

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Final 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: 6 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: IFRC, ICRC (Coordination)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: World Health Organization (WHO), Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), Ministry of Health, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	

Date	Description
December 2019	West Bank Operation Room was activated.
January 2020	Start of heavy rains and storms, resulting in flooding in almost all Palestinian governorates. Immediate start of Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) response operation.
	Needs assessment for 2,098 families in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was carried out in January, and 1,959 were provided with relief items
	Gaza activated the Operation Room.
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/ NDRT in West Bank, reached out to 520 families (2,980 beneficiaries) and in Gaza, PRCS reached out 851 Family (5,283 beneficiaries).
April 2020	Distribution conducted by PRCS, West Bank, total affected families were 1,076 (5,393 beneficiaries) and in Gaza, 883 families, (5,474 beneficiaries).
	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)
July 2020	Final procurement and delivery of 1,024 hygiene kits.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Extreme weather conditions hit the West Bank 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 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: Delivery of relief items - Photo PRCS

Summary of Response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

PRCS activated its operation rooms in December 2019 in the West Bank (WB) and Gaza strip since the beginning of January 2020 in preparation for the arrival of the expected heavy rainfall while PRCS emergency teams were 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 were conducted and close coordination with partners and service providers on the ground was 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 Implementation of the DREF was affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic which resulted in the scaling down of staff available at the PRCS HQ, and volunteers being reassigned to the COVID-19 response.

During the cold wave PRCS distributed relief items to 1,959 families as per the following table:



Figure 2 Receiving Hygiene Kits - Photo PRCS

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 was ongoing coordination between PRCS, the Palestinian Civil Defence, local and national authorities, including governorates and municipalities. Weekly updates were held between the PRCS/IFRC staff. The ICRC assisted through facilitating the international procurement of tarpaulins and importing these to oPt.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Shelter

During the operation, 1,959 affected families have, following needs assessments, received the following:

Item	# of distributed items
Winter blankets	5,855
Mattresses	4,607
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 1,064, 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).

Item	# of distributed items
Blankets	1,064
Mattresses	847
Kerosene heaters	95 – for WB
Electric heaters	182 for Gaza
Tarpaulins	5,800
kitchen sets	81 for WB and 81 for Gaza

WASH

During the operation, following needs assessments, 1,413 hygiene kits were distributed to affected families of which 421 have been replenished.

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 requested a re-allocation of the remaining balance to replenish hygiene kits, which was approved, and the kits then procured and delivered.

Operation Risk Assessment

The key challenge to the implementation of the operation was the outbreak and subsequent the pandemic of COVID-19. This 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 having to respond to two disaster events simultaneously. Consequently, the final procurement of the hygiene kits resulted in the extension of the operation for two months.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

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

Human resources

The PRCS deployed 600 volunteers since the beginning of their response. These volunteers were 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 was included. IFRC country representation office supported and followed up with the reporting of the operation

Logistics and supply chain

Logistic support to the intervention was provided following PRCS procedures to source and procure relief items and to ensure the efficient and timely distribution to affected beneficiaries. ICRC supported the international procurement of tarpaulins. IFRC in the country and MENA Regional Office provided logistics support to PRCS when needed.

Communications

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. Information was also shared via the IFRC Go Platform. Additionally, PRCS has been strengthening its capacity in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) through recent staff training and used this knowledge to integrate CEA throughout 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. 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. However, throughout the operation, there were no security incidents.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

PMER was crucial to the delivery of the planned operation to ensure evidence-based reporting, upholding accountability, and compliance with the established standards. In this regards monitoring was undertaken regularly by the PRCS and IFRC to track the effects and impact of response actions, and progress of activities and the delivery of outputs.

