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Operation Update Report

Egypt: Palestine Complex Emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDREG018	Glide n°: OT-2021-000060-EGY
Operation update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: June - September 2021
Operation start date: 25/05/2021	Operation timeframe: initially 4 months extended for additional 3 months, end date 31/12/2021
DREF allocated: CHF 195,641	
N° of people being assisted: 3,117	
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
Host 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), International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Egyptian public authorities, UN agencies, and local Non-Governmental Organizations.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

As a result of the seize fire in Gaza a few days after initiating the DREF, the ERC continued its response in receiving the injured people and their relatives for around one month. Where most of the cases had been treated in Gaza, just only the severe and life-threatening cases were transferred to hospitals in Egypt.

Following the assessment visit that took place after two days after the seize fire in Gaza, the Palestinian Ministry of Health highlighted that there are around 300 patients in critical health condition requiring transport to Egyptian hospital to continue their treatment. This significant change in the overall situation was reflected in the ERC's forecast for receiving more cases from Gaza. As a result, a small number of cases arrived and received assistance from the ERC.

ERC intends to extend the DREF operation by three months until 31 December 2021, bringing the total operation timeframe to seven months. This extension will allow the following:

- Finalize the procurement of all items requested for the DREF.
- Conduct an end-of-operation lessons learnt workshop.

Delays in implementation were caused by COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures, which hampered the arrival of procured items due to the port's irregular closure.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Twelve days of hostilities have resulted in a dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, putting the lives and livelihoods of some 1.7 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip at risk. According to the United Nations, 242 Palestinians were killed in Gaza between 10 May and the start of the ceasefire on 21 May 2021, including 66 children and 38 women. In addition, the number of internally displaced people has increased to 91,000. However, roughly around 1,000 homes have been demolished or severely damaged. Concerns have been raised concerning the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable persons huddled in overcrowded shelters and the healthcare system's inability to cope.

The hostilities have also wreaked havoc on Gaza's vital infrastructure disrupting hundreds of thousands of people's access to electricity, fuel, water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Electrical power outages and the damage to the Gaza Ministry of Health Central Laboratory, which performs COVID-19 testing, have hampered health services in dozens of Gaza medical centres. Hundreds of structures and residences have been destroyed, damaged, or rendered uninhabitable.

The land port of Rafah is the only gate at the Egyptian-Palestinian border crossing. It opened a day earlier than intended to allow students, passengers, and injured individuals and their families to pass through. Approximately, 200 passengers travel by daily, with the exception of Friday and Saturday.

During the response, the Egyptian Red Crescent was able to coordinate with the following public authorities:

1. Ministry of foreign affairs (MOFA) to facilitate the mission of ERC assessment to Gaza following the seizure of fire, as well as to enhance the issuance of required approvals for extracting the external donations and relief humanitarian items arriving in Egypt for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS).
2. Ministry of Social and Solidarity (MoSS) to strengthen the Egyptian Red Crescent's coordination role and linking with local and international NGOs, as well as to provide ERC with the necessary support in channeling relief items from Egypt to Gaza.
3. Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to coordinate the response at the border and in hospitals to support and assist injured people, their relatives, and families during their stay in Egypt, where ERC is able to provide required support in medication, health promotion, and psychosocial support.
4. Border officials to assist passengers, injured people, and relatives in obtaining the necessary documents at the port, as well as to provide them with PFA and light meals.

Summary of current response

From the first day of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) had raised its alert at the Central Emergency Operation Centre (CEOC) at the headquarter and activated its Emergency Operation Center in North Sinai Branch. ERC had launched a wide national donation campaign to receive all types of humanitarian assistance. ERC had mobilized its volunteers and staff to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, working in close coordination with the Egyptian authorities. The ERC has assisted in transporting 38 injured people at live threatening conditions and other 31 with multiple fractures and contusions to Egyptian MoHP medical facilities and for treatment in both North Sinai and Cairo Governorates.

The ERC had assisted the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) with 171 donation convoys of medical supplies and humanitarian assistance. In addition, ERC coordinated and channeled more than 2,183 tons of humanitarian assistance from various local actors in Egypt to the PRCS.

As the sole organization in charge of channeling medical and humanitarian relief items, the ERC had been approached by the Movement partners as Turkish, Kuwait, and Qatar Red Crescent National Societies. Where ERC had received the shipment from Kuwait RC through Cairo Airport and completed the list of needs by procuring 2,500 food parcels from the local market.



Figure 1: ERC volunteers packing medical supplies and emergency relief items to be delivered to PRCS. **Credit: ERC**

The Turkish Red Crescent, on the other hand, had signed a contract with ERC, in which it agreed to procure all medications, medical equipment, relief, food, and non-food items from the Egyptian local market for a total amount of USD 150,000. The Turkish RC president had accompanied the shipments from Cairo to the Rafah border, where the entire donation convoy was delivered to the PRCS in Gaza.

