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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Algeria: Cold Wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF	Operation n° MDRDZ003;
Date of Issue: 20/02/2018	Glide number: CL-2017-000011-DZA
Date of disaster: 16/01/2017	
Operation start date: 26/01/2017	Operation end date: 26/04/2017
Host National Society: Algerian Red Crescent	Operation budget: CHF 193,553
Number of people affected: 125,000	Number of people assisted: 10,000
National Societies involved in the operation: Algerian Red Crescent	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation: Government of Spain/AECID	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

A cold wave affected Algeria on 16th January 2017. The *wilayat* (provinces) of Eastern, Central and the High Plateau regions witnessed significant snow. The precipitation was accompanied by moderate winds, and temperatures that dropped significantly, reaching exceptionally low records, particularly in the central regions of the country. This wave of cold and snow caused economic and livelihood losses in several isolated areas. Electricity was interrupted and houses suffered from structural damages, especially tents used by nomadic population. Water supply was interrupted due to the freezing temperatures. In addition, traffic was paralyzed because of inaccessible roads which reduced supplies to remote communities.

To cope with the situation, substantial Government and military resources have been deployed.

The Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) -Disaster Management Unit- activated its disaster response teams and an assessment was conducted in the affected areas in order to respond accordingly. Initial assessments carried out in 37 *wilayat* (Batna, Biskra, Tizi-Ouzou, Sétif, Souk-Ahras, Laghouat, Jijel, Constantine, Médéa, Djelfa, Tissemsilt, Khenchela, Mila, Oum el Bouaghi, Tébessa, Bouira, Bordj Bou Arreridj, El Taraf, El Bayad, Bejaia, Saida, Setif, Guelma, Constantine, Medea, Mila, Ain Temouchent, Bechar, Mascara, Naama, Adrar, Ain Defla, Chlef, Relizane, Sidi Bel abbes, Tlemcen, Skikda, Annaba, Mostaganem, Boumerdes, and Tindouf) indicated that up to 25,000 families were been affected by the adverse weather conditions to various degrees. More than 7,570 families among them being vulnerable. In coordination with the Algerian authorities, the ARC provided relief to the most affected people, including food and non-food relief items, and assisted them in preserving their health during this cold wave.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The Algerian Red Crescent is an Algerian humanitarian volunteer organization founded in 1956. It was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1963 and since then a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

During the disaster, all branches of ARCS were mobilized and involved in the response operation around the clock.

The Algerian Red Crescent cooperated closely with local and national authorities and partners with the aim to support 7,570 families by mobilizing its volunteers in the branches and staff in Headquarters to provide relief in the form of food and non-food items.

The full operation to assist 7,570 households spread over 37 *wilayat*. Those households received:

- Blankets
- food parcels
- clothing
- mattresses

This includes assistance provided to 320 nomadic families with blankets, food parcels, clothing, mattresses and tents for the winter period. The assistance program was organized with the participation of local authorities, stakeholders, and beneficiaries.

The Algerian Red Crescent requested support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in order to meet the needs of 2,000 families out of the total of 7,570 assisted.

Therefore, through this DREF, Algerian Red Crescent assisted 2,000 families (10,000 people) in 10 *wilayat*:

- Souk Ahras
- Tissemssilt
- Khenchla
- Oum El Bouagui
- Tebessa
- Bouira
- Bejaia
- Guelma
- Borj Bouarerij
- Ain Temouchent

Table 1: Kilometric distances from the capital Algiers

Wilayat (Province)	Souk Ahras	Tissemssilt	Khenchla	Oum El Bouagui	Tebessa	Bouira	Bejaia	Guelma	Borj Bouarerij	Ain Temouchent
Distances from Algiers (the capital) Km	584	218	462	461	582	103	247	489	197	481

In the frame of the global operation, ARC also distributed 12 generators to isolated villages cut off from electricity supply due to the main electricity grid having been damaged by the adverse weather. In addition, ARC teams were also mobilized to assist homeless people and migrant population in urban areas, by providing hot meals, clothing, blankets and first aid kits.

More than 400 trained volunteers participated in this operation. These volunteers were mobilized in the affected branches or branches nearby. They were supervised by regional and national coordinators from the National Society.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Country Cluster North Africa Office in Tunis and the DCPRR and PMER units at IFRC MENA Regional Office in Lebanon monitored the situation.

