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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Morocco: Cold wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRMA009	Glide n° CW-2018-000008-MAR
Date of issue: 24 /01/2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months, Expected end date: 23/04/2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: CHF 249,530	
Total number of people affected: 70,0000	Number of people to be assisted: 17,500 (3,500 families).
Host National Society: Moroccan Red Crescent society (MRCS) : 100 volunteers , 10 staff , 7 branches:	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: None-	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Association Mohammed V, Local governance, Royal Army, Ministry of transport, Ministry of health	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

At the start of 2018, temperatures are below seasonal norms in various parts of the world. In Morocco, starting from 5 January, temperatures are generally below normal. Heavy snowfall has affected the High Atlas and the Middle Atlas, from 900 meters above sea level, with temperatures as low as minus 5 ° C, where the average temperatures in January (the coldest of the 3 winter months) hovers around 18 degrees Celsius. This average includes a low of 7 degrees and a high of 23 degrees.

In the interior of the country, several roads have been cut due to snow, according to the Ministry of Transport. With its terrain mountains accustomed to very harsh winters, this area is the most affected by the cold wave that has raged between 5 and 9 January, 2018¹.

The cold also affects, to a lesser extent, the Atlantic coast. In Rabat, a hailstorm hit the city. An impressive amount of seaweed has been observed off the administrative capital. The heavy rains are greeted with some relief by farmers who were worried about the risk of drought.

People find themselves isolated, the roads are cut, and farmers can no longer feed livestock at the foot of the Middle Atlas.

Since November 2017, the government has taken all measures to deal with a drought and a difficult agrarian year. Livelihoods are affected. Some pastoralists and farmers have benefited from aids to confront this situation but at the beginning of this year with very low temperatures the situation has worsened. Many economic losses have been reported, prices have risen and cold-related diseases have increased, prompting the Government to start and act by declaring a state of emergency instructing all ministries, NGO's, and Morocco Red Crescent to act immediately to respond to the disaster by targeting the affected people



This wave of freezing has caused economic losses and disrupted livelihoods. Following snowfall, several areas, known to be of the poorest areas of Morocco, remained isolated. In addition, traffic was paralyzed and roads were cut for

¹ <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/508363/societe/le-maroc-face-a-une-intense-vague-de-froid/>
<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2018/01/238311/rainfall-cold-wave-farmers/>

several days, reducing the scope of supply in some remote communities. The Ministry of Equipment, Transport and Logistics has mobilized resources to facilitate access to affected areas and continues to issue periodic road condition reports and daily weather alerts.

Having an auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian actions and following the example of the previous crises, the Moroccan Red Crescent was reached by the competent authorities to help the affected population, as part of a "Monitoring and Coordination" unit composed of local governances, Ministries, the Royal Army, Mohammed V Foundation and other local NGOs. As part of the coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, Moroccan Red Crescent was commissioned to intervene in seven provinces to help 3,500 families (17,500 beneficiaries) by providing food and non-food items. These provinces are: Chefchaouen, Midelt, Agadir, Ouarzazate, Guercif, Zagora and Taroudant. The table below illustrates the lapse of time for intervention:

Localities	Distance from Rabat	Time required to reach the locality by car in normal weather conditions (approximately)
Chefchaouen	350 km	5 hours
Guercif	450km	7 hours
Midelt	450km	6 hours
Agadir	650 km	7 hours
Ouarzazate	750 km	10 hours
Zagora	850 km	11 hours
Taroudant	700 km	7 hours

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society.

- The Moroccan Red Crescent Society 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 non-food items and the provision of first aid, transport and psychosocial support.
- MRCS is a member of the provincial crisis cells chaired by the wali and governors. When a disaster or crisis occurs this crisis unit meets, develops assessments of damage and needs to respond and define the beneficiaries of any intervention. As part of the coordination, MRCS is in charge of intervening on a part according to its capacities.
- Since the start of the meteorological alert, the MRCS has actively placed its volunteers on high alert through its regional and local branches, for an anticipated effective response in the affected regions and communities. They have also mobilized and organized intervention teams and maintained close contact with the central headquarters to report on the changing situation and the assessed needs.
- 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 affects the communities. At the provincial level, a crisis cells, chaired by the wali and governors was activated and has immediately conducted the needs assessments. Based on which a response plan was set and beneficiaries were identified. The cell has also set the standards for aid distribution in order to prevent disparities between the beneficiaries (i.e. avoid creating what could be considered as 5-star support as opposed to a 1-star support).
- As part of the coordination, MRCS was assigned to take in charge 3,500 families in the central areas of the mountainous terrain of Azilal and Taza, Guercif, Chefchaouen and Taroudant provinces, collaborating with the authorities in the distribution of food and non-food items (mattresses, blankets and warm clothes) as well as providing psychosocial support, medical services and transport assistance to the affected people, along with the ongoing coordinated needs assessment.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

- The Head of Country Cluster of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at Tunis is closely following up on the situation and is ready to support the NS as needed.
- the ICRC is supporting the MRCS to strengthen their first aid and disaster management division in terms of equipment, trainings, specifically in RFL, and the management of dead bodies in disaster situations, as well as some equipment for the national disaster response team (training, intervention and communication material).

