

Operation Update Report

Lebanon: Election Preparedness

DREF n° MDRLB011	Timeframe covered: 06 May 2022 - 31 May 2022
Operation update n° 1; 04 July 2022	Operation start date: 06 May 2022
N° of people being assisted: 4,330	Funding requirements (CHF): 250,057
Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Defense	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

- Additional support was allocated to volunteer mobilization through cost savings in health consumables.
- Ongoing operational costs are related to continued mobilization for readiness to respond during the period of government formation.

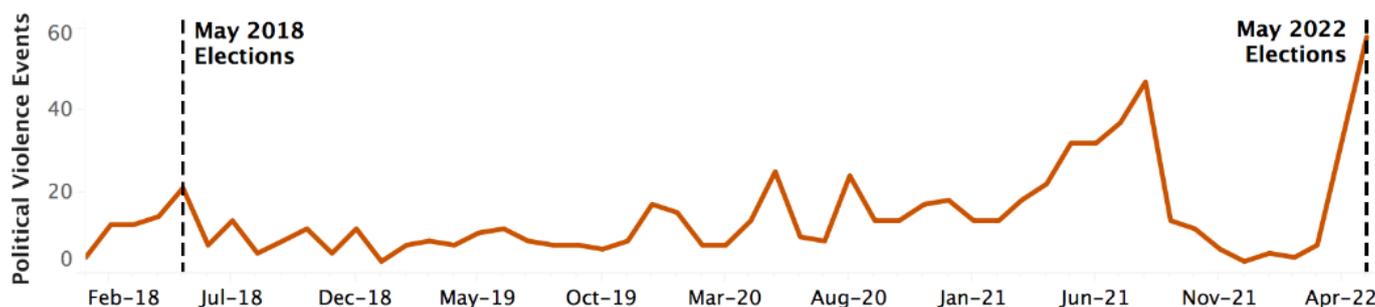
A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Lebanon held its first general elections since 2018 in May 2022. These elections took place against the backdrop of a severe complex humanitarian crisis and periods of civil unrest surrounding governance issues.

Since 2011, Lebanon has hosted the largest number of refugees per capita, in addition to hosting a substantial number of Palestinian refugees. Since the end of 2019, Lebanon has witnessed civil unrest, economic instability, currency devaluation, a pandemic, and a massive explosion in the heart of its capital. Since September 2019, Lebanon's socioeconomic collapse has spiraled into one of the top three most severe economic crises the world has seen since the 1850s, according to the World Bank. Over 80% of people in Lebanon are living in multidimensional poverty. In August 2020, a double explosion at the port of Beirut took over 200 lives, left over 6,000 people with physical injuries and displaced over 300,000 people.

Elections took place as scheduled on 15 May 2022. While voting passed mostly peacefully, a number of disputes and violent incidents took place including a reported clash between supporters of different political parties. Tracking of violent events by ACLED¹ shows a steady increase in the leadup to 2022 elections, and a peak which exceeded 2018 elections and a prior spike in August 2021 coinciding with fuel shortages.



¹ "Lebanon: General Elections," ACLED <https://acleddata.com/2022/06/09/lebanon-general-elections/>

Since the announcement of the results, several people including at least four children were injured by celebratory gunfire. There have been protests related to the conduct and results of elections, as well as in connection to the ongoing economic crisis. Lebanon's currency lost value after the elections, selling from around 27,000 lira to the dollar on the parallel market on 15 May to a low of nearly 37,000 lira to the dollar on 27 May before climbing again to the pre-election rate.

Summary of current response

Overview of Operating National Society

Update on action already taken by the National Society to respond to the event:

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) Emergency Medical Services mobilization was launched from Friday 13 May until Monday 16 May.

Over 2,450 paramedics and 150 ambulances were mobilized across the country, backed up by four dispatch rooms for communication and coordination. Details on the response of EMS can be found under **Section C** of this report.

In addition, the LRC Disaster Management Services sector also set up 60 tents at election sites across the country including:

- 35 in Beirut
- 6 in Hermel
- 5 in Qab Elias
- 4 in Hasbaya
- 3 in Jbeil
- 3 in Kesrouan
- 2 in Batroun
- 1 in Saida
- 1 in Jounieh

Concurrently, LRC BTS maintained a state of alert in 11 of its 13 blood centers in order to respond directly to any need for blood units due to incidents related to elections.

