 families affected by cold wave in the regions of Oriental, Fes-Taza, and Tangier-Tetouan.

Proposed strategy

As a member of the crisis committee led by the government, MRC is aware of the various operational changes and gaps as they emerge and has revised the operational strategy to reflect the realities of the situation as it, currently affected communities. The good reputation and physical presence of MRC in communities across the nation enables MRC to reach the most vulnerable people – particularly those living in remote communities.

The government initiatives have targeted high mountains areas in the Middle and High Atlas, yet there are some areas that have not been reached. In close coordination with the provincial authorities, MRC helped the populations of the provinces of Taza, Figuig and Chaouen.

Recognizing the context and the subsequent vulnerabilities and needs of communities seriously affected by the cold wave, MRC has focused on a strategy that extends the food and non-food relief distribution activities; and provided psychosocial support activities for around 3,500 children who were most affected and living in precarious circumstances MRC will continue to coordinate recovery efforts in the coming weeks with all partners.

Operational support services

Recognizing the changing context of the disaster and with new needs arising due to the cold wave, MRC is receiving additional technical support from the IFRC's North Africa country cluster and regional offices.

Human resources

A small and qualified team from MRC and the IFRC's MENA regional office support the proposed assessment. Relief and response, coordination activities, etc., will continue to be delivered by Red Crescent volunteers supported by staff.

Logistics and supply chain

Procurement of required relief items will be carried out in provincial capitals before being transported by trucks to the affected communities. Some relief items have already been delivered by trucks from the national MRC warehouse to the affected areas, where the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces have assisted in transport to cut off communities by helicopter, as in remote mountainous areas it is the only way to reach the populations affected by the cold.

Communications

MRC is publishing news related to activities in response to emergencies on its social media. Audio visual material has been prepared to share with the media, as well as the IFRC and other partners.

Initial materials will be shared within three days of the launch of this DREF, with follow up materials provided on a fortnightly basis. Products produced includes news articles produced by the National Society, beneficiary profiles, facts and figures on needs and response, high quality photographs and short videos, as per IFRC procedures.

The communication team at the IFRC's MENA regional office will support these activities, through collaboration with a specific focal point assigned by the National Society prior to the launch of the DREF.

IT

DREF will cover the costs of telecommunications related to the operation.

Security

For security issues, as well as for accessibility reasons, the MRC is collaborating with government authorities and military, to distribute and facilitate the distribution of all humanitarian aid to affected areas. MRCS is willing to distribute items. If conditions worsen and roads are closed back government logistics and military means (helicopters)

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

All staff and volunteers involved in the operation will be familiarized with the DREF plan and budget and attendant expenditure and reporting obligations. Project Regular field monitoring will be carried out to ensure activities are delivered as per the plan and data collected to enable timely reporting against the indicated outputs and outcomes. This will make use of established post distribution monitoring (PDM) methods and tools.

A review workshop will be held near the end of the operational timeframe for learning as well as accountability to beneficiaries and DREF stakeholders, and to assist in compiling a final report which will be posted on www.ifrc.org three months after the operation is completed.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Health & care

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced																	
Output 1.1: First aid and psychosocial support is provided to the target population (10,000 people)																	
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Psychosocial activities are going on at social centres, school, 3,500 children are involved in this activity		X	X	X	X												
First Aid activities are going on at all the MRCS health posts with the first aid kit that will be purchased and are planned to continue depending on assessed needs and available stocks		X	X														

Taza branch have volunteer doctors who are available to support. This facilitated the support of the affected communities in their respective provinces in partnership with the delegation of the Ministry of Health.

Mobile health operation will be held in Taza provinces.

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Outcome 1: The immediate NFIs needs of the target population are met (2,000 families)																	
Output 1.1: Essential non-food items (NFI) are provided to the targeted population																	
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Consultation with the families on the identification of the most appropriate winterization items needed		X	X														
Local procurement, transportation and distribution of blankets (4,000), mattress (2000)				X	X	X	X										
Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distributions		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Resupply of Moroccan Red Crescent stocks with the remaining items							X	X	X								

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: The immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met (2,000 families)																	
Output 1.1: Appropriate food rations are distributed to vulnerable households																	
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Identification of most vulnerable families to receive food assistance		X	X	X													
Consultation with the families to the identification of the needed food		X	X	X	X												
Local procurement, transportation and distribution of food parcels				X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distribution		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Budget