Furthermore, the Qatar Red Crescent signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ERC for a total amount of USD 133,324 to support Gaza by procuring a list of medical and non-medical items from Egypt and channeling them to Gaza.

In addition, the IOM Egypt mission and ERC signed an MoU for cooperation back in 2019. Based on a shared list of needs, the organizations collaborated to lead a donation campaign in Egypt to support PRCS's response. A proposal for the needs helped in obtaining support from the EU, the French, Danish, Italian, and Dutch embassies in Egypt. The donation ceremony was held at ERC HQ, and H.E Dr. Nevine Elkabag, the Egyptian Minister of Social and Solidarity, as well as the IOM Egypt Head of mission, EU and PRCS representatives in Egypt, and representatives from the aforementioned embassies, attended. The ceremony aimed to demonstrate the solidarity of the ERC with PRCS and to promote the ERC in the position of accepting all donations to support the people of Gaza through PRCS.

Similarly, various charity organizations and private sectors in Egypt and abroad had either sent donations to ERC or asked ERC to procure the necessary items for PRCS. The ERC has facilitated the entry of hundreds of metric tons of relief and medical supplies into Gaza. In addition, several teams of ERC volunteers from the El-Arish North Sinai Red Crescent branch who have been trained on relief operations, psychological support and restoring family links and health promotion were divided into three groups:

1. one group for loading and unloading at the border;
2. another group to assist the injured people and their relatives to finalize the documents at the border, provide Psychological First Aid, spread COVID-19 health awareness messages, and distribute hygiene kits;
3. the third group was assigned to conduct visits to the wounded people in hospitals and to coordinate with the Ministry of Health to provide medical assistance such as medication, walkers, and wheelchairs, as well as PFA, clothes, and phone calls to ensure the communication with their families in Gaza.



Figure 3: ERC volunteers are packing and sorting medical donations based on their contents. **Credit: ERC**



Figure 2: Kuwait RC representatives and ERC volunteers are paying visits to the injured people at the hospitals. **Credit: ERC**



Figure 5: IOM Egypt provided medical supplies and relief items to ERC. **Credit: ERC**



Figure 4: The ERC is channeling Turkish RC donations at the Rafah border to the PRCS. **Credit: ERC**



Figure 6: ERC volunteers assisting in the sterilization and disinfection of the passenger lounge at Rafah ground port – North Sinai. **Credit: ERC**

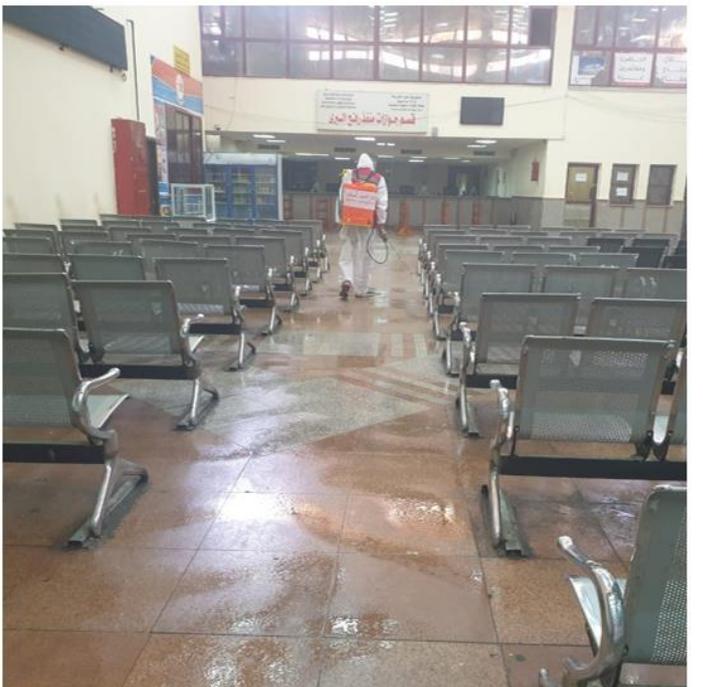




Figure 7: ERC volunteers providing assistance to the Palestinian passengers at Rafah ground port. Credit: ERC



Figure 8: ERC volunteers delivering medical aid and emergency relief supplies to PRCS. Credit: ERC

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

ERC has been coordinating with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional office since the first day of hostilities in order to coordinate the efforts of the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies who have expressed an interest in providing donations to PRCS based on their needs. In addition, the ERC is being supported in their current response by holding regular calls with the regional office's technical leads.