IFRC works in coordination with the ICRC, which has been in Algeria since the 1954 war of independence.

For the global response operation, the ARC has been also supported by Qatar Red Crescent Society with 2,500 blankets and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society with 620 food parcels, 1,240 mattresses and 1,240 blankets.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As per its “plan ORSEC” (National Emergency Plan) the Government leads and coordinates relief activities. A Crisis Committee was established at high level of the Ministry of Interior. Local authorities and crisis committees were set in the affected *Wilayat*.

Under the instructions of Prime Minister, all efforts were made to support the areas affected by the cold wave and snow. To help the targeted population, work on partnership was set among the People National Army Forces, Civil protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Solidarity, *Gendarmerie Nationale* (police in rural areas), National Company of Electricity and Gaz and the Algerian Red Crescent.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

As stated above before, an assessment was conducted to evaluate the impact of the disaster and detailed needs. ARC at HQ and branches level participated in assessment together with crisis committees from the Minister of Interior, at central and *wilayat* level and involving representatives of stakeholders and beneficiaries. Result of the assessment in table 2.

That was followed by a list of beneficiaries, prepared by ARC according to vulnerabilities, based on which the required items were procured, transported and distributed among the selected beneficiaries.

Table 2. Number of families assessed and assisted with the support of the DREF per Wilayat

Wilayat	# of affected families after initial assessment	# of affected families after joint assessment	# of assisted families with the support of the DREF
SOUK-AHRAS	145	576	300
TISSEMSILT	239	557	100
KHENCHELA	58	565	200
OUM EL BOUAGHI	35	546	300
TEBESSA	95	535	300
BOUIRA	80	463	150
BORDJ BOU ARRERIDJ	55	374	150
BEJAIA	120	315	200
GUELMA	95	323	150
AIN TEMOUCHENT	127	234	150
		Total	2,000

The IFRC supported ARC in procurement of blankets from the IFRC Logistic Centre in Las Palmas and in shipment to Port of Oran. Procurement of rest of items was done locally by ARC.

The food parcel per family consists of the following items:

Table 3. Composition of the distributed Kits per family

Category	Items	Quantities
Food	Rice	1 kg
	Oil	5 litres
	Tinned tomatoes	500 grs
	Lentils	1kg
	Couscous	500 grs
	Sugar	1 kg
	White bean	1 kg
	Pasta	1 kg
Non-Food	Mattresses	----
	Blankets	----

Local authorities focused on the rehabilitation of the destroyed houses and infrastructures (routes and bridges). This type of assistance required more than four months in some *wilayat* to materialise, therefore, the ARC immediate distribution of food and non-food items was vital to assist people and alleviate their suffering in the short term.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Objective

This DREF operation sought to meet the immediate needs of 2,000 families (10,000 people) affected by the Cold Wave through procurement and provision of basic food and non-food items (blankets, mattresses). Beneficiaries from selected Wilayat were provided food and non-food items based on the results of their situation and needs assessment, agreed with local authorities, beneficiary representatives and the Crisis Committees. The overall objective of the operation was successfully reached.

Proposed strategy

Staff and volunteers of the ARC HQ and branches were actively engaged in the response operation, through its network in the whole country and in close coordination with local authorities and other actors.

ARC played its role as a member of the National Crisis Committee led by the Government and it was able to reach its objective of identifying and assisting the most affected and vulnerable, especially in remote regions of the country, according to its initial plan.

In total, 88,545 people (including 10,000 people assisted with the present DREF) were assisted during the relief operation by the National Society. All relief items were purchased in the local market, except blankets shipped from Las Palmas with assistance of IFRC. Local procurement was done in accordance to ARC tendering rules and procedures.

Operational support services

Human resources

Trained and experienced staff and volunteers of the ARC were deployed to carry out the activities. In each of the affected branches, trained and equipped volunteer Teams were mobilised to operate under the guidance of HQ and branch coordinators. National Society undertook regular monitoring of distributions and post-distribution phases.

