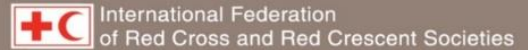




Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Palestine: Extreme Weather Conditions



DREF Operation	MDRPS013	Glide n°:	CW-2022-000163-PSE
Date of issue:	12 February 2022	Expected timeframe:	6 months
		Expected end date	31 August 2022
Category allocated to the of the disaster: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 350,027			
Total number of people affected:	3,500 people	Number of people to be assisted:	3,500 people (500 HHs)
Provinces affected:	West Bank & Gaza Strip	Provinces/Regions targeted:	West Bank & Gaza Strip
Operating National Society presence: The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has 40 branches, 2,542 active volunteers, 1,600 employees. (PRCS maintains branches in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt.)			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) & the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: WHO, Higher Council of Civil Defence, Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD), Ministry of Health, UN-OCHA, UNRWA			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Based on the extreme cold weather conditions that peaked on 26 January 2022, the Palestinian Government has called for “collaboration and common efforts to support the affected populations to face the current needs”. As a member of the Higher Council of Civil Defence, and due to its auxiliary role, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) subsequently responded to the humanitarian needs. Starting 20 January 2022, the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) was hit by extreme weather conditions including heavy rain floods, winds, snow, and low-temperature cold wave. The Meteorological Office of the Ministry of Transport issued a report on February 10 showing the amount of precipitation recorded to date, which exceeded average precipitation levels (Gaza 104%, and 114% Beit Hanon).



Figure 1: Flash floods caused by heavy rains in oPt. Credit: PRCS

The heavy rain generated floods in several parts of Palestine, affecting thousands of people and forcing many families to flee their homes. The extreme weather conditions resulted in the death of four people due to improper use of heating sources in the West Bank. The weather events have deeply affected local communities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where thousands of people remain displaced and live in semi-structured or transitional shelters or tents due to the loss of their homes during the recent escalation in hostilities. Uncharacteristically low for the Gaza strip, temperature approached zero at nighttime, while power outages disrupted the operation of heating systems. Furthermore, gas stations in the Gaza Strip didn't have sufficient fuel to supply people with the fuel they needed to operate their own generators. Additionally, vendors providing cooking gas were running low on supplies. Heavy rains in the West Bank have primarily affected the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, communities living near 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.



Figure 2: Damage caused by high winds and rain. PRCS Response Teams responding to a snowstorm in the West Bank. **Credit: PRCS**

Summary of the current response

Overview of Operating National Society Response Action

PRCS has activated its operation rooms in the West Bank (WB) and Gaza in preparation for the expected heavy rain and snowstorm while PRCS emergency teams have been on standby to respond to emerging needs.

PRCS was able to identify and respond to the needs of the communities affected by the cold wave, in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The two operation rooms in the WB and the Gaza Strip have been activated, rapid assessments on the ground have been conducted and close coordination with partners and services providers on the ground has been



Figure 3: The PRCS Operation Room hosting a preparatory meeting on January 26, 2022. **Credit: PRCS**

undertaken. Despite the harsh conditions, PRCS volunteers and staff lead the response actions in the affected communities.

The PRCS has deployed more than 600 specialized volunteers together with technical staff from the Disaster Risk Management Department, Logistic, Psychosocial Support, and Emergency Medical Services departments, to respond during the operation. Emergency response operations focused on the provision of relief and household items, including tarpaulins, tents, mattresses, and blankets, among several other items.



Figure 4: Awareness message produced by PRCS on how to act in case of cold wave. Credit: PRCS

During the cold wave, and since 27 January, PRCS has distributed relief items to 407 families as shown in the table below, and is in urgent need of replenishing its relief stocks to sustain its operations:

Location/ Item	No. of affected Families	No. of affected people	Winter blankets	Mattresses	Kitchen sets	Hygiene kits	Heater	Tarpaulin	Jerry can	Tent
West Bank and Jerusalem	31	165	111	39	2	21	8	36	0	1
Gaza Strip	376	2,174	405	402	180	184	46	297	63	0
TOTAL	407	2,339	516	441	182	205	54	333	63	1

