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Operation Update Report

Palestine: Extreme Weather Conditions

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRPS011	GLIDE n° CW-2020-000026-PSE
Operation update n° 1; 31/05/2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 4 months
Operation start date: 18/01/2020	Operation timeframe: 4 months extending 2 months End date: 31/07/2020
	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 255,318
N° of people being assisted: 10,000	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: World Health Organization (WHO), Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), Ministry of Health (MoH), UN-OCHA, UNRWA	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This DREF Operation Update reports on the progress of the ongoing response operation for the affected population of the extreme weather conditions, specifically related to; relief items distributed to affected and importation of tarpaulins.

This DREF Operation is being extended for an additional two months aiming to finalize the planned DREF activities. COVID-19 and movement restrictions have delayed the implementation of some activities and lead to cancelation of others. Remaining balance will be reallocated for additional procurement of Hygiene Kits (669) to replenish distributed stocks.

- **26 December 2020:** West Bank Operation Room was activated.
- **18 January 2020:** Start of heavy rains and storms, resulting in flooding in almost all of Palestinian provinces. Immediate start of Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) response operation.
- Needs assessment for 2,098 families in the West Bank (WB) and the Gaza Strip was carried out in January, and 1,959 were provided with relief items. The assessment is ongoing and consequently the distribution of relief items is followed.

- **19 Jan 2020:** Gaza activated the Operation room.
- **31 January 2020:** IFRC allocated CHF 235,191 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society Cold Wave Emergency Response.
- **20 February 2020:** Distribution conducted by PRCS, West Bank (WB) a total of 367 families were affected (2,325 family members). In Gaza, 835 affected families were identified (5,220 family members).
- **10 March 2020:** Distribution process started by PRCS's National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in West Bank, reached out to 520 families (2,980 beneficiaries) and in Gaza, PRCS reached out 851 Family (5,283 beneficiaries).
- **29 April 2020:** Distribution conducted by PRCS, West Bank. The total affected families were 1,076 (5,393 beneficiaries) and in Gaza, 883 families, (5,474 beneficiaries).
- **April 2020:** Eight sub-warehouses were restocked with the following relief items: (1,580 Blankets, 1,140 mattresses, 570 kitchen sets, 570 Hygiene sets, 270 Heaters, Tarpaulins 480, jerry can 180).

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Extreme weather conditions hit the WB and Gaza Strip started on Saturday 18 January including heavy rain floods, winds, and low-temperature cold wave. The heavy rain generated floods in several parts of Palestine and thousands of people were affected with many families being evacuated from their homes. The extreme weather conditions resulted in the deaths of three people: two in the Gaza Strip and one in Jerusalem due to the heavy rains and flooding.

The weather events deeply affected local communities, particularly in the Gaza Strip where thousands of people already remain displaced and live in semi-structured or transitional shelters or tents due to loss of their homes during the recent escalation in hostilities. For the first time in the Gaza Strip, the temperature approached zero at night at a time where it was not possible to operate the heating systems due to electricity cuts. Furthermore, gas stations in the Gaza Strip had insufficient fuel to provide to people to operate their own generators. Additionally, vendors providing cooking gas had insufficient stock.

In the West Bank the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, communities living close to the Israeli separation wall, as well as vulnerable communities residing specifically in the old cities and areas close to streams across the West Bank such as Hebron, Jerusalem, Jenin, Qalqilia, Ramallah, Tubas, and Nablus were affected by the heavy rain fall. The cold wave was exceptional in its nature, with very strong winds and rains, and temperatures (approx. 3C) which were uncharacteristically low for Palestine.

Based on the weather forecast which included storms, on the 13 January, the Palestinian Government called for "collaboration and common efforts to support the affected populations to face the current challenges". As Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is a member of the High Council of Civil Defence, and due to its auxiliary role, subsequently responded to the humanitarian needs.



Figure 1. Needs assessment conducted by PRCS/IFRC
Photo Credit: PRCS

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

PRCS activated its operation rooms in December in the West Bank (WB) and Gaza strip since the beginning of January 2020 in preparation for the arrival of the expected heavy rain fall while PRCS emergency teams have been on standby to respond to the emerging needs.

PRCS identified the needs of the communities affected by the cold wave, both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and responded accordingly. The two operation rooms in WB and Gaza Strip were activated, rapid assessments on the ground have been conducted and close coordination with partners and service providers on the ground has been undertaken. PRCS volunteers and staff led the response actions in the affected communities despite harsh conditions.

