

DREF operation n° MDRTN005 27 August 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.



Tunisian Red Crescent staff and volunteers assisting the most vulnerable of the Tunisian communities of Jendouba.
Source: TRC

Summary: CHF 129,179 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on February 9th, 2012 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries), living in rural areas affected by the unusual cold wave since the end of January. TRC mobilised more than 100 volunteers over two weeks for raising funds and donations and ensuring logistics and relief activities. 140 Tones of humanitarian assistance were distributed to 3400 families within two weeks which exceeded the initial planned target.

A special bank account number was created and made available for people to support the operation. By the February 21st TRC succeeded to support 3400 families with food, mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and clothes.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the national society, would like to extend thanks

to all for their generous contributions.”

Details of all donors can be found at http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

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The situation

Heavy snowfall has completely isolated several villages, which have completely isolated several villages in North, West and North-West Tunisia towards early February.

Electricity supply was interrupted due to high snow, which has reached almost 1 meter, the inhabitants couldn't get access to their firewood or cattle food. The only way to reach and supply these villages had to be military helicopters. The most affected communities were families with children, most often below the poverty line and thus the emergency of the operation.

Intense snowfall in many parts of the regions affected a total of 30,000 families across six regions in Tunisia. Although temperatures started to increase as of February 17th, and the snow stopped falling, several landslides occurred in various locations which has resulted in the destruction of around 30 houses (according to official sources).



Coordination and partnerships

The government appointed two coordinators to monitor the situation in the North West but who in their turn remained isolated since February 3rd and blocked by large snowfall. A crisis cell was tasked to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders formed of the Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, and the Ministry of Transport. The government has initiated actions to support people in the snow-blocked villages. 6 centres were managed by the government to host the relocated families. Cooperation between TRC and the Government was established with the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and civil protection services who are working together to rescue people and supply remote villages with food items and medicines.

Cooperation with national radio and TV succeeded increasing the efficiency of TRC's intervention and its visibility resulting in more support coming from people.. Many private companies supported TRC to help the affected families.

The Libyan Red Crescent sent two humanitarian convoys to Tunisia one of which (sent on the February 22nd) was directly coordinated with Tunisian Army.

UNHCR supported TRC with mattresses, blankets, tents, hygiene kits and kitchen sets.

Cooperation with local NGOs allowed TRC to play sometimes a leading role in logistics and relief aspects.

TRC was invited by the Presidency of the Republic to take part in the high-level national crisis cell.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 1,200 families (approximately 6,000 people) a onetime distribution of basic food and non-food items will be done

Outputs and activities planned: **The needs of 1,200 families are met.**

Activities planned:

- Continuous cooperation with local crisis headquarters and other partners at the field.
- Mobilization of staff and volunteers in 5 regions for assessments and distribution.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency items in Tunisia
- Distribution of emergency items by TRC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists
- Beneficiaries will be notified regarding the time of distribution.
- Informing media about the distribution and the assistance provided by TRCS
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

The Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) started supporting the most vulnerable people in west-southern Tunisia, during the last weeks of January, at the early stages of the cold wave.

On February 9th, TRCS approached the IFRC to request a DREF for quick support to the most affected regions by the cold wave: Jandouba, Kef, Kassrine, Siliana and Bizerte.

From the February 7th to 21st, TRC organized a fundraising campaign to support 2,000 families with progressive enlargement of the targeted region to include Beja and Zaghuan. The campaign was rapidly made national in partnership with the national radio and TV channel.

Regional and local branches were also involved in collecting and distributing donations to the most affected areas. By the February 21st, 11 regional branches and 30 local branches (Sfax, Médenine, Sousse, Zaghuan, Ariana, Ben Arous, Bizerte, Kébili, Sidi Bouzid, Gabes and Nabeul) were supporting those regions.

In addition to that, TRC activated its national operations room to coordinate the whole operation and secure the distribution of the relief items. An advanced coordination cell was established in Jandouba (the most affected region) by February 10th to support the regional branch in operational management of the crisis.

Staff and Volunteers were mobilized to support the planned activities in 11 regional and 30 local branches which exceeded the initial target, due to the severity of the situation.

More than 100 Volunteers were engaged assessments at local level, in distributing emergency items and in coordinating the whole operation. 6 Volunteers trained in the last MENA RDRT session were involved in coordinating the operations at national level.

Emergency items were purchased in Tunisia. TRC succeeded to support 3400 families with food and Non food items.

Challenges:

The fact that there is no Standard Operation (SOP) for TRC for any disaster.

Moreover, TRC's new branches need to be trained and well-prepared to manage such crisis. There is a lack in Human resources (staff and volunteers) to manage such operations. TRC has mobilised two staff and 4 volunteers for the 48 first hours. Mobilisation of volunteers at national level is still very slow and took 4 days to start meeting the emerging needs. Volunteers and staff were overwhelmed and at least 7 volunteers got sick (exhaustion, stress). HR's operational system needs to be implemented very soon.

Purchasing emergency items from local suppliers were also a challenge due to several factors such as shortage of needed items, logistics issues, payment delays, requisition delays and others.

Cooperation with other stakeholders needs to be more institutionalized to protect the NS and the beneficiaries.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Gerard LAUTREDOU, + 216 71 862 485; mob: + 216 71 862 971; email: gerard.lautredou@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Dr Hosam Faisal, DM Coordinator, MENA Zone; phone: +961 (0)5 956 058; mob+961 71 802 916; email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):**

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Samah Hassoun, Senior RM Officer, Mena Zone, phone: + 961 70 480 488, email: samah.hassoun@ifrc.org

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

- **In IFRCZone:** Nadine Haddad, Senior PMER Officer, MENA zone, phone +961 70 802 775, email: nadine.haddad@ifrc.org
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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 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
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MDRTN005 - Tunisia - Cold Wave

Appeal Launch Date: 09 feb 12

Appeal Timeframe: 09 feb 12 to 09 apr 12

final report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/2- 2012/5
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-2012/5
Appeal	Mdrtn005
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	129,179					129,179	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	129,179					129,179	
C4. Other Income	129,179					129,179	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	129,179					129,179	
D. Total Funding = B +C	129,179					129,179	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	129,179					129,179	
E. Expenditure	-129,055					-129,055	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	124					124	

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		129,179				129,179		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	68,800	61,734				61,734	7,066	
Food	20,000	20,721				20,721	-721	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	88,800	82,455				82,455	6,345	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	13,700	25,021				25,021	-11,321	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	13,700	3,495				3,495	10,205	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	27,400	28,516				28,516	-1,116	
Personnel								
Volunteers	1,350	9,256				9,256	-7,906	
Total Personnel	1,350	9,256				9,256	-7,906	
General Expenditure								
Office Costs	2,000	952				952	1,048	
Communications	1,000						1,000	
Financial Charges	745						745	
Total General Expenditure	3,745	952				952	2,793	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	7,884	7,877				7,877	8	
Total Indirect Costs	7,884	7,877				7,877	8	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	129,179	129,055				129,055	124	
VARIANCE (C - D)		124				124		