Administration and finance

The PRCS was 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 provided necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the PRCS on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

C.DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 10,867

Male: n/a

Female: n/a

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		
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>		



Water, sanitation, and hygiene

People reached: 7,065

Male: 3,333

Female: 3,732

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
<i>The number of hygiene kits procured already is 200 and planned to increase by 1,024 hygiene kits.</i>

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		
<i>During the response operation, 600 volunteers have been insured and issued with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).</i>		

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		
<i>Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic and movement restriction, there was one remote surge support deployed to support the operation. Funds allocated for the physical deployment was reallocated for replenishment of hygiene kits.</i>		

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	2
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		
1- 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. 2- The lessons learned workshop was planned virtually. Funds were reallocated for the purchase of additional hygiene kits. A total of 5 monitoring visits have been conducted by PRCS/IFRC. 3- Two lessons learned workshops were conducted, the first was internal (PRCS staff from relevant departments, the second workshop was between PRCS and the IFRC representation. 4- A follow up debrief was held virtually with IFRC Regional DCPRR.		

Successes, Findings, Recommendations

Successes

- The enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers and their willingness to reach out the targeted families in extreme bad weather.
- The existing PRCS warehouse and volunteer capacity to commence the relief operation while the DREF was being processed.
- There was excellent cooperation between the branches and local authority in reporting the cases and responding.
- The detailed planning process of the item's distribution through efficient mapping and effective communication.
- IFRC team cooperation and joining part of the distribution (response).
- High satisfaction rate from the supported families and excellent feedback.

Findings

- Preparation & submission of DREF application and budget could be aided by draft documents prepared in advance of the cold season.
- While a draft DREF was prepared before the cold season, the previous Head of Disaster Management (DM) vacated the post and the file may not have been shared internally. Despite this, the DREF was submitted within the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) timeframe. Ahead of the 2021 cold season a planning session with PRCS & IFRC will be held and the necessary documents prepared and kept on file. Additionally, discussions will commence with DCPRR RO regarding the possibility of organizing Forecast Based Financing in oPt.
- Staff & Volunteers require refresher training in i.e. multi-sectoral rapid assessment, First Aid, Psychosocial Support (PSS). During the operation, it became clear to the response team that refresher training is required in key technical areas. Where possible these will be conducted at PRCS, or alternatively online through the E-Learning portal or with the support of IFRC RO.
- The implementation of the DREF Operation would have been improved with a DREF Training/Briefing at the beginning of the operation, inclusive of key HQ staff.
- The on-site DREF training was scheduled to be held in Jordan, however due COVID-19 pandemic the training didn't happen. So instead of that, the PRCS have registered to take the course online via the E-Learning portal. If there is another DREF operation in 2021 a DREF training will be arranged via remote learning with the RO at the beginning of the operation, to refresh staff on all DREF procedures and provide any updates.
- Some HQ staff are unfamiliar with the process of relief distribution and would benefit with field experience.
- Many HQ staff does not have the opportunity to undertake a relief distribution. Consequently, PRCS felt that it would be beneficial for the efficient implementation of the DREF to provide field experience for HQ staff to understand the operational requirements of relief distributions better.
- Relief items should have included COVID19 – PPE, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Materials.

- Given the COVID Pandemic, it is advisable to amend the relief items i.e. hygiene kits to include PPE & RCCE materials.
- Simulation Exercises (SimEx) would better prepare staff and volunteers for DREF operations.
- In 2019 a Simulation Exercise was held as part of the NDRT Training, and more of these types of events are needed to strengthen the capacity of PRCS staff & volunteers and the Movement in oPt.
- CEA needs to be enhanced. PRCS has been trained before in CEA. However, support is required to ensure more staff and volunteers are familiar with this approach and feel confident to use it in the field.
- Procurement processes need to be more efficient during DREF Operations. All procurement procedures (both PRCS and IFRC) should be reviewed to ensure a more efficient process during an emergency response. It is timely that IFRC LSCPM is undertaking a consultative process with stakeholders as part of their strategic review. IFRC procedures have proved bureaucratic and slow, while PRCS could expedite procedures by adopting annual tender processes.
- The sharing of experiences/lessons learned between volunteers regionally (i.e. via Webinar) would further enhance the capacity of volunteers. There are many DREF operations throughout MENA, and given the travel restrictions, due to COVID-19, it would be beneficial for volunteers to learn from the experiences of other MENA RC Volunteers, to strengthen their own practice.
- RCCE is more effective using radio as there is greater coverage as not all community members have access to social media or TV. As many of the communities that PRCS operates in are remote with limited access to social media, the use of the radio and the mosque are effective alternatives .

