### OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
IFRC Country Office

**COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The occupied Palestinian Territory remains a highly complex environment in which people are striving for statehood, peace, self-determination, dignity and development. The continuous occupation of the West Bank, and blockade of the Gaza Strip, internal strife between Palestinian political factions as well as political tensions between neighbouring countries, together with current political conflicts in the region, have had a negative impact on all aspects of life of Palestinians, economically, socially, psychologically and with regards to health and nutrition. The major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in the oPt are the protracted occupation and continuing conflict, punctuated by frequent outbreaks of violence. In the West Bank, continuing settlement expansion and the lack of a horizon for ending the occupation are major sources of conflict. In the Gaza Strip, years of blockade and recurrent outbreaks of hostilities have eroded basic infrastructure, service delivery, livelihoods and coping mechanisms. The overall context is that of a protracted protection crisis driven by lack of respect for international law, and a lack of accountability for violations. Thus, in a Middle East region severely affected by conflict and instability, the occupied Palestinian Territory has been experiencing increased fragmentation. Chances for a peaceful existence and end of the occupation have been seriously jeopardized. With geopolitical changes related to internal political dynamics and power sharing in the occupied Palestinian Territory, the political situation has experienced an increasing deterioration in both the West Bank and the Gaza strip. This has further increased the burden on the already fragile situation of the Gaza strip, under blockade since 2007 and with economic sanctions.

This operational plan outlines the results that the IFRC wants to achieve in collaboration with the Palestine Red Crescent Society over 2019. The results are part of coherent and co-ordinated approach of IFRC support to National Societies world-wide.

This operational plan outlines the results that the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) plans to achieve over the next year in the following Areas of Focus, with the support, if requested, of the IFRC in: Disaster Risk Reduction; Health, Protection, Gender and Inclusion. The IFRC Country Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPT) aims to support Palestine Red Crescent Society to implement its strategic vision and increase impact at the community level in a heavily challenging and changing environment, to facilitate its cooperation with partners, its positioning in the international community and its contributions to the IFRC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>People to be reached</strong></th>
<th><strong>Local branches of Palestine Red Crescent Society</strong></th>
<th><strong>Volunteers country-wide</strong></th>
<th><strong>Years of experience reaching the most vulnerable</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,340,000</td>
<td>87,100</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF funding requirement</td>
<td></td>
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With the decline in donor support to the oPt, the humanitarian needs remain high, PRCS needs support to carry out its mandate under the occupation.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**STATISTICS**

- **47%** Unemployment in Gaza.
- **21%** Palestinian population lives below the US$5.5 a day poverty line.
- **44%** Population of oPt are refugees.
- **35%** Of PRCS’s Emergency Appeal for Gaza has been funded.

**AREA OF FOCUS**

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

CHF 410,000 REQUIRED

Support will be provided to enhance capacities in Gaza and the West Bank, to work with the community and particularly marginalized groups to increase awareness towards risks and consequently how to develop community driven initiatives to mitigate them. Support to strengthening community resilience is key to the success, and as a cross cutting measure, the ‘resilience approach’ will be found in other AOF’s. Specific attention will be given to support the people of Gaza, affected either directly / indirectly by the events of the Great Return March.

- National and regional disaster risk reduction strategies in place.
- Community contingency plans are in place

**HEALTH**

CHF 90,000 REQUIRED

The development of a Health Management Information System (HMIS) at the Al Quds, Hospital Gaza - Presently, the Al Quds Hospital has a manual computer data management system which presents challenges for referring patients between hospitals departments and conducting patient follow up, managing stocks, supplies, and personnel as well as analysing health data for research purposes. This project will support the provision of appropriate customized HMIS software, as well as all required IT equipment and Human Resources support to establish a digital HMIS. The installation of this new system will a) facilitate research (i.e. hospital utilisation rates and epidemiological trends), b) allow doctors to easily see the medical record of the patient, c) easily update patient information and to analyse and prepare reports for all the services within the hospital, and d) link with other hospitals and medical facilities. The installation of the HMIS, has never been more crucial than now in Gaza, where the health system is on the verge of collapse, and every effort must be made to manage the limited remaining health services more efficiently and effectively.

- HMIS benefits 36,500 residents in Gaza

**PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION**

CHF 500,000 REQUIRED

IFRC will support PRCS in their plan to re-locate the Total Communication Centre to a new site in Ramallah. IFRC support will include, though not be limited to, raising awareness of the project and importance of the services that the TCC provides, and sourcing where possible funding support (approximately USD2.9 million). IFRC and PRCS will also participate in the Protection Cluster meetings.

- 1600 People reached by the TCC through the year

**STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES**

CHF 10,000 REQUIRED

Key support to PRCS in 2019, will be the finalisation of the new PRCS strategy for 2018-2022, and preparation for the General Assembly. Additionally when requested IFRC will support PRCS in assessing, planning, implementing, and monitoring their preparedness for response actions, ensuring a more cohesive and harmonized approach globally, as well as enabling PRCS to achieve a common approach to Preparedness for Response within the Movement. In addition, IFRC will seek support for volunteer insurance.

- NDRT TOT conducted

**ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

CHF 50,000 REQUIRED

IFRC will facilitate the participation of PRCS in relevant disaster management trainings e.g., ERU, FACT, Operations Manager, Civil Military Cooperation etc., in order to strengthen its disaster response tools. IFRC will continue to support the National Society in response to large-scale emergencies by using the DREF mechanism, when applicable, and provide surge capacity, when requested, by mobilizing Movement partners. IFRC will ensure participation at Humanitarian Country Teams (OCHA) and relevant inter-cluster meetings (shelter, health), as well as national contingency plans together with PRCS. In addition, with the support of IFRC RO DCPRR, will assist when requested, PRCS DM Department to facilitate an international NDRRT - TOT in Palestine.

**ENSURE A STRONG IFRC**

CHF 280,000 REQUIRED

IFRC will continue to strengthen its effectiveness, credibility and accountability through supporting large-scale IFRC emergency appeals in a timely, efficient and transparent manner. IFRC will support PRCS in the preparation and dissemination of key documents from the National Society are updated on FDRS, such as strategic plans, financial statements and the annual plan as well as programmatic indicators. Additionally IFRC will seek to provide funding support to PRCS in fulfilling its strategic objectives primarily through its network of global agreements.

**CONTACTS**

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