- Since 2012, the German Red Cross has set up their offices at the MRCS headquarters. It supports the same division, regional and provincial disaster response teams on trainings and intervention equipment to effectively address the MRCS mandate in the ORSEC Plan.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Under Royal instruction the mobilization of "all government sectors" was decreed by the Ministry of the Interior, which ensured that more than 500,000 people will benefit from a plan to fight against the cold (distribution of blankets, foodstuffs...). For its part, the Mohammed V Solidarity Foundation has announced that it has deployed a "Cold Operation" program in remote mountainous areas.

Also under royal instructions two military mobile hospitals were mounted in the most affected areas in Chichaoua in El Haouz and Tinghir to help and meet the medical needs in both regions.

In several regions, local NGOs have begun to collect clothing for distribution in these remote areas.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis and targeting

The MRCS acted immediately following to the weather alerts and warnings of road cuts. Since the activation of the Ministry of Interior's "Monitoring and Coordination" unit, MRCS was asked to support in the reponse benefitting from their contingency stocks at their central and regional warehouses.

The MRCS, was engaged in the needs assessment along with multidisciplinary commissions from external departments of the ministerial delegations .

In coordination with the authorities and all stakeholders and according to the first rapid assessment, MRCS have been requested to cover seven provinces indicated below. The needs have been identified as food, non-food items: clothing and heating units. Based on further assessment, additional hygiene items may be required and distributed from the MRCS stocks present in warehouses.

Localities	Number of families	Number of packages (1 blanket, 1 food parcel, 1 mattress)
Chefchaouen	600	600
Guercif	400	400
Midelt	600	600
Agadir	500	500
Ouarzazate	400	400
Zagora	400	400
Taroudant	600	600

The selection of targeted families is made at the level of the provinces according to extreme vulnerability criteria, the number of children and the elderly.

The composition of food parcel for one family (average 5 members) for two weeks is as per the below table. The composition of the food parcels is based on the agreement within the Monitoring and Coordination unit, in order to insure consistency in aid support throughout the regions:

Item	Quantity
Flour	20 kg
Sugar	5kg
Cooking oil	5L
Tea	500g
Rice	3 kg
Chickpeas	2 kg
Coffee	250g
peas	3kg

Scenario planning

The continuity of weather warnings assumes that the situation may get worse depending on weather conditions. The MRCS is prepared to mobilize further volunteers in other areas if needed, in coordination with the local authorities and the Monitoring and Coordination unit.

Operation 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 to some remote areas.	In remote mountainous areas assistance will be mobilized by the helicopters of the royal gendarmerie

B. Operational strategy

This DREF allocation will be used to procure and distribute food and non-food items for 3,500 families and providing essential services such as first aid in seven provinces. MRCS continues to assist the authorities in the area to reach those affected by the cold wave.

IFRC will mobilize its technical team, at the MENA region to support the MRCS as needed,

C. Detailed Operational Plan

The good reputation and physical presence of MRCS in communities across the nation enables MRCS to reach the most vulnerable people, particularly those living in remote areas. The government initiatives have targeted high mountainous areas in the Middle and High Atlas, yet there are some areas that have not been reached. In close coordination with the provincial authorities, MRCS helped the populations of the provinces of **Chefchaouen, Midelt, Agadir, Ouarzazate, Guercif, Zagora and Taroudant**.



Shelter

People targeted: 17,500 people

Male: 8,750

Female: 8,750

Requirements (85,750CHF)

Although no homes were damaged by the snow storm in the targeted provinces, it is important to note that the cold wave is causing problems for families, especially the most vulnerable ones, due to the increased humidity levels and low temperatures from the snow combined with the high altitude of the areas where these communities are located. Most vulnerable families sleep on rugs, since they cannot afford to buy proper mattresses; in these conditions, their health is at risk as they are directly exposed to freezing temperatures. The heavy snowfalls have also hindered the people's access to their homes.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met																
	3500 families has received 3500 blankets and 3500 mattresses																
	Shelter Output 1.1: Essential non-food items (NFI) are provided to the targeted population																
	Activities planned week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps : Consultation with the families on the identification of the most appropriate winterization items needed	X	X														
AP005	Identification of community participation modalities in program design and implementation	X	X														
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders	X	X														
AP005	Analysis of the local market to identify availability/access to shelter and household items : local procurement			X	X												
AP005	transportation and distribution of blankets (3,500), mattress (3,500)					X	X	X									
AP005	Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distributions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 17,500 people