Recommendations

- Consider the introduction of Forecast Based Financing for PRCS.
- Annual re-fresher training for staff & volunteers provided through regular programming.
- Ensure DREF Training / Briefing at the beginning of the operation, inclusive of key HQ staff.
- Include HQ staff in relief distributions to increase field experience.
- Include PPE, RCCE in hygiene kits.
- Simulation Exercises (SimEx) to be conducted each year.
- Provide CEA training for staff.
- In order to fast track procurement, undertake annual tendering processes valid for 12 months.
- Facilitate an intra-regional sharing of experiences / lessons learned webinar for volunteers.
- Consider increased use of radio for RCCE or Mosque speakers.

D. Financial Report

Please find the financial report below. Also, please note that the remaining balance is CHF 15,472 to be returned to DREF pool.

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/02-11	Operation	MDRPS011
Budget Timeframe	2020/02-11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21/Dec/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRPS011 - Palestine - Extreme Weather Conditions

Operating Timeframe: 02 Feb 2020 to 31 Jul 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	255,318
DREF Allocations	255,318
Expenditure	-239,846
Closing Balance	15,472

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	196,470	237,197	-40,728
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	3,929		3,929
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	200,399	237,197	-36,798
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	10,733		10,733
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	13,505	2,637	10,868
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	14,843		14,843
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	15,838	12	15,826
Strategy for implementation Total	54,919	2,649	52,270
Grand Total	255,318	239,846	15,472

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/02-11	Operation	MDRPS011
Budget Timeframe	2020/02-11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21/Dec/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRPS011 - Palestine - Extreme Weather Conditions

Operating Timeframe: 02 Feb 2020 to 31 Jul 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	186,226	64,659	121,567
Shelter - Relief	77,190	64,659	12,531
Clothing & Textiles	79,617		79,617
Utensils & Tools	9,321		9,321
Other Supplies & Services	20,098		20,098
Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,971	3,880	-908
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,971		2,971
Logistics Services		3,880	-3,880
Personnel	10,078		10,078
Volunteers	10,078		10,078
Workshops & Training	10,680		10,680
Workshops & Training	10,680		10,680
General Expenditure	29,779	1,562	28,217
Travel	9,709	2,327	7,382
Information & Public Relations	1,942		1,942
Communications	3,257		3,257
Financial Charges		-765	765
Other General Expenses	14,872		14,872
Contributions & Transfers		155,107	-155,107
Cash Transfers National Societies		155,107	-155,107
Indirect Costs	15,583	14,638	944
Programme & Services Support Recover	15,583	14,638	944
Grand Total	255,318	239,846	15,472

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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

In the Palestine Red Crescent Society

- Mr. Mahdi AL Jammak, Acting Director for the Disaster Management Unit, **Email:** maljamal@palestinercs.org, **Mobile:** 0598354077

IFRC Regional Office

- Dr Hosam Faysal, **Head of DCPRR Disaster and Crisis** (Prevention, Response and Recovery) – MENA; **Email** hosam.faysal@ifrc.org; **Mobile:** +961 71 802 916

In the IFRC

IFRC Country Office

- John Entwistle **Federation Representative** oPt; **Email:** john.entwistle@ifrc.org; **Mobile** Jawwal +970 (0) 598235888|Mob. Orange + 972 (0) 526019057;

In IFRC Geneva

Programme and Operations focal point:

- Eszter Matyeka, Senior Officer DREF, **Email:** eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org.

IFRC Regional Office

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Anca Zaharia, MENA Regional Head of Partnership and Resource Development, **Mobile:** +961 813 11 918; **Email:** anca.zaharia@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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

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

- Nadine Haddad, PMER Regional Manager, **Mobile:** +961 71 802 775; **Email:** nadine.haddad@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 (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.