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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Egypt: Complex emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDREG011
GLIDE n° CE-2012-000194-EGY
22 November 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.

CHF 213,320 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 800 beneficiaries (100 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

The Egyptian Red Crescent society -and since the beginning of the recent military operations in Gaza- was monitoring the situation and increasing the preparedness level to be able to respond to the possible humanitarian needs at the Egyptian side of the borders and to support the logistical needs to facilitate a smooth and efficient transport of the relief goods and medical supplies into Gaza considering the experience gained after 2008 Gaza crisis.



National Disaster Response team training exercise supported by IFRC early November 2012. Photo: ERC

The situation

As of 21 of December: Over a hundred people have been reported killed and hundreds more injured due to the current conflict between Palestine (Gaza) and Israel. The attacks have drained the already scarce resources in medical supplies and equipment in Gaza and have created a need for outside assistance, most of which at this time can only reach the area through the Rafah border crossing in Egypt. Despite massive diplomatic efforts from the international community, and a relatively normal situation at the border crossing (as of the 19th of November) the possibility of an escalation in the conflict, increasing the potential for large-scale population movement towards Egypt. Such a scenario would require a significant scale up of assistance in-country and lead to an international emergency appeal. This DREF allocation aims to cover the needs created by the current situation and will be scaled up as required by the evolution of the situation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months (although the situation remains fluid at time of publication), and will therefore be completed by 21 January 2013; a Final Report will be made available by 21 April 2013 (three months after the end of the operation).

Coordination and partnerships

On the 18-19th of November, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) carried out a joint assessment of the situation in Al Arish and at the Rafah crossing, on the border with Gaza. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the humanitarian impact of the crisis on the Egyptian side of the border, assess capacity and design a joint plan of action to support the ERC in responding to needs. The present DREF operation reflects the IFRC-supported components of the joint plan of action that will reflect the coordinated contributions of the ICRC and IFRC in supporting the National Society. It will focus on enhancing the ERC capacity to respond to the needs of people crossing the border by prepositioning emergency stocks in its branch in Al Arish and by strengthening its capacity to manage the flow of in-kind donations coming into the country, in coordination with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society operating on the other side of the border

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In previous operations, the ERC had been mandated by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate the reception and channelling of international assistance entering Gaza from Egypt. Based on the previous experience of 2008, when 22 days of attacks in Gaza had led to a massive mobilization of in-kind donations through the Egyptian border, the ERC is preparing for a large logistical operation in its branch of North Sinai. Given the possibility of population movement across the border, the ERC will also restock and pre-position emergency stocks for 100 vulnerable families.

Medical evacuations and treatments are primarily managed by the Ministry of Health, with support from ERC in first aid and transport as required.

The lessons learned from the 2008 operation indicated that the main challenge faced by the ERC was the massive flow of relief material and donations, some of which were not needed. Most of them had been sent without any previous communication to the authorities or the ERC, as well as with no clear indication of the recipient of the aid in the Gaza Strip. Proper logistical communication (including donation certificates, waybills etc.) and coordination will be required from the onset by donors to avoid the repetition of this scenario. Overall capacity of logisticians and relief staff required strengthening, a point that will be addressed through capacity building activities.

The proposed operation

At the time of writing this DREF operation (20/11/2012), the ERC was already receiving information on the imminent arrival of medical equipment and supplies, including a field hospital, from donor countries. Efforts to prepare the branch to receive, handle and transfer these donations and to coordinate effectively with the Palestinian Red Crescent on the handing over of these vital supplies are paramount.

IFRC support: The IFRC is supporting the ERC in its role as the main channel of humanitarian assistance destined for Gaza. A Head of Emergency Operations (HeOps), deployed in country to assist the ERC in updating its contingency planning in case of a deterioration of the situation and it will deploy a logistics RDRT to enhance the operational and logistical capacity of the North Sinai branch to respond to the arrival of in-kind donations.

ICRC support: Together with the IFRC, the ICRC Delegation is participating in the finalization of the ERC contingency plan and contributes to a coordinated response plan, primarily through its previously established Joint Relief Operations agreement. This includes the provision of technical advice and financial contribution as required, and the supply of emergency material and support to organize relief, first aid, logistics and RFL/MFL telephone service.

National Society Capacity: The ERC is responsible for the provision of humanitarian care and assistance for vulnerable population and for people affected by natural and man-made disasters. The ERC is the main organization that assists the public authorities in disaster preparedness and response. The ERC promotes and disseminates international humanitarian law and values in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The ERC enjoys good coordination and cooperation levels with the various Egyptian authorities, and enjoys credibility and respect among the general public.

