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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Egypt: Train Crash in Al Qalyubia

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDREG017	Glide n°:	OT-2021-000039-EGY
Date of issue:	29 April 2021	Expected timeframe:	3 months
		Expected end date:	31 July 2021
DREF allocated: CHF 84,694			
Total number of people affected:	810	Number of people to be assisted:	810 people (162 households)
Provinces affected:	Al Qalyubia	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Al Qalyubia
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
National Society: Egyptian Red Crescent Headquarter - 27 branches in 27 Governorates and more than 30,000 volunteers nationwide			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Egyptian public authorities and local NGOs			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On Sunday 18 April 2021, a train derailed near the city of Toukh in Al Qalyubia governorate, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 139 passengers, the latest in a series of deadly accidents along Egypt's troubled rail system, plagued by poor maintenance and management. A video posted on social media showed the victims and the injured passengers scattered along the railway line, next to the overturned carriages. Sounds of distress could also be heard. Footage on social media shows wagons overturned and passengers escaping to safety along the railway after the horrific incident.

More than 50 ambulances transported the injured to three hospitals in the province, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said.

Few minutes later of the accident, the Egyptian Red Crescent nearby branches responded with full capacities in first aid, disaster response services, assisting in transporting the wounded to the nearby health facilities with the MoH ambulance.



Figure 1 Egyptian Ambulance Organization and community members at the scene of the train crash. **Photo: ERC**

Summary of the current response

Overview of National Society Response Action

The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) has headquarters and 27 branches and more than 30,000 volunteers nationwide. The ERC has volunteers Emergency Response Teams (ERT) who are trained on First Aid, dealing with Disasters, Psychological First Aid (PFA), tracing and restoring family links, logistics, water and sanitation, and needs assessments.



Figure 2 ERC volunteers at train crash site. Photo: ERC

After the government declaration of the emergency alert, the ERC activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC has remained open since then. ERC deployed five staff members from the ERC Head Quarter and 10 Emergency Response Teams (ERTs). Six Psychosocial support teams in four branches were activated with an average of 100 volunteers mobilized following the announcement. The deployed team provided first aid, psychological support, distributed relief items and assisted in managing dead bodies.

Over the next few hours following the crash, ERC volunteers treated 74 wounded people, provided them with first aid and emergency lifesaving interventions and transported them to the hospitals. Transport to the hospitals was performed by the Egyptian Ambulance Authority.

The ERC team helped the ambulance authority in the recovery of dead bodies, while more were trapped under the collapsed train. In addition to providing Psychological First Aid (PFA) for the affected people and their relatives, ERC deployed teams that assisted the hospitals with medical supplies, first aid kits, blood bags, hygiene kits, blankets, and Iftar meals. Furthermore, a hotline was launched to help out citizens in distress.

Following the incident, ERC had deployed a team of staff and senior volunteers to conduct a detailed needs assessment at the hospitals and will reflect the results upon completing their mission.



Figure 3 ERC volunteers providing PFA to the injured and the relatives of the people affected by train crash.
Photo: ERC



Figure 4 ERC medical volunteers providing pre-hospital medical care and PFA for the affected people at hospitals. Photo: ERC

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

First report of the situation was issued and posted on [IFRC GO platform](#). Progress reports will be shared with the IFRC - MENA Regional Office throughout this DREF operation. The ERC is responding to the affected people from the train crash in coordination with the IFRC through this DREF response operation.

The ERC has a solid experience in responding to similar emergencies starting with the last train crash that has happened in March 2021 which has been also supported by a DREF [MDREG016](#) launched to meet the immediate needs of the affected people, 2019 Cairo Central railway crash, 2017 Alexandria train crash and 2002 Giza train fire.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

The ERC, in its auxiliary role to the public authorities, has collaborated with the civil society, ambulance authority and Ministry of Social and Solidarity (MoSS) and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in response to the event.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Hundreds of people have been affected, while all health facilities in Al Qalyubia and surrounding areas are crowded and overflowed with injured patients.

In the immediate aftermath of the train crash, ERC provided immediate assistance such as First Aid, pre-hospital care, cash assistance and relief items distribution through its emergency response and psychosocial support team, branches, EOC and disaster management (DM) units.