Male: 8,750

Female: 8,750

Requirements (122,500CHF)

Although the heavy rains were greeted with some relief by farmers who were worried about the risk of drought late last year, yet wave cold snap remains a problem for the agricultural sector. Crops, even those grown in greenhouses, are strongly affected by temperatures that are not conducive to plant growth or the maturation of fruits and vegetables. Livestock farmers conduct this activity at altitudes between 900 to 2,200 metres above sea level, as these are the areas where most of the natural pastures that alpaca feed on are located. This current climate event has significantly altered the livestock's natural food chain. It has become difficult for them to access these natural pastures, and the livestock are dying from the lack of food, and the extreme weather conditions.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: The immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met								3500 food parcels are distributed to 3500 families								
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Appropriate food rations are distributed to vulnerable households																
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
AP007	Identification of most vulnerable families to receive food assistance	X	X	X													
AP007	Consultation with the families to the identification of the needed food	X	X	X	X												
AP007	Local procurement, transportation and distribution of food parcels			X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
AP007	Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distribution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF)

Quick links

[Emergency Items Catalogue 2009](#)

[Logistics Standards Online](#)

[Procurement Portal](#)

P&B Output Code	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												
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected												
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured	X											
AP040	Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face	X	X										
AP040	Provide psychosocial support to volunteers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP040	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP040	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained	X	X										

Human resources

A small team (5 staff from MRCS HQ) is qualified in MRCS. A total of 100 volunteers are involved in this operation (average 15 volunteers per branch)

Logistics and supply chain

Procurement of relief items, will be carried out locally in provincial capitals before being transported by trucks to the affected communities following the appropriate procurement procedures, as per IFRC standards, All items are available in the market and are as per the standards set by the .

Communications

Some targeted branches have social media pages where they publish their activities. 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.

Security

For security issues, as well as for accessibility reasons, the MRCS is collaborating with government authorities and military respecting the principles and roles of humanitarian assistance, to distribute and facilitate the distribution of all humanitarian aid to affected areas.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Regular field monitoring will be carried out to ensure activities are delivered as per the plan.

Communication and coordination will be maintained with the IFRC's DCPRR unit for MENA and the country cluster office in Tunis. A workshop will be conducted towards the beginning of the operation to insure that the MRCS staff and volunteers who are engaged in the response operation.

An lessons learned workshop will be held towards the end of the period to review the challenges and the best practices identified by the the key stakeholders of this operation.

Progress reports and a final report will be drawn up and submitted in a timely manner. Visits and interviews will be conducted to beneficiaries, volunteers and any others that are part of the team in order to track progress, fulfilment of targets or adjustments and so forth. Furthermore, a Beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted by the MRCS , and in support of the IFRC MENA PMER unit.

Budget

See attached summary budget.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Moroccan Red Crescent:** Mr Abdessalam Makroumy : General Director, Phone +21266122438, Email: crm@menara.ma
- **Moroccan Red Crescent:** Dr Mohammed Bendali, Head of aid, disaster management department; Phone: +212 66 1360860, E-mail: bendalimed@gmail.com
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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut:** Sami Fakhouri, Head of Partnerships and Resource Development, Mobile +961 81311918; Email: sami.fakhouri@ifrc.org

For performance and accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator, Mobile: +961 79 300 561; Email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

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:

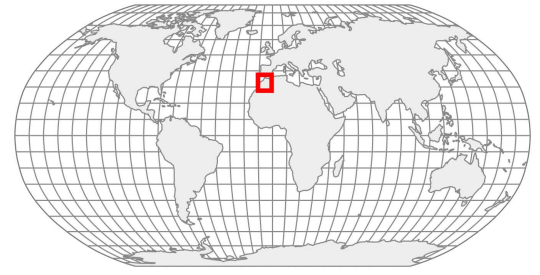
1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Morocco - Cold Wave

MDRMA009

Budget Group		DREF Grant	DREF Budget CHF
500	Shelter - Relief	0	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	85,750	85,750
520	Food	117,250	117,250
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0	0
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Utensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES		203,000	203,000
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT		0	0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	2,500	2,500
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000	4,000
594	Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE		6,500	6,500
600	International Staff	0	0
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	3,000	3,000
667	Volunteers	8,650	8,650
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
Total PERSONNEL		11,650	11,650
670	Consultants	0	0
750	Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES		0	0
680	Workshops & Training	5,000	5,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING		5,000	5,000
700	Travel	4,000	4,000
710	Information & Public Relations	0	0
730	Office Costs	2,000	2,000
740	Communications	1,500	1,500
760	Financial Charges	650	650
790	Other General Expenses	0	0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES		8,150	8,150
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS		0	0
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	15,230	15,230
Total INDIRECT COSTS		15,230	15,230
TOTAL BUDGET		249,530	249,530



Morocco, Cold Wave: DREF

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