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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Morocco: cold wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRMA007;
Date of Issue: 28/02/2017	Glide number: Glide n° CW-2016-000016- MAR
Date of disaster: 27/02/2016	Timeframe covered by this update: 2 months
Operation start date: 02/03/2016	Operation end date: 02/05/2016
Host National Society: Moroccan Red Crescent	Operation budget: CHF 186,929
Number of people affected: 750,000	Number of people assisted: 7,500 (1,500 families)
N° of National Societies involved in the operation: -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: -	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Morocco was affected by a cold wave on Saturday the 27th of February 2016, this wave caused by a polar air mass flow passing from the North Pole to Europe and North Africa generated westerly winds accompanied with extreme and low temperatures. The regions of the Middle Atlas and the north of the High Atlas and the neighbouring plains witnessed severe thunderstorms, while significant snow fell over the High and Middle Atlas, the Rif and the highlands of eastern Morocco. This precipitation was accompanied by moderate to strong winds, and temperatures that dropped significantly, reaching exceptionally low records, particularly in the interior regions of the country and the Atlas Mountains. The wave caused economic losses and isolation for several areas in Morocco, the electricity was interrupted as well and houses suffered from structural damages and water supply interruption due to the freezing temperatures.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Actions taken by Moroccan Red Crescent in response to the cold wave:

- Following on from the initial weather alerts, MRCS mobilised and organised intervention teams to assess needs and to respond to the most urgent needs
- MRCS volunteers and branches maintained close contact with MRCS HQ to report on the changing situation and updating on the results of needs assessments
- MRCS established First aid posts to assist those affected. The establishment of these First aid posts was done in close coordination with health authorities in the affected provinces.
- MRCS mobile medical teams operated in the most affected districts providing mobile First aid services, medicines and health awareness promotion
- In addition to First aid, MRCS provided psycho-social support to the affected communities
- The relief operation focussed on the Oriental region (Figuig province), Fes Taza region (Taza and Guercif provinces) and Tadla Azilal region (Azilal province)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Morocco Red Crescent was supported primarily by the IFRC North Africa Country Cluster Support team, based in Tunis. In addition, the Emergency and Crisis Unit (ECU) and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) unit of the IFRC Middle East North Africa (MENA) Regional Office, based in Beirut, monitored the situation provided technical guidance to MRCS. The operation was replenished in part by Belgian Red Cross from the Belgian federal government. IFRC on behalf of the Morocco Red Crescent Society thanks [donors for their vital contributions to the DREF](#).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of Morocco assumed the lead in coordinating lifesaving relief activities in the country. Crisis committees were established in affected communities. Under the Royal instructions of the King the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, working in partnership with Morocco Royal Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior, the populations of Anfou, Azilal and Tinghir received assistance. Following instruction from King the Mohammed V, the Ministry of Health a field hospital in Khenifra.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The Moroccan Red Crescent concentrated the intervention in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal and Fes Taza providing food and non-food items to 1,500 families (7,500 beneficiaries). During the response phase of the operation, the Chichaoua provincial authorities requested MRCS to help affected population enclosed by snowfall in a mountainous location by distributing emergency food items. The table below shows with more details the locations where the operation took place:

Region	Localities	Distance from Rabat (the capital)	Needed time to reach the locality by car in normal weather conditions (approximately)
Oriental	Figuig	851 Km	9 h 30 min
Fes Taza	Taza	306 Km	3h 30 min
	Guercif	405 Km	5h
Tadla Azilal	Azilal	352 Km	5h
Marrakech	Chichaoua	380 Km	5h

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

The DREF allocation was used to procure and distribute food and non-food items for 7,500 most affected people (1,500 families) in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua and to replenish the basic stocks of Moroccan Red Crescent Society that were used as part of the response operation. In addition, the allocation was used to provide First aid services and psychosocial support for the aforementioned regions.

Proposed strategy

The Morocco Red Crescent Society, through its continued community engagement work through branches and volunteers enabled MRCS to identify and reach those most affected and vulnerable, especially in isolated mountainous communities. As MRCS is a member of the crisis committee, led by the government of Morocco, the NS was able to ensure its operational strategy at all times reflected the developing conditions. This approach was enhanced by MRCS branches and volunteers directly engaging with the affected communities to ensure changes in need were reflected in the implementation. As per the aforementioned processes, MRCS targeted its intervention in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua to avoid gaps and overlaps with ongoing government supported interventions. Recognising the context and the subsequent vulnerabilities, MRCS complimented its food and non-food item distributions with First Aid and mobile medical services to address immediate vulnerabilities. MRCS volunteers also offered psychosocial support to those affected, especially focussing on affected children.

Operational support services

Human resources (HR)

The operation was supported by MRCS volunteers and existing staff at branch and headquarters level. In the Plan of Action a budgetary allocation was made for an IFRC technical staff to support the operation through a field visit, however it was later determined by the National Society that this support was no longer required.

The table below summarizes the human resources involved in this operation.

	HQ	GUERCIF	TAZA	FIGUIG	AZILAL	TOTAL
STAFF	6	1	1	0	1	9
GOVERNANCE	0	3	4	2	2	11
VOLUNTEERS	0	20	20	20	20	80
					TOTAL	100

Logistics and supply chain

In the initial phase of the operation, MRCS provided the affected communities with non-food items from their national warehouse. Subsequent to the launch of the DREF, local procurement, following IFRC procurement procedures, was utilised. Clothes and blankets were purchased in provincial capitals and transported to the affected communities by trucks.

During the operation, MRCS were able to make effective use of their existing transportation capacity which enabled cost savings of 1,994 CHF against the original budget.