Source: PRCS operation rooms

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in-country

Since the onset of the emergency, there has been ongoing coordination between PRCS, the Palestinian Civil Defence, local and national authorities, including governorates and municipalities, UN agencies, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners. Furthermore, PRCS is a member of the Palestinian National Civil Defence Committee and has a presence at the Governorate level. There are five core field assessors who also serve as focal points for inputting needs information into the online system, these are OCHA, UNRWA, the Civil Defence, Governorates, and PRCS.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is present in Palestine to support PRCS's development and to promote enhanced and coordinated Disaster Preparedness in case of disasters and emergencies in addition to longer-term organizational development, capacity building, and resilience.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian response in the occupied Palestinian territory focuses on emergency health and care through supporting PRCS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on an annual basis and support to the Ministry of Health (MoH), and when needed; non-food items distribution, protection of civilians and assistance of persons affected by armed conflict, in addition to dissemination of International Humanitarian Law to parties to the conflict and conducting visits to people in detention, as well as water and sanitation activities.

There are presently 11 Participating National Societies cooperating with the PRCS in a series of programs: Danish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Qatari, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Icelandic, Canadian, and Kuwaiti Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. PRCS is currently receiving 'winterization relief support' from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) & Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) for marginalized communities in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the two programs will not overlap with the DREF targeted areas, since the previously mentioned funds from KRCS and QRCS will target the families facing a challenging economic situation or families who have had their homes demolished by the occupation forces. Whereas this DREF relief operation will target those who have been affected by the extreme weather conditions in the current cold wave. PRCS will ensure that all assistance is based on a field assessment conducted by the Disaster Risk Management team in coordination with local authorities and community members.

Overview of other actors' actions in-country

PRCS held several meetings with WHO and the Ministry of Health regarding support for area C (i.e under Israeli full control over planning, security, and construction) in the areas of health, nutrition, Psychosocial programme support, and resilience. The coordination is focused on intervention with mobile clinics as well as relief support in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote division of tasks.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Since the start of the cold wave, communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have been experiencing flooding and cold temperatures. The Palestinian Government has called for collaborative efforts to support the affected populations.



Figure 5: Needs assessment conducted by PRCS volunteers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. **Credit: PRCS**

In response to the situation, PRCS teams received calls from community members, affected families, and Civil Defence regarding the situation. The teams visited the affected areas, families, or houses, and completed rapid assessments in consultation and coordination with various actors in the field and based on the immediate responses to the humanitarian calls. Priority eminent needs have been identified in the areas of emergency shelter and essential household items.

Gaza and West Bank have witnessed flooded homes and streets since the beginning of winter in 2021 and 2022. The lack of proper infrastructure exacerbates the situation, which is compounded by a limited power supply and damaged sewage and drainage networks, worsening the threat of heavy rainfall and low temperatures, putting them under a lot of pressure daily in the absence of adequate coping solutions and resources.

Many families had to leave their houses to stay with host communities or shelters and required HH items to cope with their daily needs including safe water and food items.

Targeting

PRCS will provide relief and shelter assistance to 3,500 people affected by the extreme weather. Since the initial response, PRCS has already reached 407 families at the time of request as they continued with their relief response up to targeted 500 families. (350 families in Gaza and 150 families in West Bank & Jerusalem).

The relief efforts will be carried out in coordination with local authorities and communities, Civil Defence, the Red Cross Red Crescent Partners, OCHA, and UNRWA among others.

Scenario planning

The primary objective of this DREF operation is to partially replenish PRCS Contingency Relief stocks, which were distributed to affected families by the current extreme weather conditions in order to ensure the continuation of PRCS ongoing response to meet current needs.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
<p>Most likely Access limitations and prevention from reaching those affected particularly in the Jordan Valley;</p> <p>Disruption of relief operations due to clashes and unrest in certain areas in the West Bank;</p> <p>Overwhelming rise in needs in Gaza.</p>	Access restrictions are common and frequent in the Jordan Valley area and other parts of the WB. Affected communities will endure further hardships and sufferings.	PRCS relies on the local community to find ways to reach those affected even in the most difficult and restricted circumstances. Coordination with international partners including the ICRC to put pressure on Israeli authorities to allow access.
<p>Less likely Project area affected by natural disaster i.e., severe weather event, earthquake.</p>	PoA of Replenishment of PRCS stocks & distributions outlined in the DREF suspended temporarily or the stocks run out	PRCS will respond to the humanitarian impacts of the natural disaster, and if necessary, would launch an appeal with the support of the RCRC Movement.