Following the elections, the LRC is focused on maintaining the requisite readiness to respond to events that may accompany the period preceding and during the formation of a new government. See the section on ***"Needs analysis and scenario planning"*** for more information.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement's coordination in Lebanon is anchored in the Movement Cooperation Agreement (MCA) which outlines the functional coordination mechanisms in the country with regular meetings at the leadership, operational and technical levels. The functional Movement's coordination mechanisms and practical application in the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process in Lebanon continues to reinforce a coordinated and complementary Movement response.

Key coordination mechanisms include:

- Monthly Movement meeting chaired by LRC, and monthly Movement meeting chaired by PRCS-L
- Weekly tripartite meetings between LRC, IFRC, and ICRC
- Weekly partner advisory committee meetings between LRC, IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross.

The Lebanese Red Cross led the response in the country, staying in close coordination with IFRC, Participating National Societies, and the ICRC. See [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#) for more on the in-country presence of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in-country

The LRC dispatched representatives to the operation room of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense to coordinate and follow up with authorities. The LRC also coordinated with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities regarding the intervention of Disaster Management Services at voting sites.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis and scenario planning

While elections have taken place as scheduled, Lebanon now enters a stage of negotiations over the formation of a new government, which may lead to disputes between political actors and/or protest activity and unrest. Extended delays in the formation of a government would forestall a final deal with the International Monetary Fund, which is viewed as a critical step toward resolving the country's economic crisis.

Scenario planning is updated to reflect the timely occurrence of elections and points of ongoing uncertainty:

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Elections take place as scheduled with minimal disruption.	Heightened readiness needs limited to period immediately preceding and following elections.	Ensure continuity of LRC services and implement DREF per original EPoA.
Election outcome contested and followed by prolonged unrest.	Increased need for emergency medical services and possible need for additional humanitarian support.	Extend DREF operation and/or expand activities covered according to needs. Activate Safer Access Framework to maintain access in operational areas.

Operation Risk Assessment

Following review by LRC and IFRC teams, the risk assessment remains as stated in the EPoA:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Impact Descriptions	Mitigating steps
LRC personnel are exposed to safety and security risks.	Med	High	LRC EMS teams or other personnel face risks included but not related to road traffic, road blockages, or hostility when responding to affected populations.	Use of emblem and other visibility items. Strict adherence to existing safety protocols and coordination with relevant authorities regarding security environment.
Access to affected populations is constrained.	Low	High	Road blockages and/or security situation main impede access to some affected areas.	Coordination with relevant authorities and implementation of Safer Access Framework.
LRC personnel are exposed to COVID-19.	Med	Low	Possibility of an outbreak inside a National Society or IFRC office. Understaffing causing added pressures on the non-exposed team members.	Continue to implement rigorous safety, quarantine, and self-isolation protocols.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The overall objective of the operation remains as stated in the DREF Emergency Plan of Action: to provide emergency medical and blood transfer services in the period before, during, and following the national general elections. Following the elections, LRC is focused on maintaining requisite readiness to respond to events which may accompany the formation of a new government.

IFRC operational support to the DREF operation will continue to be provided primarily through the Lebanon country delegation including close collaboration between the IFRC Lebanon Security Unit and LRC counterparts, as well as continuous support to Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER).

