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Revised Emergency Appeal

Greece: Fires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRGR003

Up to 2,500 people to be assisted

Appeal launched 31 July 2018

Glide n° WF-2018-000123-GRC

814,000 Swiss francs current Appeal budget

Appeal revised 19 November 2018

Appeal ends 31 December 2018

In October 2018, the Governing Board of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) voted to suspend the membership of the Hellenic Red Cross. The suspension of membership will come into force on 1 January 2019 if Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) is unable to address concerns related to its governance. Due to this decision, there was a need to develop a transition plan **to phase out IFRC support to the wildfires operation by the end of the 2018**. This revision is issued to reduce the EA budget to CHF 814,000 (multilateral funding) and revise the timeline from nine months downwards to five months. As a change to the original Emergency Plan of Action, bilateral contributions (HRC funding) will no longer be included in the appeal.

This Revised Emergency Appeal of **814,000 Swiss francs** has enabled the IFRC to contribute to the **HRC** response to wildfires, targeting up to **2,500 people out of the 8,000 people aimed by HRC programmes until December 2018**. The response focus on the following areas: **Health; Livelihoods and Basic Needs; Protection, Gender and Inclusion; and National Society Capacity Enhancement**. Details are available in the Revised Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA).

The Hellenic Red Cross overall plan of action has been enlarged to reflect bilateral contributions (HRC funding), and further assessment of the situation. Despite the upcoming suspension, HRC will continue to implement this operation outside the framework of an IFRC emergency appeal; HRC staff and volunteers remain fully committed to continue addressing the needs of affected individuals and communities. *Details on the overall plan of HRC's operation can be found in the annex to the EPoA ('NS PoA')*.

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

23 July 2018: Several wildfires broke out in forests and villages across the country, primarily in the areas surrounding the capital, Athens. A state of emergency was declared, and assistance from the EU requested. The Hellenic Red Cross immediately began providing first aid to affected people.

24 July 2018: The Hellenic Red Cross National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) was deployed, together with the Emergency Health Unit, Emergency Psychosocial-Support Unit and Mobile Health Unit. 26 people were found dead close to the seaside by Red Cross Samaritans. [Information bulletin No. 1](#) was issued.

25 July 2018: As the death toll rose, people responded by donating massive amounts of items-in-kind such as burn creams, medicines, biscuits etc. to Hellenic Red Cross and other humanitarian actors. [Information bulletin No.2](#) was issued.

26 July 2018: The Hellenic Red Cross continued to provide first aid and other health related services, Psychological First Aid, and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services as immediate response to the disaster. An earmarked bank account was also opened by Hellenic Red Cross to receive contributions from national and international donors.

31 July 2018: IFRC issued an [Emergency Appeal](#), as requested by Hellenic RC, seeking 2 million Swiss francs on a preliminary basis to enable the IFRC to support the Hellenic Red Cross in delivering assistance and support to approximately 7,100 people for nine months.

21 August 2018: IFRC published the [Emergency Plan of Action](#)

3 October 2018: An [Operations Update n.1](#) was published to inform about activities since the onset of the disaster until end of August 2018.

October 2018: The Governing Board of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) voted to suspend the membership of the Hellenic Red Cross. The suspension of membership will come into force on 1 January 2019 if Hellenic Red Cross is unable to address concerns related to its governance.¹

19 November 2018: The Emergency Appeal was revised to reflect the IFRC decision to suspend the Hellenic Red Cross.



The National Disaster Response Team of the Hellenic Red Cross discusses findings of the initial assessment
Photo: Hellenic Red Cross

¹ Statement on suspension of the Hellenic Red Cross as a member of IFRC, <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/press-release/statement-suspension-hellenic-red-cross-member-ifrc/>

The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection

As a result of the wildfires that broke out 23 July 2018 in the Attica region of Greece, the death toll reached 99 people, and more than 600 people were reported injured. 700 people have been rescued by the coast guard and navy, after being forced to flee to beaches to escape the flames. Residents in the coastal region west of Attica were requested to abandon their homes, and hundreds of people were evacuated. Almost 94 per cent of the cities in Rafina and Marathonas were affected by wildfires. It is estimated that the total exposed population is 4,118 people.² More than four thousand homes have been assessed in both Eastern and Western Attica – with 908 of them being completely destroyed.³ The fires have left an area of about 3,200 hectares burned, including forests, playgrounds, and a significant part of the social infrastructure. As of October, many areas remain destroyed. For more information on the situation, refer to [Operations Update 1](#).