Operation Risk Assessment

The assessment teams and responders may face some challenges to access the affected areas due to access restrictions especially in the Jordan Valley and in area C. Also, if the bad weather conditions continue, available resources will be insufficient, posing a challenge in meeting humanitarian needs. In that case, the response plan may need to be revised accordingly.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The population in the affected areas will receive support to cope with the effects of the heavy rains and cold waves through provision of household items and emergency shelter. The DREF provides immediate support to PRCS in replenishing relief items already distributed to affected families and strengthening its operational capacity to continue to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

The key activities planned as part of this operation are:

- Conducting ongoing needs assessments in response to the evolving situation,
- Procuring relief supplies,
- Replenishing the PRCS emergency stocks that have already been distributed,
- Distributing additional items based on the needs assessment,
- Raising community awareness on basic safe shelter,
- Carrying out Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting work.

Human resources

The PRCS has deployed 600 volunteers since the beginning of the cold wave. Disaster Risk Management, Logistic, Psychosocial, and Health teams members were organized and prepared for the interventions and response.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistic support to the intervention will be provided following PRCS procedures to source and procure relief items. PRCS is also considering international procurement of items unavailable in the country, through utilisation of IFRC structures regionally (GHS & SCM MENA Region in Beirut).

Communications and CEA

Information on the operation will be 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 will be shared via the [IFRC Go Platform](#). Additionally, PRCS has been strengthening its capacity in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), this started by conducting the rapid needs assessment to design a relevant intervention, through recent CEA staff training where the knowledge will be used to serve to integrate CEA throughout the intervention and thus ensuring 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. Military operations occur frequently in Gaza and as a result, interruptions, access limitations, continued blockade pose a risk. In the West Bank, clashes between Israeli occupying forces and Palestinian demonstrators are frequent and can quickly turn violent. PRCS will coordinate with local authorities and partners including the ICRC on the development of the security situation as needed.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

PMER will be crucial to the delivery of the planned operation to ensure evidence-based reporting, upholding accountability, and compliance with the established standards. IFRC PMER Team will support IRCS by developing a holistic Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The plan will serve in systemizing the related activities and ensure their proper implementation, thus serving as efficient evidence generation. In this regard, monitoring is required regularly by the PRCS to track the effects and impact of response actions, track the progress of activities, and the delivery of outputs. 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 lessons learned workshop will be organized at the end of the operation to document the challenges and successes of this DREF. This workshop will serve in reflecting on the DREF implementation and taking stock of that for future responses while informing response preparedness planning efforts.

Administration and Finance

The PRCS will be 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 will provide 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 targeted: 3,500 (500 HHs)

Requirements (CHF): 241,876

Needs analysis:

Affected families by the extreme weather conditions have lost household items and their houses partially damaged due to weak infrastructures and basic settlement settings, specifically in Gaza. Those would require basic shelter items such as plastic shields and tarpaulins to shield against waters and cold winds. While on the other hand, Bedouin and herding communities in Jordan valley in WB have also been heavily impacted living in tent settings and basic shelters that were partially or completely damaged by the snow, heavy rains, and mudslides. This led to some families' displacement in other safe host communities. PRCS, as the primary actor in the emergency relief phase, has responded to the snow, floods, and cold wave affected people and distributed household (HH) items, including winter blankets (516), mattresses (441), kitchen sets (182), heaters (54), tarpaulins (333), and jerry cans (63). Therefore, PRCS will need support to continue their ongoing relief operations through partial replenishment of PRCS stocks

Population to be assisted: PRCS is providing relief and shelter assistance to 500 HHs affected families (350 in Gaza and 150 in West Bank) in coordination with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, relevant actors, such as Civil Defence, OCHA, UNRWA, among others. At the same time, PRCS will sensitize the population on key prevention actions through awareness-raising materials.