See attached

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

26/01/2017

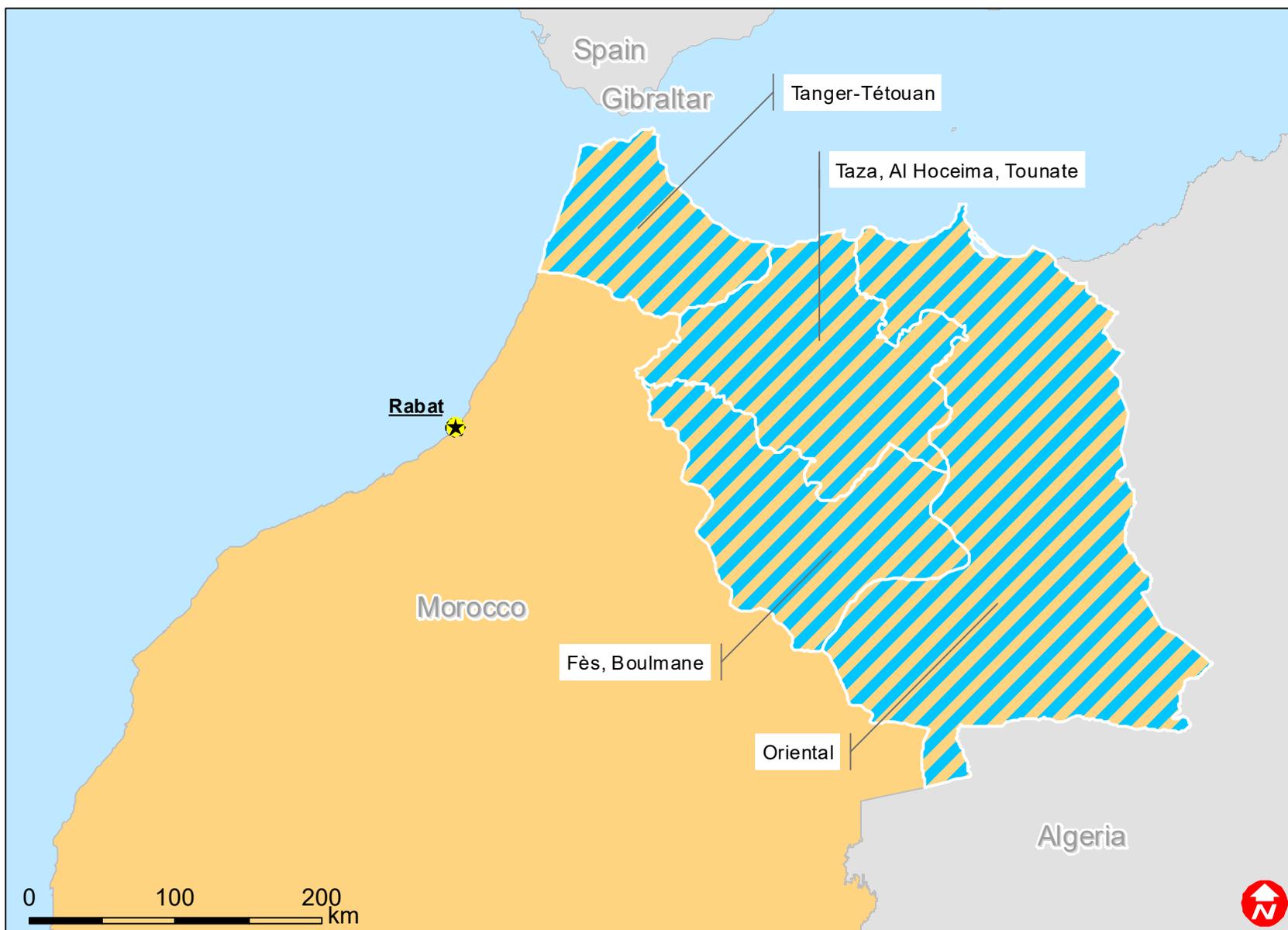
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Morocco cold wave Operation

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	78,000
Food	90,000
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	2,625
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	170,625
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,500
International Staff	
National Staff	2,000
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	7,612
Total PERSONNEL	9,612
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,000
Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Office Costs	0
Communications	1,500
Financial Charges	400
Other General Expenses	2,000
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,900
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	13,041
Total INDIRECT COSTS	13,041
TOTAL BUDGET	213,679



Morocco: Cold waves



 Affected Regions