Communications

During the DREF operation MRCS published news items related to its response activities its social media accounts. MRCS also ensured that its actions were covered in local and national media. Audio-visual material relating to the operation was shared with the media as well as the IFRC and other partners. Initial materials were shared within three days of the launch of this DREF, with follow up materials provided on a fortnightly basis. Products produced had included news articles produced by the National Society, beneficiary profiles, facts and figures on the needs and the response, and high quality photographs and short videos, as per IFRC communications procedures. The IFRC communication team in the MENA Regional Office supported these activities through a specific focal point assigned by the National Society prior to the launch of the DREF.

Security

For security issues, as well as for accessibility reasons, MRCS ensured it maintained its collaboration with national authorities to facilitate the distribution of all humanitarian aid to the affected areas in a safe manner.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

During the operation regular field monitoring was carried out by MRCS staff and volunteers to ensure activities were delivered as per the plan. An evaluation workshop was held towards the end of the period to indicate the satisfaction of participants and stakeholders. Some beneficiaries reported that the food parcels they received were not sufficient; in addition, some families felt the amount of warm clothes received were not sufficient to cover the needs of a five-person family. MRCS has made a note of this feedback to ensure these gaps are addressed in any future operation.

A workshop focusing on PMER was planned to take place towards the end of the operation, however in the end MRCS was not able to find a suitable time for it.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality Programming / Areas Common to all Sectors

Health and Care

Needs analysis: Affected population had a need for First aid services and access to primary healthcare. In addition, those affected experienced varying degrees of psychological trauma.

Population to be assisted: 7,500 families (1,500 people) in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua.

Health and 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 (7,500 people)																
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16
Psychosocial activities for the affected population took place at social centers and schools																
First Aid activities took place at all the MRCS health posts with the First aid kits purchased																
Achievements																
7,500 families (1,500 people) in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua were assisted with First aid services, mobile medical services providing medicines and MRCS volunteers providing psychosocial support to those affected, especially families.																
Challenges																
Considering the severe weather and the mountainous region, there were logistical challenges in physically reaching																

the affected population.

Lessons learned

Enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations will enable them to withstand adverse weather better and longer until outside assistance can be provided.

Shelter and Settlements

Needs analysis: Affected population had a need for blankets and warm clothing to protect them against the adverse weather conditions.

Population to be assisted: 7,500 families (1,500 people) in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Needs analysis: Affected population had a need for emergency food parcels due to poor access to markets and the loss of food items due to the adverse weather.

Population to be assisted: 7,500 families (1,500 people) in the regions of Oriental, Tadla Azilal, Fes Taza and Chichaoua.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: The immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met (1,500 families)

Output 1.1: Appropriate food rations are distributed to vulnerable households

Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15	16
Identification of most vulnerable families to receive food assistance																	
Consultation with the families to the identification of the needed food																	
Local procurement, transportation and distribution of food parcels																	
Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distribution																	

Achievements

Food parcels for 7,500 affected people (1,500 families) were purchased locally and distributed to the affected population. During the distribution of food parcels, awareness sessions were also undertaken to enable the affected population to adopt protective behaviours when a cold wave occurs. Leaflets with easy language and illustrative pictures were used to enhance the messaging.

Challenges

Affected families were not able to access markets themselves and therefore relied on MRCS heavy transport capacity to reach them with food parcels. At the time of distribution, MRCS faced some unexpected increases in demand and were forced to sometimes divide planned family rations in order to provide assistance to all those affected in the isolated communities.

Lessons learned

More work is needed to ensure the needs assessments done reflect the actual needs on the ground and that monitoring is conducted regularly to be able to react to changes in demand.

D. THE BUDGET

(See financial report 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 (NGO's) 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.

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRMA007 - Morocco - Cold Wave**

Timeframe: 02 Mar 16 to 02 May 16

Appeal Launch Date: 02 Mar 16

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/1-2017/3	Programme	MDRMA007
Budget Timeframe	2016/1-2017/3	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		186,929				186,929	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		133,777				133,777	
C4. Other Income		133,777				133,777	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		133,777				133,777	
D. Total Funding = B + C		133,777				133,777	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		133,777				133,777	
E. Expenditure		-133,777				-133,777	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			186,929			186,929		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	69,000		55,503			55,503	13,497	
Food	75,000		79,585			79,585	-4,585	
Medical & First Aid	3,500		3,270			3,270	230	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	147,500		138,358			138,358	9,142	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500		869			869	1,631	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,000		2,007			2,007	1,993	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	6,500		2,876			2,876	3,624	
Personnel								
National Staff	2,000						2,000	
National Society Staff			2,394			2,394	-2,394	
Volunteers	7,120		5,965			5,965	1,155	
Total Personnel	9,120		8,359			8,359	761	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	5,000						5,000	
Total Workshops & Training	5,000						5,000	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,000						2,000	
Information & Public Relations	2,000		1,826			1,826	174	
Office Costs			1,377			1,377	-1,377	
Communications	1,000		175			175	825	
Financial Charges	400		-27,358			-27,358	27,758	
Other General Expenses	2,000						2,000	
Total General Expenditure	7,400		-23,980			-23,980	31,380	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	11,409		8,165			8,165	3,244	
Total Indirect Costs	11,409		8,165			8,165	3,244	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	186,929		133,777			133,777	53,152	
VARIANCE (C - D)			53,152			53,152		

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Food security	186,929		133,777	133,777	133,777	0	
Subtotal BL2	186,929		133,777	133,777	133,777	0	
GRAND TOTAL	186,929		133,777	133,777	133,777	0	