ERC is also coordinating with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission in Egypt to provide assistance to the ERC – North Sinai branch by enhancing its capacity of the EOC and providing PPEs for volunteers. Also, the ICRC is providing technical support to ERC teams on Help the Helpers for the volunteers as well as close coordination with RFL teams.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

Based on a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) mission in Egypt, the ERC was able to scale up and enhance the capacities of North Sinai ERC medical clinics by providing medical supplies and equipment's to be able to provide the medical services to injured people in the event of a pressure on the MoH, as well as to provide medical services for the relatives who might have a medical illness, especially that MoH is not covering the medical services for the relatives.

ERC was appointed as the leading organization for the coordination with the international and local NGO and actors for channeling humanitarian assistance to PRCS and as well the donation funds that ERC will do local procurement based on the needs of PRCS and channel to PRCS.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Over 200 Palestinians were killed, landmark buildings in Gaza were destroyed, and the strip's civic infrastructure was bombed. Many families have lost their sole breadwinners, thousands have lost their jobs and businesses with hospitals bombed, hundreds of the injured and sick are in need of urgent medical assistance. Power and water supply need to be restored and the sanitary system needs to be installed.

The DREF supported ERC's initial response operation in providing medical first aid and transport to severe cases coming from Gaza in addition to carrying out procurement and channelling donations and humanitarian aid to PRCS.

With the increase in the number of the in-kind donations that have arrived at ERC and the incoming donations, as well as the local procurement that ERC will support PRCS based on the received donations, the ERC aims to strengthen its personnel and logistical capacities in order to ensure a fast and effective response.

The Egyptian government announced that ERC is the sole institution that channels donations to PRCS, as per the ERC mandate. ERC had received requests to channel donations from Movement and non-Movement partners as well as international and local NGOs as well as humanitarian actors to PRCS. Additionally, the ERC intends to maintain its border coordination efforts and teams in order to assist the in-kind donation channeling.

Targeting

Based on projections of the numbers of the injured people and their relatives who have arrived in Egypt in the first four days of the response, the coordination with the Egyptian MoH and Palestinian MoH in Gaza as well as PRCS and ERC there, it was expected to transfer around 300 injured people in critical condition with their relatives, under this DREF operation.

According to the coordination meeting led by ERC with Egyptian MOH, Palestinian MoH in Gaza, and PRCS, the main laboratory that provides COVID-19 testing for Palestinian passengers crossing the border has been damaged, making it difficult for them to obtain the PCR certificate before entering Egypt, increasing the passengers' vulnerabilities. The Egyptian Ministry of Health had requested ERC assistance with the COVID-19 rapid test at the border as well as in raising awareness about COVID-19. As the border is open from Sunday to Thursday, with Friday and Saturday off, ERC targeted around 50 to 100 passengers per day crossing the border who had failed the PCR test before arriving at the border. The ERC intervention lasted approximately four months and involved approximately 850 volunteers from various branches.

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 continued its response taking into consideration all staff and volunteers to apply operational safety and security measures during its operations to ensure that it maintains supporting the affected population, as much as possible without putting its staff at risk.

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

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The ERC plays a critical role as a partner with the Government and local authorities. It is vital that the ERC is supported in its humanitarian assistance effort to deliver relief and medical items and supplies to Gaza. The ERC is working and coordinating very closely with PRCS.

The ERC is coordinating the storage of the donations received at the headquarters warehouses. ERC aspires to improve warehouse capacity and related logistical capabilities to be able to absorb donations and impending humanitarian aid procurements. The ERC is the sole organization that works with the local authorities to transport goods, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and relief supplies into Gaza through the Rafah crossing point.

ERC activities have been centered on packing, storing, transporting humanitarian relief and medical supplies to Gaza as well as providing medication, health promotion, health services and psycho-social support to the wounded Palestinians who have been evacuated to the Egyptian hospitals. Medical evacuation of injured persons had been taken over by the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

A likely migration of people from Gaza into Egypt was also factored in ERC contingency measures. This DREF supported the ERC in the three following areas:

- Assisting with the ERC logistical and operational set-up (headquarters, El-Arish, and Rafah branches), as well as relief team management.
- Supporting the ERC's coordination efforts within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as its non-Movement partners in responding to the humanitarian needs in Gaza.
- Supporting ERC preparedness and organizational readiness in the event of a large-scale population movement from Gaza (pre-positioning of relief stocks, reinforcement of emergency operational room, volunteers, and staff management).