Logistics and supply chain

The procurement of items and services fulfilled the required conditions according to the needs of the affected population and specificities of locations. Items were procured at local level, except blankets mobilised by IFRC from Logistic Centre in Las Palmas.

According to its operation strategy, the ARC involved beneficiaries and local stakeholders at local level, community leaders, village committees, religious leaders and local authorities to prepare beneficiary list. Also, and very important all mentioned actors participated during distribution phase in order to guarantee transparency and equality.

Communications

During the first days of the launch of DREF Cold wave, ARC shared initial information with IFRC North Africa Country Cluster and maintained periodically update of the operation situation.

The Algerian Red Crescent Society, through its Communication department, produced during the DREF operation, reports related to its response activities and published photos on social networks. ARC field staff and volunteers were available for media interviews after prior coordination with the ARC Communication department.

IFRC published a webstory and TV reportage on the public IFRC website:

<http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/2017/02/03/algerian-red-crescent-brings-relief-to-rural-and-nomad-communities-following-cold-wave/>

Security

No security incidents affected the operation during the implementation period.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)


ARC teams continuously monitored the implementation of activities and the quality of the relief items before their procurement and distribution. ARC, with its different departments oversaw all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the operation through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC has been in regular contact with ARC and a technical mission from the IFRC MENA Regional Office was undertaken in May 2017.

Administration and Finance

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed between the IFRC and the Algerian Red Crescent to outline the parties' responsibilities regarding the implementation of the activities planned within the DREF operation, and to ensure that the appropriate guidelines are respected in terms of the use of DREF allocations.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Outcome 1: 2,000 families will be provided with basic non-food items

	<p>Shelter</p> <p>People reached: 10,000 estimated</p> <p>Male: 5,000</p> <p>Female: 5,000</p>
Outputs	
Output 1.1: Procurement and distribution of essential non-food items to 2,000 affected families	
Activities planned	% of achievement
Assessment and beneficiary identification	100%
Procurement of non-food items (blankets and mattresses)	100%
Distribution of non-food items	100%
Post-distribution monitoring	100%
Narrative description of achievements	
<p>As part of the operation, basic non-food items (blankets, mattresses) were distributed to 10,000 people (2,000 families) in 10 <i>wilayat</i> of the country.</p> <p>The ARC staff and volunteers conducted rapid and detailed assessments, the results of which were analysed and shared with local authorities. The ARC assessments are recognized and accepted and used as a reliable source of information to plan humanitarian assistance to the affected population. In addition, ARC participated in a revised assessment with main stakeholders.</p> <p>Based on the detailed needs assessment, the ARC prepared lists of beneficiaries in need of NFIs and agreed them with the local authorities and community leaders.</p> <p>The procurement of items and services fulfilled the required conditions according to the needs of the affected population and specificities of locations. Items were procured at local level, except blankets mobilised by IFRC from Logistic Centre in Las Palmas.</p>	
Challenges	
<p>The following challenges were faced by the National Society during the implementation of the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to all affected areas for analysing the real situation in the first days after the precipitation of snow. That was overcome during revised joint assessment. • Different sizes of families made it difficult to give a preliminary estimate of the number of affected people. • long distance between the centres and targeted areas. 	

Lessons Learned

- ARC branches would need their own vehicles to transport relief items from their stocks to the distribution points in shorter time particularly to the remote areas, while this was done in collaboration with authorities.
- Coordination of activities with local authorities should be reinforced through cooperation and implementation of joint activities including DM reinforcement, training and simulation exercises.
- Despite that, the response operations to the Cold wave were successful, there is need for DRR projects to be implemented in the area, and community response capacities and awareness need to be developed so as to prepare the population for future disasters and emergencies.

Outcome 1: 2,000 families will be provided with food parcels



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 10,000 estimated

Male: 5,000

Female: 5,000

Outputs

Output 1.1: Procurement and distribution of 2,000 food parcels

Activities planned	% of achievement
Assessment and beneficiary identification	100%
Procurement of-food parcels	100%
Distribution of non-food items	100%
Post-distribution monitoring	100%

Narrative description of achievements

Food parcels items were purchased by ARC from local suppliers that also provided transportation of the items to each *wilayat*, located from 100 to 600 km from the HQ to the regions.