Programme standards/benchmarks: Sphere/national standards are observed. Procurement of HH items will be done in accordance with the Federation standards and requirements.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions	<i># of households reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlements. (Target:500 HHs) % of beneficiaries satisfied with shelter items received. (Target: TBD)</i>					
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.	<i># of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance. (Target: 500 HHs)</i>					
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps						
AP005	Identification of caseloads and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups – inclusion factors integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response						
AP005	Identification of community participation modalities in program design and implementation						
AP005	Coordination with other relevant sectors for integrated programming						
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders						
AP005	Distribution of the shelter and household items to the affected population						
AP005	Replenishment of distributed items						
AP005	Conduct satisfaction survey with recipients on shelter items received						
P&B Output Code	Shelter 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	<i># of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive. (Target: 500 HHs)</i>					
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
AP006	Awareness raising on basic Safe Shelter						



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 3,500 (500 HHs)

Requirements (CHF): 38,471

Needs analysis: According to preliminary assessments, affected families specifically those displaced, there is a shortage of hygiene items among the displaced families and the host families.

Population to be assisted: 500 families have been reached with hygiene kits including women kits following the loss of most hygiene items.

Programme standards/benchmarks: Sphere/national standards are observed. Procurement of hygiene items will be done in accordance with Federation standards and requirements.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items. (Target: 500 HHs)					
	WASH 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	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Activities planned						
	Month						
AP030	Determine the needs for hygiene NFIs						
AP030	Procurement of 500 hygiene kits						

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 69,680

P&B Output Code	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.	IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues (Target: Yes)					
	Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues	Communication work is carried out (social media engagement, news articles, interviews, AV materials, etc.). (Target: Yes)					
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6

	Month						
AP053	Collection and dissemination of success stories and photos						
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	<i># of monitoring visits conducted (Target: 2)</i> <i># lessons learned workshops (Target: 2 - in Gaza and the West Bank)</i> <i># of community feedback reports produced (Target: TBD)</i>					
	Activities planned Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
AP055	Development of an M&E plan						
AP055	Satisfaction surveys in Gaza and the West Bank						
AP055	Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis + Action plan						
AP055	Based on the collected information from Satisfaction surveys, inform and adapt CEA approaches						
AP055	Information provision around the purpose of the aid and selection criteria to promote transparency and accountability						
AP055	Collect, analyze, and respond to community feedback through the satisfaction survey						
AP055	Conduct end-of-operation lessons learned workshops						

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRPS013 - Palestine - Extreme Weather
2022

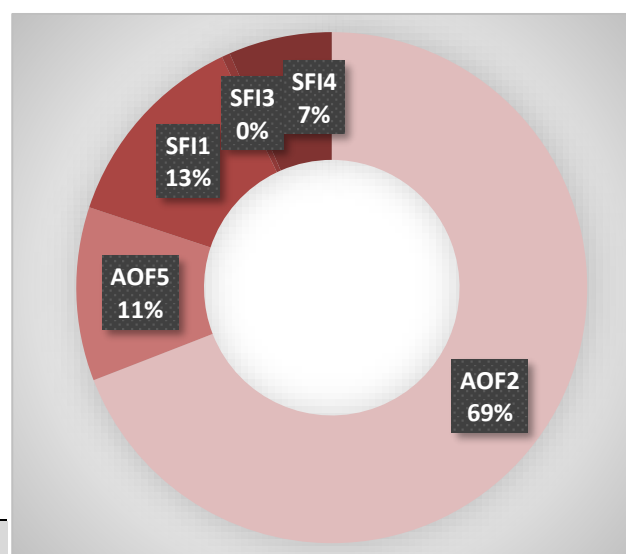
2/8/2022

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	59,719
Clothing & Textiles	105,985
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	36,123
Utensils & Tools	10,837
Other Supplies & Services	50,572
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	263,237
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,559
Logistics, Transport & Storage	11,559
Volunteers	28,899
Personnel	28,899
Travel	1,734
Communications	1,734
Other General Expenses	21,501
General Expenditure	24,969
DIRECT COSTS	328,664
INDIRECT COSTS	21,363
TOTAL BUDGET	350,027