The train coaches that have crashed are of a C category of the Egyptian Railway operating at a low-cost train ticket in comparison with A and B categories where ticket costs are higher. It is considered as the cheapest means of transportation for the vulnerable labours that commute on a daily basis to travel across governorates in order to secure their livelihood. The affected people from the train crash have lost their source of income and the newly occurred expenses related to the medical treatment and burials exacerbated their existing vulnerabilities.

The affected people are considered the households, where their injuries from the train crash added more vulnerability to their lives. The injuries range from fracture, multiple fracture, to contusions. These injuries take time to heal.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is providing urgent medical care to the injured during their stay at the hospital. The MoH is covering the treatment costs of the injured, such as surgeries and essential drugs available at the hospital. However, the families of those injured have to cover the medical expenses incurred immediately after discharge from the hospital as well as post-hospitalisation expenses.

The livelihoods of the families affected by the loss of a member or an injured member by the train crash were disrupted. Most of the affected people are the primary source of economic support for their families. Since those are daily labours, it will be impossible for them to meet the needs of their families, not only in the short term but maybe in the long term.

The Ministry of Social and Solidarity (MoSS) had announced that a compensation will be disbursed for the families of the deceased and those injured in the train collision. EGP 100,000 will be paid as compensation for the families of each

victim. The injured would also be paid compensation ranging between EGP 20,000 to 40,000, depending on their injury degree.

ERC is going to expand its operational capacities to maintain continuity of the services as the leading humanitarian actor and auxiliary to the public authorities. The identified immediate needs are to support and strengthen the capacity of the ERC in a) first aid, b) blood transfusion services, c) psychosocial support, d) medical supplies, e) unconditional cash assistance and f) relief distributions for the ERC to be able to provide timely and effective assistance to the affected people, throughout this DREF operation.

Targeting

This operation will target 162 families of those 139 injured and 23 killed, affected by the train crash.

These figures were announced officially by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and have been validated upon the visits to the hospitals through the needs assessment exercise which was carried out jointly with the national authorities.

Based on the needs assessment, the Governorates of origin are Alexandria, Cairo, Mansoura, Al Qalyubia and Giza.

Operation Risk Assessment

ERC is a trusted humanitarian organization and auxiliary to the public authority. In response to the crisis in the shadow of COVID-19, the ERC will continue to apply operational safety and security measures throughout the operation to ensure maintaining access to the affected population, while ensuring the safety of its staff and volunteers.

Despite the increase in COVID-19 cases in Egypt, restrictions on the COVID-19 preventive measures such as complete lockdown were not yet imposed by the national authorities. As of the evening of 21 April, 218,902 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed and 12,866 deaths in Egypt were acknowledged by the Ministry of Health and Population. The ministers of health and higher education, as well as other health officials have admitted that the numbers of cases of coronavirus are higher than the official reported figures, as most people who become ill with COVID-19 prefer to receive the medical treatment at home.

The ERC constantly monitors the situation and maintains communication with the local authorities and government agencies to assess the context and the situation of the affected population.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The objective of this operation is to provide basic emergency needs, healthcare, psychosocial support, cash for health and rehabilitation to 162 families affected by the train crash while respecting and applying COVID-19 prevention measures. This DREF operation will support ERC to provide assistance through the following activities:

- First aid, dressing kits and blood transfusion through the replenishment/provision of medical and first aid consumables, laboratory tests, and running costs.
- Strengthen the capacity and equip the Emergency Response Team (ERT) volunteers deployed to the targeted areas.
- Distribution of unconditional cash grants to the affected households to ensure consistency in adequate medical treatment, dignified burial for the deceased, in addition to support with the daily basic needs until they adapt to longer coping mechanisms. The 125 USD grant has been identified based on the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) below, and will be managed, monitored, and directly disbursed in local currency through ERC network of volunteers in coordination with ERC HQ aiming to empower programmatic response at branch level:

Affected families by injury

Basic Need	Food basket	USD 50	Most urgent basic needs
	WASH (Hygiene items and Water)	USD 25	
Health	Health expenditure (pain killers, bandage)	USD 35	follow-up medical treatment expenses due to the injury
	Visits to hospital (4/month)	USD 15	
Total		USD 125	Round of USD 125/month Assistance for 2 months

Affected families by death

Basic Need	Food basket	USD 50	Most urgent basic needs
	WASH (Hygiene items and Water)	USD 25	
Non-food	Transportation & communication	USD 25	
	Miscellaneous expenses including burial costs	USD 25	
Total		USD 125	Round of USD 125/month Assistance for 2 months

Human resources

An Operations Coordinator will be hired by the Egyptian Red Crescent for a period of three months to manage the DREF operation and to liaise with the internal thematic and technical people responsible for the implementation of the activities. The IFRC MENA Regional Office will coordinate with the ERC to ensure the quality of the implementation by offering technical support to enhance the ERC plan and as well to provide technical guidance and assistance if needed.