The PRCS has deployed more than 600 specialized volunteers to respond during the operation together with technical staff from the Disaster Management Unit, Logistic, Psychosocial Support and Emergency Medical Services departments, respectively. Emergency response operations focused on the provision of relief and household items, including tarpaulins, tents, mattresses, and blankets among several other items.

The DREF Implementation have been affected by the outbreak of the COVID19 Pandemic which resulted in the scaling down of staff available at the PRCS HQ, and volunteers being reassigned to the COVID19 response.



Figure 2. Preparing relief items for distribution Photo Credit: PRCS

During the cold wave and up to the **29 April** PRCS has distributed relief items for 1,959 families as per the following table:

Location/ Item	Families	Persons	Winter Blankets	Mattresses	Kitchen Sets	Hygiene kits	Kerosene Heaters	Tarpaulins
Central West Bank	350	1756	1566	795	323	367	313	626
North of the West	456	2280	2290	2100	439	467	216	273
South of the West Bank	270	1357	1390	1254	278	287	204	245
Total Gaza Strip	883	5474	609	458	71	292	56	1640
TOTAL	1959	10867	5855	4607	1111	1413	789	2784

Source: PRCS operation rooms

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

Since the onset of the emergency, there has been ongoing coordination between PRCS, the Palestinian Civil Defence, local and national authorities, including governorates and municipalities, UN agencies as well as within the RCRC Movement. Weekly updates have been held between the PRCS/IFRC staff. The ICRC has assisted through facilitating the international procurement of tarpaulins and importing these to oPt.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Shelter

During the operation and based on the needs assessment, affected families received the following items:

Item	No. of items	No. of Target group
Winter blankets	5,855	1,959 Families
Mattresses	4,607	
Kitchen sets	1,111	
Kerosene heaters	789	
Tarpaulins	2,784	

Additionally, the following items have been provided to PRCS to continue their ongoing relief operations through the partial replenishment of PRCS stocks for; blankets 1064, mattresses (847), tarpaulins (5,800), heaters (95 gas for W/B, 182 electric for Gaza), and kitchen sets (81 for W/B and 81 for Gaza).

WASH

During the operation, following needs assessments, 1,413 hygiene kits have been distributed to affected families of which 200 have been replenished. Consequently, there is an urgent need for more Hygiene kits to cover all the demands in the vulnerable communities.

Strategies for Implementation

Key activities implemented during the operation have included the production and dissemination of communication materials mainly radio messages.

Two main activities of the DREF operation i.e., DREF lessons learned workshop and training for PRCS staff could not be conducted on-site due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent travel restrictions imposed by the PA/IL authorities and countries throughout the region. Consequently, PRCS has requested re-allocation of the remaining balance to replenish hygiene kits.

Operation Risk Assessment

The key challenge to the implementation of the operation has been the outbreak and subsequent Pandemic of COVID19. This has had a direct impact on the DREF operations as PRCS has had to reduce its operational staff at Headquarters due to movement restrictions enforced by the local authorities, as well as the remaining staff now having to respond to two disaster events simultaneously. Consequently, some procurement (i.e. final payment on delivery) may not be finalised until after the DREF operation.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The population in the affected areas will receive support to cope with the effects of the cold wave through the provision of household items and emergency shelter.

Human resources

The PRCS has deployed 600 volunteers since the beginning of their response. These volunteers have been insured and equipped with protective equipment enabling them to continue running the operation together with technical staff from Disaster Management, Logistic, PSP and Health. The cost of the volunteer's transport and incentives will be included. IFRC country representation office will support the follow up and reporting of the operation

Logistics and supply chain

Logistic support to the intervention will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items and to ensure the efficient and timely distribution to affected beneficiaries. IFRC in the country and MENA Region will continue to support PRCS when needed.

Communications/Community Engagement and Accountability

Information on the operation has been disseminated in coordination with the IFRC and Movement partners in order to highlight the response to the humanitarian needs and the evolving and emerging humanitarian concerns. The information has also be shared via the IFRC Go Platform. Additionally, PRCS has been strengthening its capacity in Community and Engagement Accountability (CEA) through recent staff training. The acquired knowledge from the training will be to integrate CEA with the intervention to ensure maximum and meaningful participation of affected communities to ensure accountability of the operation by addressing potential complaints/feedback from the target households and non-target communities.