The DREF operation enabled ERC to improve the capacity of its staff and warehouse to absorb the increased demand.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter People reached: 65 Male: Female:</p>		
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 people provided with safe, adequate, and durable recovery shelter and settlement assistance.		300	65
Output 1.1: Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of people assisted with housing		300	65
# of people reached with blankets, mattresses, and pillows.		300	0
Progress towards outcomes			

During their stay in Egypt, ERC hosted the injured people's families at a local lodging facility for a few nights while their family members recovered and received medical attention. Some families were refused accommodation and asked for assistance with mattresses and blankets, preferring to stay in hospitals for more assistance to their injured family members.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 301

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people whose livelihoods are <restored to, improved>.	600	0

Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with basic needs.	600	301

Progress towards outcomes

ERC provided basic livelihood to the families and injured people during their stay in Egypt. The majority of them had been evacuated from Gaza with no support or plans to stay in Egypt for many days. Items were purchased based on their needs and the size that would fit all of the beneficiaries.



Health

People reached: 2,075

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through NS emergency health management programmes.	600	1,835
# of people reached with medical services.	600	1,853

Output 2.2: Clinical management of identified cases reduces the impact and spread of the disease/outbreak the load on the MoH and provide care for the affected people.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with clinical health care services during emergencies.	600	1,853

Output 4.6: Improved knowledge about public health issues among [target population] in [area].

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through health awareness.	600	1,853

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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# of people reached to reduce the psychosocial impacts of the event.	600	98
# of people reached through psychosocial support.	600	98
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERC provided families and their injured family members with integrated health and care services. They were able to access health services, health promotion, and psychosocial support as a result of their ability to access health services. In addition to medication and medical aids for injured people receiving medical care at Egyptian Ministry of Health hospitals due to a shortage or non-availability of the requested medications and medical items. ERC activated its Primary Health Care unit in Alarish, which was able to receive both Palestinians and Egyptian host communities. ERC also procured COVID-19 PCR kits to facilitate the entry of passengers at the Egyptian border, as they were required to have a PCR test to cross the border. 		

	<h2 style="color: red;">Water, sanitation and hygiene</h2> <p>People reached: 260 Male: Female:</p>		
Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of developed hygiene communication plan.		1	1
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			
# of people reached with hygiene kits.		600	260
Progress towards outcomes			
As part of the integrated response, families and injured people were given hygiene kits that covered a single person for 14 days. And these kits were distributed at the border upon their arrival in Egypt.			

<h2 style="color: red;">Strengthen National Society</h2>			
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			
Output 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of volunteers mobilized and engaged in the DREF operation.		500	850
# of NS providing an audited financial statement.		1	
Progress towards outcomes			
Given the large number of volunteers involved in the response, it was critical for ERC to build capacity by organizing training to improve the knowledge of volunteers from HQ, Cairo, Giza, Ismaila, Alexandria, Upper Egypt, and North Sinai.			

International Disaster Response			
Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
Standardized warehousing system is in place.		Yes	
Progress towards outcomes			
In addition to using ERC and non-ERC vehicles to assist in the deployment of volunteers, ERC rented trucks to facilitate transporting relief items to Gaza from ERC warehouses at HQ and Isamlia to the ERC's North Sinai branch and the border.			
ERC has channeled 172 shipments to Gaza and delivered to the PRCs with a total of 2,813 Tons of relief, medication, medical consumables, food, and non-food items since the first day of the response. IOM, international and national charity organizations, embassies, and RCRC NSs donated the items mentioned.			
Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of large-scale emergencies requiring a Movement response where joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Movement response.		1	1
Output S2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
Movement coordination mechanism is activated.		Yes	Yes
Progress towards outcomes			
<i>None reported</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.			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of campaign and communications reach.		TBD	
Progress towards outcomes			
<i>None reported</i>			
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
Planning, monitoring, and reporting sessions to ensure effective accountability internally and externally.		TBD	
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.			

Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of LLW conducted		1	

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Indicators:		Target	Actual
Staff is recruited on time.		Yes	

Output S4.1.2: IFRC staff shows good level of engagement and performance

Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of Procurement and logistics officers engaged in this operation.		TBD	

Progress towards outcomes

None reported

D. Financial Report

The operating budget and response activities remain unchanged. The financial report will be included in the final report

Contact information

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 Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC)

- CEO, Dr. Ramy Elnazer; phone: +201090000054; email: Ramy.Elnazer@egyptianrc.org
- Head of Health and Care Department: Dr. Mahmoud Tharwat; phone: +201012995640; email: Mahmoud.tharwat@egyptianrc.org

In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office:** Dr. Hosam Faysal, Head of Disaster, Climate and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery) – MENA; phone +961 71 802 916; email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Karla Morizzo, DREF Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 4295; email karla.morizzo@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

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

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Goran Boljanovic; Regional Head of Supply Chain- MENA; phone: +961 5 428 505; email: goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org

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

- **IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut:** Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER manager, phone: +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**.