Logistics and procurement

The ERC will proceed with the procurement of all items and financial services aligned with the IFRC procurement regulations and standards (with support of Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain (GHS & SCM) team). For all procurement with a total value equivalent or more than CHF 50,000, any procurement involving drugs and medical supplies, complete file will be validated by IFRC (GHS & SCM) prior placing order or signing contract. In addition to ensuring the process of distributions and assessments and transport to targeted communities' vehicles included in the DREF budget will be used for transport and distribution of humanitarian assistance. The DREF will cover the costs of fuel and vehicle rentals for the vehicles of the ERC.

Communications

The ERC will ensure the safety and security of its volunteers and will increase their visibility.

Security

The ERC will coordinate with the national authorities at central and governmental levels to make sure their volunteers have movement clearance. ERC will provide its volunteers with PPEs for them to be able to undertake safely their mission.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

ERC will lead monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the affected areas through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers along with HQ PMER unit. IFRC, through its regional office, will provide technical support in programme management to ensure the operation objectives are met. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's reporting timeframe and a final report will be issued within three months from the end of the operation. A monitoring & Evaluation framework will be developed for this operation to monitor the progress against the planned results and targets.

The Regional Office will train the ERC staff and volunteers, engaged in this operation, on evidence-based reporting standards required to uphold accountability through this operation. A lesson learned workshop will be organized at the end of the operation and a report will be subsequently published.

Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Acknowledging that women, girls, men and boys with diverse ages, disabilities and backgrounds have very different needs, risk and coping strategies, the operation will pay particular attention to protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

CEA will be mainstreamed throughout the intervention to guarantee maximum and meaningful participation of the affected communities. A feedback and complaint desk will be put in ERC centres for recipients of different ERC services to provide direct feedback. For the purpose of clarity and for a good flow of information, clear roles and responsibilities will be agreed with representatives, community leaders and committees and information will be shared widely about selection criteria, distribution processes and response activities with the whole community. The selection process of people to be reached will be clearly communicated to all affected people.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 810 people (162 families)

Requirements (CHF): 44,198

Needs analysis: In the light of the different roots of the affected people by the train crash, many of these are most vulnerable at these times while they struggle at normal times to provide food for their families. On the other hand, many people have also lost the head of household or need cash to cover the expenses of their treatment plan outside the hospital. As the national Railway authority have promised compensation for the families of the deceased, but no official definition of time and amount has been announced till date. Through the IFRC support, ERC is going to provide cash assistance of an amount of 125 USD per family for 162 families for two months with main purpose to cover their immediate needs including medical expenses and medical follow up after their discharge from the hospital and burial costs.

Population to be assisted: All families who have been affected by the train crash, as they are vulnerable and not being able to provide their basic needs, these families need assistance to cover their livelihoods, hospital expenses, and follow up treatment plan after discharge. The targeted families will receive cash disbursement worth value of 125 USD each month for two months distributed directly in the local currency (EGP).

ERC has more than five years of experience in assisting the most vulnerable people (Palestinian) with Cash assistance that was in coordination with ICRC and German Red Cross for 880 families. ERC had also an experience in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) during emergencies. With support from IFRC – 2020 DREF, the ERC carried out the cash disbursement for 880 families affected by 2020 flash floods in Cairo, in addition to their ongoing response to 204 affected families of the March Suhag Train Crash.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The activities will seek to meet sphere standards in light of COVID-19 in-line with IFRC CVA SOPs.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs	# of vouchers / cash assistance. (Target: 162)											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Activities planned Week												
AP081	Select beneficiary households, prepare beneficiary lists and sensitize them on the assistance process												
AP081	Monitoring (including on site during cash distribution and Post distribution)												
AP081	Unconditional/multipurpose cash distribution												



Health

People targeted: 810 people (162 families)

Requirements (CHF): 19,436

Needs analysis:

Psychosocial support will be provided to the bereaved families. Most hospitals in the city of Banha in Qalyubia province have expressed the need for supplementary blood units to treat wounded people. The first aid and relief items used for the response will be replenished.