Based on continuous analysis of information received from all stakeholders (incl. authorities, municipalities, other NGOs, media, people affected) and building on the initial assessment of HRC's National Disaster Response Team, the needs of people affected included both short-term (i.e. health, psychological first aid) and mid-term recovery. HRC has been responding to immediate needs since the fire broke out with health and PSS interventions.

The current *health needs* include monitoring the health status of people visited by the HRC Mobile Health Unit, as well as new patients who are still being referred, and treating them accordingly. Older people are also being vaccinated against flu, pneumococcus and herpes zoster (shingles), as recommended by the National vaccination program.

One of the most urgent needs identified was for *psychosocial support (PSS) services*. The fires have had a vast impact on the psychological wellbeing of affected people, but also on entire communities in the affected areas. Several months after, many people show signs of post-traumatic stress. Many people the RC staff have been in contact with through other activities (health, cash, etc) clearly indicated the need for continuous psychosocial support.

Needs for recovery emerged, and HRC decided to complement the Government's efforts with its own cash-intervention. A multipurpose cash grant was defined as the most suitable modality to cover the diverse needs according to affected people's priorities, and to assist affected households in their self-recovery. With the upcoming winter and an expected increase in related expenses and needs, it has been decided to increase the number of instalments from three to five.

Community disaster preparedness efforts can prevent similar situations in the future, both in affected communities and also elsewhere in Greece – a country that is hit frequently by small and large disasters requiring a more proactive approach from communities.

The target population are people both directly and indirectly affected by the fires in the municipalities of Rafina, Marathonas and Megara. The Red Cross approach is to prioritize families and individuals who are the most vulnerable, or who have not received any assistance from the government.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

HRC has been responding to the wildfire emergency since the early onset. IFRC is providing technical support for the coordination of the emergency until 31 of December, while Spanish Red Cross supported the Mobile Health Unit in addressing health-related needs. The Belgian Red Cross supported the cash transfer programme with the development of the Information Management system for cash interventions. The International Committee of the Red Cross continues to provide some technical and financial support to the Tracing Service of the Hellenic Red Cross in an effort to help families find their missing relatives.

Overview of non-Movement actors in country

The main governmental body for the disaster response remains the General Secretariat for Civil Protection. The government has mobilised emergency resources and provides a variety of financial support interventions to address the immediate needs of the affected municipalities and their citizens. Municipalities have coordinated relief assistance on the ground. Several NGOs are still present, offering medical, psychological, and in-kind support.

² Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – DG ECHO Daily Map – 26/07/2018.
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ECDM_20180726_Greece_Forest-Fires.pdf

³ Damage assessment report, 27 July 2018, Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks

Proposed areas for Intervention

Overall objective

The Hellenic Red Cross operation supports the needs of up to 8,000 people, out of which approximately **2,500 people for the activities funded by IFRC Emergency Appeal**, of the most vulnerable affected communities with appropriate emergency and medium-term assistance in an effective manner. The aim is also to help people recover from the impact of the fires and increase their resilience to future emergencies.

The overall approach for this revised Emergency Appeal is to finalise multilateral financial and technical support until the end of December 2018. HRC has been in charge of the implementation since the onset of the disaster, and will continue this implementation without IFRC support from January onwards (see Annex to EPoA 'NS PoA'). IFRC remains committed to supporting the renewal of an effective, vibrant and viable HRC and will continue to monitor the progress made.

The areas of intervention, continuing until the end of the year with the support of the IFRC and later on entirely under the HRC, are primary health care and psychosocial support services. Primary health care services continue to be provided through HRC's Nursing at Home programme. So far 744 primary health care services consultations have been provided.

Psychosocial support services are provided at Rafina and Marathonas in the space made available by the respective Municipalities and by the HRC PSS Service in Athens to identified cases. Case referrals are being received by the Health Mobile Unit, the CTP program and Hotline as well as by other actors. So far 283 PSS services were conducted in form of consultations.

This appeal supports 600 affected families with cash assistance, providing multi-purpose cash grants through bank transfers to cover basic needs and recurring costs, to help people recover and reduce their sense of insecurity. Multilateral funding is used to cover almost two instalments, the rest is covered by HRC. The 1st (18 October) and 2nd instalments (2 November) of the multi-purpose cash grant (EUR 2,500 per household in total, EUR 500 per instalment) for households in Marathonas, Rafina, Megara were paid totalling more than CHF 620,000.