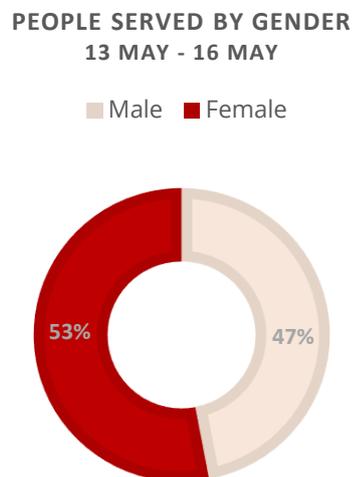
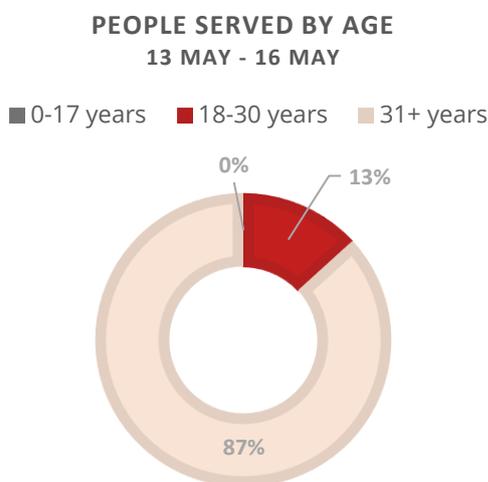
C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Health</p> <p>People reached: 1,627</p> <p>Male: 765</p> <p>Female: 862</p>
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Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# patients served during the elections alert <i>(updated indicator)</i>	N/A	1,627
Output 1.1:		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# supported stations and dispatch centers <i>(updated indicator)</i>	47 Stations 4 Dispatch Centers	47 Stations 4 Dispatch Centers

The DREF helped LRC EMS to perform 12,216 services across Lebanon. This includes services conducted during the four days surrounding the elections with a total of 1,539 missions completed and 1,627 patients served by all 47 stations and four dispatch centers across Lebanon. The graph below depicts the percentage of people who were reached during the elections, disaggregated by gender and age.



Support to EMS volunteers is captured under the section titled “Strengthen National Society.”

Maintenance of ambulances and other vehicles is being undertaken during June to keep the fleet in operational condition to respond during and after the DREF operation.

Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of blood units distributed	1,000	2,392

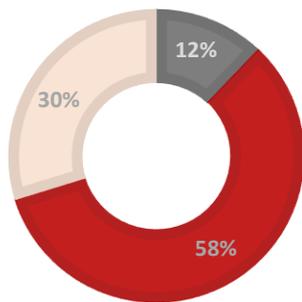
Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of blood units collected	750	2,481

LRC BTS maintained a state of alert in 11 of its 13 blood centers in order to respond directly to any need for blood units due to incidents related to elections. The graph below depicts the percentage of people who were reached during the elections, disaggregated by gender and age.

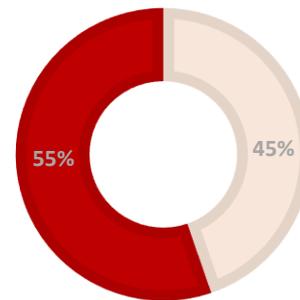
RECIPIENTS OF BLOOD UNITS BY AGE
13 MAY - 31 MAY

■ 0-17 years ■ 18-65 years ■ 66+ years



RECIPIENTS OF BLOOD UNITS BY GENDER
13 MAY - 31 MAY

■ Male ■ Female



Through DREF funds, LRC purchased 3,552 blood bags, 4,400 cuvettes, and other medical consumables used for the whole blood collection process.

On the operational level, DREF funds helped to maintain the supply of electrical power in all the LRC BTS Centers from a combination of private generators and fuel to the generators that operate once the public electricity is off. This continuous supply of electricity is crucial to secure the safety and quality of blood in the BTS Centers' refrigerators. Furthermore, DREF funds contributed to waste management transportation which kept BTS Centers and working areas sanitary at all times for both blood donors and BTS Technologists.

Strengthen National Society

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
Systems are in place to monitor quality of EMS and BTS services	Yes	Yes

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of LRC volunteers supported with per diems and incidentals	24	2,450

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of learning exercises documented and shared on IFRC Go	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		

The needs for support to volunteers far exceeded initial plans due to increased tension in the country as assessed through continuous monitoring by LRC. In total, the DREF operation supported a total of 2,450 volunteers who were on the highest alert in all 47 EMS stations and four dispatch centers across Lebanon.

Volunteers were supported with meals throughout the mobilization period. In addition, EMS started to cover part of their monthly fuel expenses to maintain their readiness as the country is still living the elections consequences sporadically from roadblocks, supporters' conflicts, and limited protestations in different areas.

A learning exercise has been scheduled for July with key stakeholders from the LRC and IFRC.

D. Financial Report

Expenditures were at 39% of the DREF budget as of 31 May, with the remaining costs allocated through the end of the implementation period. Cost savings from medical consumables and equipment for EMS were allocated to LRC volunteer costs, with no change to the overall budget total.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in 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.