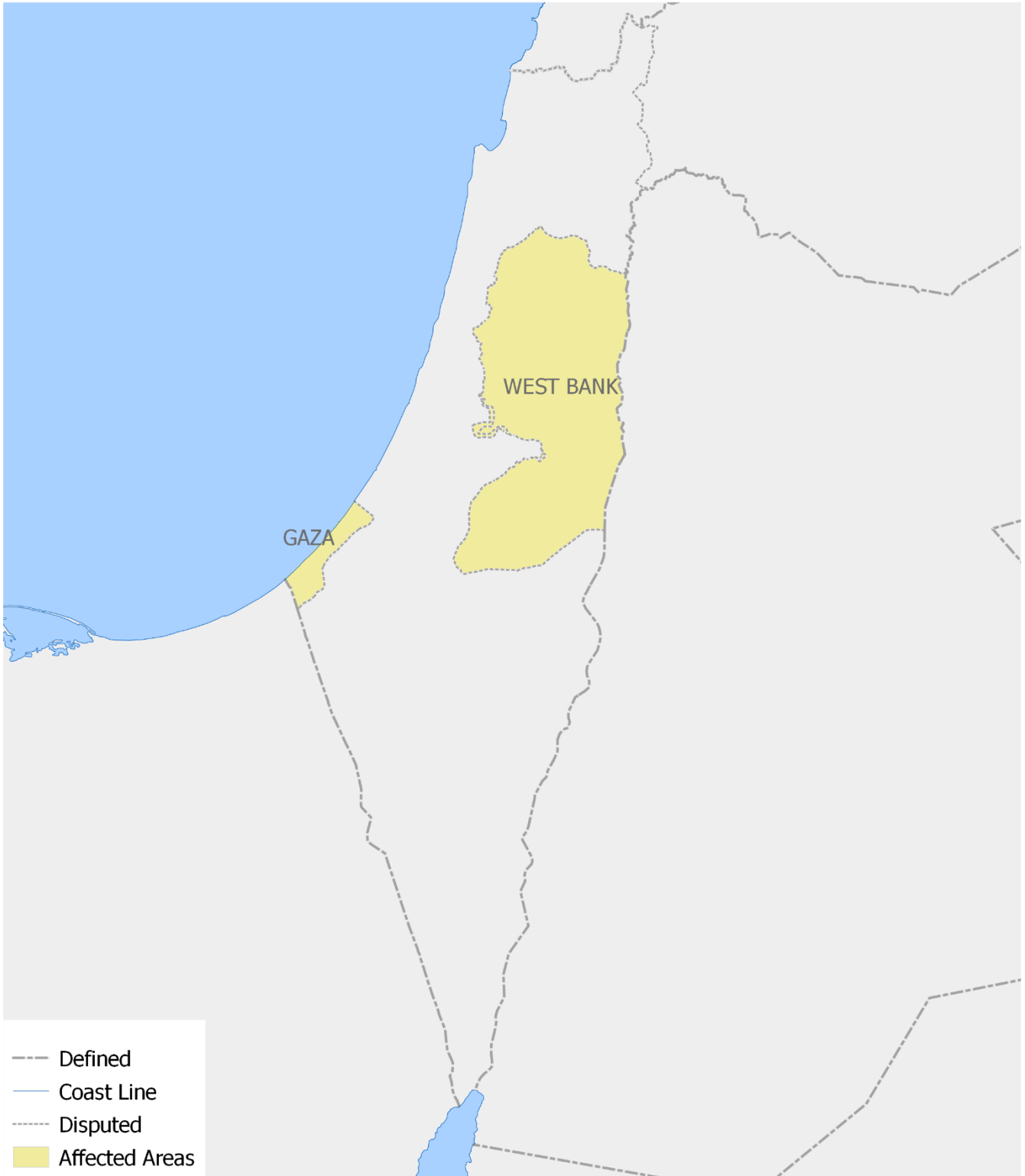
Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	241,876
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	38,471
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	44,934
	Effective International Disaster	
SFI2	Management	
	Influence others as leading strategic	
SFI3	partners	1,847
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	22,899
TOTAL		350,027