Following the severe impact of the fires, HRC has started to carry out activities supporting vulnerable communities to better prepare for possible disasters as there is a clear need for an increased focus on preparedness to avoid future disasters. **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and preparedness activities are funded bilaterally with HRC funds and therefore no longer included in this appeal.** These activities include Community-based trainings with elements of basic First Aid, basic Psychological First Aid, RFL, and Protection; Hazard-specific Disaster Risk Reduction Communication Campaign; Tree plantation and rebuilding social infrastructure; and the development of a smartphone application. The people targeted are 4,500.

The Emergency Appeal ensures capacity building of staff and volunteers with a special focus on preparedness activities (logistics and supply chain, institutional disaster preparedness, RFL preparedness activities).

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection elements are included in all areas of intervention. In this Emergency Appeal, the focus of CEA is based on a cross-cutting approach, meaning that CEA is part of all sectors and programmes. For health, focus on timely and relevant information provision to beneficiaries, e.g. leaflets developed by the health team on how to mitigate health risks in the aftermath of the fire when dealing with the cleaning activities, have been designed. Protection services are mainly offered through RFL services, addressing people in search of their missing relatives. Community-based protection has been included in the disaster preparedness activities with communities.

Despite the upcoming suspension, HRC will ensure a smooth continuation of this operation outside the framework of an IFRC emergency appeal; HRC staff and volunteers remain fully committed to continue addressing the needs of affected individuals and communities.

Areas of Focus



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 600 households (approx. 1,800 people)

Male: 900

Female: 900

Budget (CHF): 669,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

The wildfires in East and West Attica have affected thousands of households, resulting in livelihood insecurities among affected people. Loss of lives, destroyed houses, family businesses, and loss of livelihoods have created insecurity and post-traumatic stress. The needs of each affected household can be very different depending on the level of damage (repairable or completely damaged). A multipurpose cash grant was defined as the most suitable modality to cover needs according to people's priorities, and to assist affected households in their self-recovery. Needs include household equipment such as electrical appliances, beds, mattresses, bed linen, kitchen sets, restoration works to restore power and water supplies etc. Items and services are available in the market in a variety of qualities and prices. The Red Cross cash programme can cover part of those needs with an acceptable quality.

The programme targeted 600 households directly or indirectly affected by the recent disasters in East and West Attica. After a more in-depth assessment, the total amount to be transferred has been increased to EUR 2,500 in five consecutive monthly instalments, based on analysis by the HRC Cash team. The assistance includes people identified through Government Social Services, in addition to those not eligible for government support who face a direct impact to their lives and livelihoods.

The criteria have been set by the HRC CTP team and combine context-specific and social welfare criteria. A help desk was set up in the respective municipalities to assist people in applying for the grants through provision of accurate information about the programme.

The Hellenic Red Cross launched a telephone hotline as an information sharing and feedback mechanism.

Ongoing activities include the following:

- Operating helpdesk activities and a CTP hotline for information sharing and feedback mechanism
- Provision of multipurpose cash grants to cover basic needs (HRC will continue implementing the cash assistance in the same modality with the three remaining instalments).



Health

People targeted: 1,300 (680 for the IFRC funded activities, including 400 through Nursing at Home, and 280 through PSS)⁴

Male: 49%

Female: 51%

Budget (CHF): 9,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

At the initial stage, needs for health services included issues related to exposure to the wildfires, such as burns (from minor to severe), respiratory complications due to smoke inhalation, eye inflammation and other conditions. These needs were addressed through provision of first aid and primary health care services through the Mobile Unit.

Some households lost their means of transport due to fires, thus restricting their access to health services (e.g. for people with chronic diseases). For addressing the health service needs of affected people, primary health services were provided at home by mobile medical units (Emergency Health Unit & Mobile Health Unit) and Psychological First Aid services by the mobile Emergency PSS Unit. The current health services are monitoring visits to follow up the health

⁴ IFRC contributed to the costs related to Nursing at Home, and PSS provision with multilateral funding. Other activities, such as first aid and primary health care provision through the Mobile Unit, were entirely funded bilaterally by HRC. Therefore, the target by the actual operation implemented by HRC is higher.

status of people supported by the HRC Mobile Health Unit. Also integrating referred patients. Ongoing support focuses on treatment of chronic problems, as well as vaccination of older people against flu, pneumococcus and herpes zoster (shingles).