Population to be assisted: This operation aims to support ERC response to the affected people by the devastating train crash and will continue to support with the same standards for the coming period.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	# of people reached through first aid and pre-hospital care (Target: 810)											
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	# of FA kits replenished (Target: 50) # of Personal Protective gears purchased (Target: 60)											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP022	Replenishment of First Aid kits												
AP022	Train and recruit medical and non-medical staff. Provide Personal Protective Equipment for ERT volunteers												
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 4: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services	# of people reached through increased access to blood transfusion services (Target:200)											
	Health Output 4.1: Communities are provided by NS with services to identify and reduce health risks	# of blood bags replenishment (Target: 200)											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP012	Replenishment of medical reagents and consumables for blood transfusion and voluntary donations												
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened	# of people reached to reduce the psychosocial impacts of the disaster (Target: 810)											
	Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	# of volunteers trained (Target: 30) # of people reached with PSS (Target: 810)											

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP023	Identification and training for volunteers in psychosocial support in emergency												
AP023	Assessment of PSS needs and resources available in the community												
AP023	Provide PSS to people affected by the crisis												
AP023	Provide PSS to staff and volunteers												

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 21,061

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	<i># of volunteers involved in the operation and actively participating in the activities. (Target: 150)</i>											
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i># of volunteers involved in the operation who are trained in Security, Code of Conduct and Standards and principles of humanitarian aid. (Target: 150)</i>											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured												
AP040	Hire DREF coordinator												
AP040	Ensure volunteers have the personal protection equipment and visibility to operate												
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured												
	Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.	<i># of surge missions (Target:1) # of monitoring visits (Target:1)</i>											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP046	IFRC monitoring visits												
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards	<i># of rented vehicles (Target: 2) # of days of transport (Target: 60)</i>											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP050	Running cost for fuel, maintenance and transport costs												

P&B Output Code	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					<i>Planning, monitoring, and reporting sessions to ensure effective accountability internally and externally. Target: TBD</i>											
	Activities planned Week					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP058	<i>Train ERC staff and volunteers, engaged in this operation, on evidence-based reporting standards required to uphold accountability throughout this operation</i>																
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.					# of LLW conducted (Target:1)											
	Activities planned Week					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	AP055	<i>DREF Lessons Learned Workshop (LLW)</i>															

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF OPERATION

MDREG017-Egypt: Train Crash

*all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)*

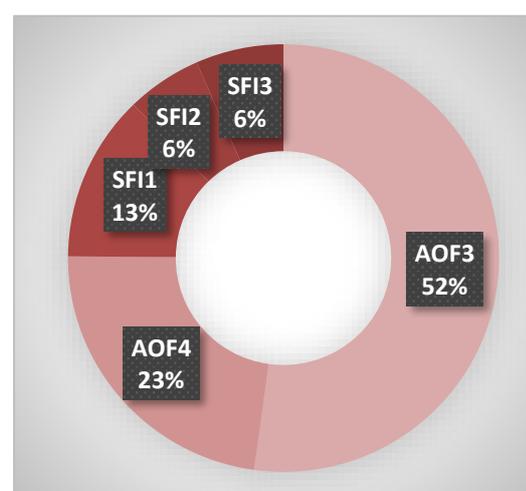
4/27/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Medical & First Aid	14,250
Cash Disbursement	40,500
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	54,750
Distribution & Monitoring	1,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,500
Logistics, Transport & Storage	5,500
National Society Staff	2,250
Volunteers	10,025
Personnel	12,275
Workshops & Training	4,000
Workshops & Training	4,000
Travel	3,000
General Expenditure	3,000
DIRECT COSTS	79,525
INDIRECT COSTS	5,169
TOTAL BUDGET	84,694

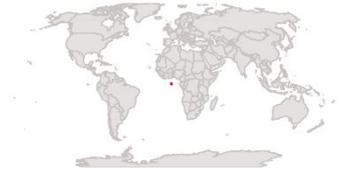
Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	44,198
AOF4	Health	19,436
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	10,677
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	4,793
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	5,591
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		84,694





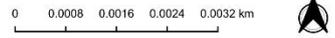
18 April 2021
MDREG017
OT-2021-000039-EGY



Egypt: Train Crash Disaster Relief Emergency Funds



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.



Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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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 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.**