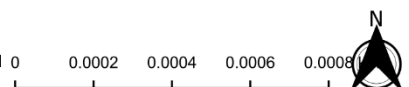




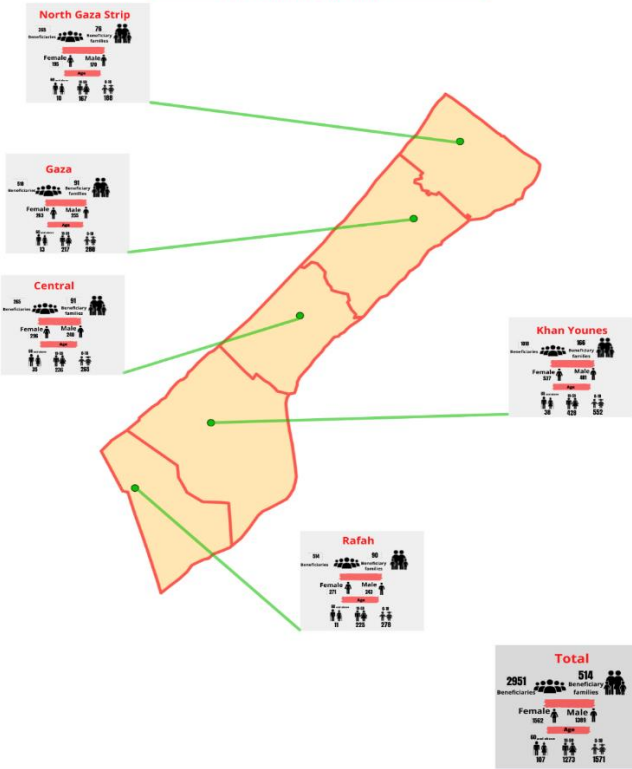
Palestine: Extreme Weather Conditions Disaster Relief Emergency Funds



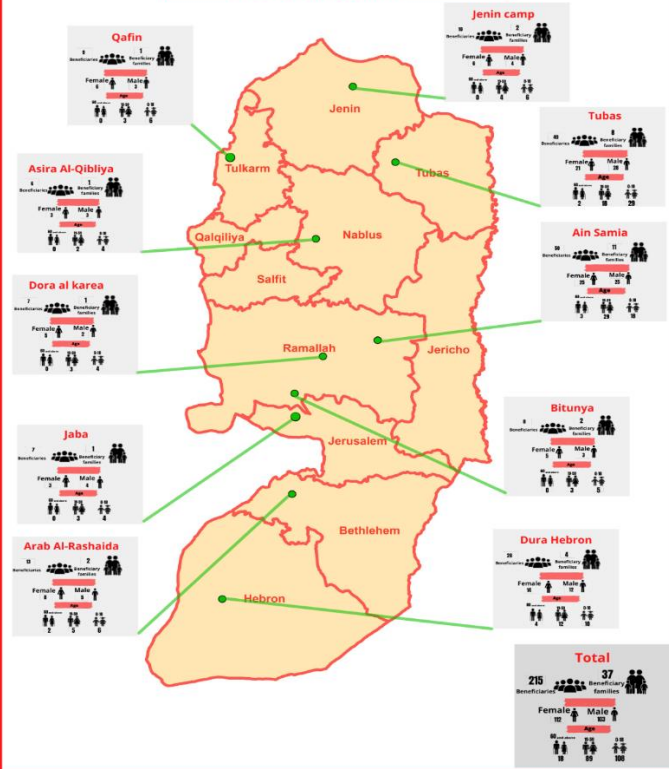
The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.



PRCS Interventions during the cold wave for Gaza Strip 26-30 January 2022



PRCS Interventions during the cold wave for West Bank 26-30 January 2022



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

- Marwan Jilani, Director General, email: mjilani@palestinercs.org
- Abdel Qader Abuawad, Disaster Risk Management Department; phone: 0097 599 25 1142; [email: AbdAelqader.AbuAwad@palestinercs.org](mailto:AbdAelqader.AbuAwad@palestinercs.org)

IFRC Country Delegation:

- Faisal Mahboob, Head of Delegation; phone: +972 (0) 59 823 5888; email: Faisal.Mahboob@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva:

- Karla Morizzo, DREF Officer; phone: +41-79-730 7535; email: karla.morizzo@ifrc.org

In the IFRC regional delegation:

- Hosam Faysal, Head of Disasters, Climate, and Crises (Prevention, Response, and Recovery); phone: +961 71 802219; email: Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- Raja Assaf, Senior Response Officer; phone: +961 71 910896; email: raja.assaf@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Rania Ahmed, Acting Regional Head of Partnerships and Resource Development; phone: +961 71 802 791; email: rania.ahmed@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 (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- 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.