Legal base: The ERC was founded in 1912. It was recognized by the ICRC in 1924 and admitted into the League (now the International Federation) in 1929. The Society was registered again under a presidential decree in 1967.

Constituency: The Society operates through 27 branches (one in each governorate). Every branch is registered at the governorate administration and has its own general assembly. Average membership of the branches is approximately 5,000. In most branches, the percentage of women exceeds that of men. Volunteers of the headquarters and branches exceed 20,000.

Leadership: The General Assembly is composed of elected members from each of the ERC's 27 branches, and meets once every year. The main governing body is the Board. The President of the Board is appointed by a presidential decree. The Board elects among its members the Secretary General and the Treasurer, and appoints a Director General who runs the daily managerial affairs and is accountable to the elected Secretary General.

Human resources: At headquarters level, there are eight administrative divisions: advocacy and public relations; external relations; disaster management; health care; youth affairs; financial; administration; and monitoring and evaluation. Personnel at headquarters level exceed 60, including 15 professional workers, 25 administrative employees and 20 drivers and aids; in addition to 50 staff working at headquarters youth clubs and blood banks.

A recent National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) has been constituted with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC. It consists in 35 volunteers in capacity to be deployed urgently whatever the crisis. This team is connected to the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), which includes specialist in logistics.

Pre-positioning of relief stocks (basic non-food items)

Outcome: Relief items for 100 families are available in anticipation of a possible influx of people from Gaza seeking safety, shelter, and assistance.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Local procurement and pre-positioning of tents and family kits (blankets, hygiene kits, jerrycans kitchen sets, mattresses and tarpaulins) for 100 families in Al Arish;
- Monitor the existing situation and conduct rapid emergency needs as required by potential population movement.
- Support the authorities in beneficiary registration and delivery of assistance as required;
- Distribute relief supplies to beneficiaries as required;
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

These relief items will complement the assistance of 50 family kits already dispatched by ERC and to be replenished by the ICRC. The total ERC stock in Al Arish will therefore be for 150 families.

Logistics

Outcome: An efficient supply chain is achieved in receiving, warehousing and transferring in-kind donations to PRCS according to operational priorities.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Reinforce the ERC's local logistics capacity towards the coordinated mobilization of relief goods including reception of all incoming goods, warehouse management and efficient dispatch of goods to the handover point with PRCS at the border;
- The ICRC and the IFRC will work with the ERC to build its logistics capacity through a joint logistic workshop
- Liaise and coordinate actions with local, national and international donors and authorities;
- Identification and rental of additional warehousing space as required.

Though no mobilization table is being issued at this stage to request specific in-kind support, donors are urged to coordinate with the PRCS and the ERC regarding specific and outstanding needs. Donors are further encouraged to follow the established Guidelines for donations of drugs and other equipment.

The ERC North Sinai branch office in Al Arish has 300sqm of warehousing space, which may prove insufficient once the volume of in-kind donations reaches a certain level. However, unlike in 2008, increased insecurity in the area eliminates the option of rub halls. Should the need arise; ERC will seek additional warehousing space through short-term rental of hard structures.

Emergency shelter and contingency planning

It is not considered under the current planning assumptions that the ERC would be required to engage in shelter activities. However, should a population movement occur, ERC portfolio of responsibilities could expand to include camp management, involving the provision of shelter and other services such as food distribution, water and sanitation and psychosocial support. Egyptian authorities have already identified two sites in Rafah and Sheikh Zwayed for the potential establishment of camps. The IFRC stands ready to support the ERC as required in further assessments and response in this regard, in close coordination with the ICRC.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Adequate visibility for donors and the Federation will be ensured, including maintaining a high profile in national media, when possible. Photographs highlighting the contribution of donors will be taken throughout the relief operations and made available to donors upon completion.

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 (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.

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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.

DREF OPERATION

22/11/2012

MDREG011 Egypt: Complex emergency

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	45,000
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	10,000
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	11,800
Other Supplies & Services	10,000
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	76,800
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	3,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	3,000
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	6,000
Storage, Warehousing	15,000
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,000
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	55,000
International Staff	6,000
National Staff	
National Society Staff	10,000
Volunteers	15,100
Total PERSONNEL	31,100
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	10,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	10,000
Travel	5,000
Information & Public Relations	4,000
Office Costs	3,900
Communications	3,000
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	5,000
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	21,400
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	13,020
Total INDIRECT COSTS	13,020
TOTAL BUDGET	213,320