Alongside physical medical attention, psychosocial support is considered one of the main priorities in the short and longer term. People targeted include those who have been directly affected (e.g. loss of relatives, property), but also those who have been exposed to the disaster (e.g. witnessed destruction and/or deceased persons, stress due to potential loss of livelihoods).

After respective referrals received by the HRC Health Mobile Unit, CTP program and Hotline as well as other actors, PSS/Case management visits are ongoing. According to the National Centre for Social Solidarity information provision, PSS needs have been identified also for people affected by the wildfires now living in the urban areas of Attica. These cases will be referred to the HRC PSS Service in Athens.

Ongoing activities include the following:

- Provision of health services in the affected areas through the HRC Nursing at Home programme
- Home visits to disabled people, people with chronic diseases, pregnant women and families with children – based on referrals, including ad-hoc visits per request of the municipality
- Provision of Emergency Psychosocial Support to affected people



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 120 (Trainings)

Male: 70

Female: 50

Budget (CHF): 1,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

People from inside and outside Greece were continually reaching out to report missing people. Restoring family links (RFL) was an essential component in the short term – in the long-term, there is a need for RFL preparedness, which has started under this Appeal but will continue with HRC funding. In general, specific protection activities are needed for both the community and the disaster responders to ensure that in future the needs of the most vulnerable people will be considered early on in the preparedness and response phases.

Training volunteers and personnel to identify and understand the different needs of vulnerable people (i.e. elderly, young children), increases the likelihood of appropriate responses being provided. Lastly, all activities were informed by the protection principles, based on the idea that properly understanding the different needs of vulnerable people saves lives in emergencies. As a protection measure, NS staff and volunteers are also being provided with training on the RC code of conduct.

The HRC will include a 1,5-hour protection component into the stage I Community Training (what is protection, vulnerabilities, referral pathways, policies) as well as for the respective DRR trainings for the staff and volunteers.

Ongoing activities include the following:

- Ensure the protection component is included in the Community-Based activities (Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction - CBDRR, and Community Based Healthcare and First Aid - CBHFA)
- Train National Society staff and volunteers about the principles of the Red Cross movement and protection policies (as part of the RFL/First Aids/Psychological First Aid training package)
- Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex – age and disability disaggregated data.

Strategies for Implementation

Strengthening National Society Capacity

Budget (CHF): 65,000

Ongoing activities include the following:

Since the country is frequently affected by small and large disasters, HRC aims to be better prepared and alert communities to disasters through support of the National Society, and prevent similar situations in the future.

Preparedness for Effective Response:

- Development of three regional contingency plans
- Training for Branch Disaster Response Teams for three Branches of the Hellenic Red Cross
- Emergency assessment training for volunteers and staff
- RFL preparedness activities – equipment and training for volunteers

National Society Development

- Volunteer management (insurance covered through this appeal)

Ensure Effective International Disaster Management

Budget (CHF): 21,000

Ongoing activities include the following:

- IFRC follow-up missions for the provision of technical support until the end of revised timeframe of this EA
- CEA mainstreaming

Influence Others as Leading Strategic Partners

Budget (CHF): 16,000

Ongoing activities include the following:

- Development of NS website
- NS documentary
- Operation evaluation and monitoring
- Work on reporting and donor accountability

Ensure a Strong IFRC

Budget (CHF): 18,000

Ongoing activities include the following:

- Finance and administration work
- Audit management
- Legal services

The following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.** Details are available in the Revised Emergency Plan of Action.

Funding Requirements

MDRGR003 - Greece - Wildfires Funding requirements Summary

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
Disaster Risk Reduction	15,000
Livelihoods and Basic Needs	669,000
Health	9,000
Protection, Gender, Inclusion	1,000
Strengthen NS Capacities	65,000
Ensure Effective Int. DM	21,000
Influence Others	16,000
Ensure Strong IFRC	18,000
Total Funding Requirements	814,000

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Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Information Bulletin No. 1](#)
- [Information Bulletin No. 2](#)
- [Operations Update No. 1](#)
- [IFRC Press Release](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Revised Emergency Plan of Action](#)

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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 Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