As part of the operation, food parcels were distributed to 10,000 people (2,000 families) in 10 *wilayat* of the country.

The ARC staff and volunteers conducted rapid and detailed assessments, the results of which were analysed and shared with local authorities. In addition, ARC participated in a revised assessment with main stakeholders.

The distribution of food parcels was arranged by the ARC with support of representatives from the HQ and branches, in close cooperation and coordination with the local administration and community leaders.

Challenges

The following challenges were faced by the National Society during the implementation of the operation:

- Lack of access to all affected areas for analysing the real situation in the first days after the precipitation of snow.
- Different sizes of families made it difficult to give a preliminary estimate of the number of affected people.
- long distances between the centres and target areas.

Lessons Learned

- Coordination of activities with local authorities should be reinforced through cooperation and implementation of joint activities including DM capacity reinforcement projects, training and simulation exercises.
- Despite that the response operations to the Cold wave were successful, there is need for DRR projects to be implemented in the area, and community response capacities and awareness need to be developed so as to prepare the population for future disasters and emergencies.

D. BUDGET

The attached financial report shows expenditure totalling CHF 185,798. Variance from budget derives mainly from inclusion of logistics costs under relief items in the original budget, whereas expenditures were rightly booked under Logistics transport and storage. The variance in these two categories therefore offset one another. Food costs exceeded planned expenditures, while travel was less expensive than what was originally planned. There is a final balance of CHF 7,755, which will be returned to the DREF Global Fund.

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 (NGOs) 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.

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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

Annex: Photos



Figure 1 ARC volunteers with ARC President organizing distribution with nomadic communities



Figure 2 ARC volunteers organizing distribution with nomadic communities



Figure 3 ARC organizing distribution operation



Figure 4 distribution of tents, food and NFIs together with local authorities for nomadic communities



Figure 5 ARC volunteer providing assistance to migrant families



Figure 6 ARC volunteers providing assistance to households in remote areas with civil protection



Figure 7 ARC volunteers organizing assistance in Hauts Plateaux region



Figure 8 ARC volunteers organizing assistance in Hauts Plateaux region

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRDZ003 - Algeria - Cold Wave

Appeal Timeframe: 26 Jan 17 to 26 Apr 17

Appeal Launch Date: 26 Jan 17

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/12-2017/12	Programme	MDRDZ003
Budget Timeframe	2016/12-2017/12	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	N	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health & social services	National Society development	Principles & Values	Co-ordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	193,553					193,553	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	193,553					193,553	
C4. Other Income	193,553					193,553	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	193,553					193,553	
D. Total Funding = B + C	193,553					193,553	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health & social services	National Society development	Principles & Values	Co-ordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income	193,553					193,553	
E. Expenditure	-185,798					-185,798	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	7,755					7,755	

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Split by funding source	N	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance A - B
	Budget	Disaster Management	Health & social services	National Society development	Principles & Values	Co-ordination		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		193,553				193,553		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	131,000	91,528				91,528	39,472	
Food	30,000	46,624				46,624	-16,624	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	161,000	138,152				138,152	22,848	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage		3,092				3,092	-3,092	
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000	9,242				9,242	758	
Transport & Vehicles Costs		11,996				11,996	-11,996	
Logistics Services		6,670				6,670	-6,670	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,000	30,999				30,999	-20,999	
Personnel								
Volunteers	1,150						1,150	
Total Personnel	1,150						1,150	
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,500	2,166				2,166	4,334	
Information & Public Relations		47				47	-47	
Office Costs	1,500	1,525				1,525	-25	
Communications	1,500	806				806	694	
Financial Charges	90	46				46	44	
Other General Expenses		717				717	-717	
Total General Expenditure	9,590	5,306				5,306	4,284	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	11,813	11,340				11,340	473	
Total Indirect Costs	11,813	11,340				11,340	473	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	193,553	185,798				185,798	7,755	
VARIANCE (C - D)		7,755				7,755		

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Split by funding source	N	Project	*

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Sector / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
Disaster_Management							
Disaster management	193,553		193,553	193,553	185,798	7,755	
Subtotal Disaster_Management	193,553		193,553	193,553	185,798	7,755	
GRAND TOTAL	193,553		193,553	193,553	185,798	7,755	