Security

The West Bank and Gaza Strip are very different operational security contexts. Military operations occur frequently in Gaza and as a result, Un Exploded Ordinance pose a risk. Civil unrest is frequent and can quickly turn violent. Access to, from and within the Gaza Strip is frequently restricted. In the West Bank, civil unrest is common, often linked with events inside the Gaza Strip. For both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, personnel must stay abreast of the local sentiment and broader regional context. In order to continue implementation of the planned activities, PRCS will coordinate with ICRC and evaluate the evolving security situation. The IFRC Regional Security Coordinator may provide remote support as needed.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

PMER will be crucial to the delivery of the planned operation to ensure evidence-based reporting, upholding accountability and compliance with the established standards. In this regard monitoring is required regularly by the PRCS to track the effects and impact of response actions, track progress of activities and the delivery of outputs. A final report will be published three months after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The PRCS will be responsible for managing the funds in accordance with standards practices for IFRC on operational transfers. The IFRC through the country representation office and finance department in MENA will provide necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 10,867

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements	10,000	10,867

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	2,000	1,959

Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive	2,000	1,959

Progress towards outcomes

- Following needs assessments (form attached) conducted by PRCS staff and volunteers, a total of 1,959 affected families were reached with basic household & shelter items. Due to the lack of availability of tarpaulins (5,800) these were procured with the assistance of ICRC Logs and imported from Jordan. Delays were experienced due to the importation/security requirements of the IL customs/border control authorities. Procurement is ongoing for the remaining items that will be used to replenish the PRCS contingency stocks.
- Raising awareness on basic Safe Shelter was facilitated through the development and dissemination of radio messages (example attached). It is estimated that through this approach over 100,000 households are reached. Additionally, these messages will remain on file for PRCS to use in advance of next year's cold season.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 7,065`

Male: 3333

Female: 3732

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with activities to reduce risk of waterborne and water related diseases	2,000	1,413

Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene	2,000	1,413

Progress towards outcomes

- Number of hygiene kits procured already is 200 and planned to increase by 1,024 hygiene kits.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PRCS staff and Volunteers insured	120	600

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PRCS staff and Volunteers insured	120	600

Progress towards outcomes

- During the response operation, 600 volunteers have been insured and issued with PPE.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured	Yes	Yes

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge members deployed	As per need	1 (remote)

Progress towards outcomes

Due to the outbreak of the COVID19 Pandemic and movement restriction, there was one remote surge support deployed to support the operation. Funds allocated for the physical deployment are being reallocated for replenishment of hygiene kits.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communications materials produced (social media engagement, news articles, interviews, AV materials, etc.)	12	3

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits	1	5
# of lessons learned workshop	1	-

Outcome S3.2.: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded

Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff trained on DREF reporting and budgeting requirements	12	12

Progress towards outcomes

- During the operation, three radio spot messages were developed and included already as part of the yearly dissemination cycle of early warning messages reaching 100,000 in at risk areas.
- The lessons learned workshop is planned virtually. Funds are reallocated for the purchase of additional hygiene kits. A total of five monitoring visits have been conducted by PRCS/IFRC

D. Financial Report

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies				<i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i>		
DREF OPERATION						
MDRPS011-Palestine: Extreme Weather Condiitons						31/01/2020
<u>Budget by Resource</u>						
Budget Group				Budget	Expenditure	Remaining
Shelter - Relief				77,190	0	77,190
Clothing & Textiles				79,617	40,440.36	39,177
Utensils & Tools				9,321	9,332.20	-11
Other Supplies & Services				20,098	21,315.95	-1,217
Relief items, Construction, Supplies				186,226	71,089	115,138
Transport & Vehicles Costs				2,971	3,012.38	-41
Logistics, Transport & Storage				2,971	3,012	-41
Volunteers				10,078	10,003.80	75
Personnel				10,078	10,004	75
Workshops & Training				10,680		10,680
Workshops & Training				10,680	0	10,680
Travel				9,709		9,709
Information & Public Relations				1,942	1900	42
Communications				3,257	753.10	2,503
Other General Expenses				14,872	14,871.60	0
General Expenditure				29,779	17,525	12,255
DIRECT COSTS				239,735	101,629	138,106
INDIRECT COSTS				15,583	15,582.81	0
TOTAL BUDGET				255,318	117,212.19	138,106.10

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Dharmin Thacker, Acting Head of Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, phone: +961 5 428 505, email: dharmin.thacker@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries)

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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.