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# DREF final report

## Israel: Extreme Winter Conditions

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRIL001**  
**GLIDE n° CW-2013-000153-ISR**  
**17 April 2014**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Summary:** CHF 113,005 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 December 2013 to support the Magen David Adom in Israel in delivering immediate assistance to some 7,050 beneficiaries, and to replenish the National Society's disaster preparedness stocks, affected by the severe winter conditions during 12-15 December 2013.

The DREF assisted MDA with the provision of emergency medical service (EMS) response to the population in the cities affected by the snow, support to civilians stranded without electricity, opening clinics in temporary shelters, and opening shelter for the homeless in MDA headquarters in Tel Aviv. The fund was used to purchase hot meals, sleeping bags, clothes and coats for the beneficiaries and to support the emergency activity of the emergency medical service team during the storm.



MDA teams supporting the affected population in Jerusalem  
*Photo by MDA*

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The DREF allocation of CHF 113,005 was spent in line with the approved budget. The remaining balance of CHF 68 will be returned to the DREF account.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

Starting Wednesday, 12 December 2013, Israel experienced a severe winter storm which affected the whole country. The storm claimed four lives, 3,000 people were taken to hospitals, about 5,000 have been assisted by MDA. 2,000,000 inhabitants were affected by the severe weather, many of them left without electricity, and, consequently, no heating. Joint teams of fire rescue, municipality and MDA performed well check visits, supported by soldiers. Some food distribution was also performed to communities stranded by the snow.

Jerusalem had up to 60 cm of snow and the roads to the city were blocked for two days. Hundreds were stranded on the roads to the city, rescued by the police and hosted in temporary shelters. Due to the blocked

roads those hosted in the shelters had to stay there for two days. Similar conditions affected the city of Zefat and the upper Galilee (north of Israel).

The storm caused damages to the electric power supply infrastructure and, as a result, about 35,000 households were left without power supply and without any heating capacity making the living conditions for those households very unpleasant.

The rest of the country was affected by heavy rains, associated with high winds and temperatures below average.

### Coordination and partnerships

MDA representatives were deployed in the relevant situation rooms at the different governmental levels, as well as to the local operations centres. The MDA's leadership participated in the coordination meetings held at the Prime Minister's office, different ministries and by the local authorities.

Coordination with other volunteer organizations was very successful and enabled mutual benefit from the available resources.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MDA mobilized 1,000 staff and 2,000 volunteers in order to meet the challenges of the extreme weather conditions. The National Society used the DREF assistance to purchase snow chains to maintain EMS response capacities and provide the affected population, who were not able to reach health care facilities by their own means, transportation to the main health facilities. Furthermore, MDA purchased, with the assistance of the DREF, coats and clothes as well as sleeping bags and hot meals for the temporary shelter that the MDA had opened for homeless people in Tel Aviv.

MDA mobilized resources nationwide to support the affected areas. Volunteers were called into action and mobilized for the affected areas.

During the winter storm the number of emergency calls attended by MDA was extremely high, about five times the normal volume (in Jerusalem, Zefad and their surrounding areas). This put a strain on the existing ambulance equipment and teams.

MDA opened clinics at the temporary shelters of the local authorities so as to assist the public stranded on the roads, by providing first aid and medical care.

During the whole operation MDA was coordinating with the PRCS and the authorities continuously at local and national levels.

## Achievements against outcomes

Emergency health
<p><b>Outcome: Increase EMS (ambulance service) response capacities in the affected community</b></p> <p><b>Output:</b> 40 additional team were set up and equipped in Jerusalem, Zefad and neighboring communities to support and response the needs of 6,000 people.</p> <p><b>Activities implemented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional 40 EMS teams in 3 shifts a day (25 in the Jerusalem area, 15 in the Zefad area) – total of 120 additional teams daily.</li> <li>• Support the increase in EMS activities by mobilization of vehicles, staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Support the activity by providing food to the team members.</li> <li>• Support volunteers using their private four wheels drive vehicles in the operation by reimbursement of fuel costs.</li> <li>• Procure snow chains for the cars, warm clothing, anti-freeze fluid.</li> <li>• Repair broken resources (ambulance) and replenish resources used up in the operation.</li> </ul>

## Emergency shelter

**Outcome: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and clothing items) to approximately 1,050 beneficiaries and 50 homeless persons hosted at MDA HQ**

**Output:** The food and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable 1,050 people was met through distribution of food and non-food items and clothes.

### Activities implemented:

- Provide shelter to 50 homeless persons at MDA HQ.
- Provide the beneficiaries with hot meals at the shelters.
- Procure and distribute sleeping bags, towels and mattresses for the shelter.
- Support 1,000 beneficiaries left without power supply with relocation to relatives.

### Impact:

Thanks to the activities implemented during the operation, MDA was able to overcome the challenges caused by the extreme weather conditions and to maintain its EMS capacities and to assist some 7,050 beneficiaries. Despite the heavy snow, the transportation of injured or sick people to medical facilities was available thanks to the procurement of snow chains. The MDA provided coats and clothes to the homeless, opened a shelter for the homeless and was able to provide them with hot meals throughout the storm.

Table 1 provides details about the activities realized by MDA, while Table 2 contains information on the stocks which were replenished/procured with the DREF allocation.

**Table 1 – Realized activities**

No.	Item name/activity	Quantity
1	Clothes	163 pants/ 153 coats/ 160 towels
2	Sleeping bags	136 sleeping bags
3	Mattress	100
4	Hot meals	670
5	Rain suits	452
6	Repair of damaged ambulance	
7	Salary for the security guard (in the homeless shelter)	13-25 December 2013

**Table 2 – Replenishment/procurement for stock**

No.	Item name / activity	Quantity
1	Snow chains	150
2	Batteries for ambulance	38
3	Tires for ambulance	63
4	Rescue and tow equipment (chains and bands)	

### Challenges:

- This was the first time MDA had to deal with such a severe winter storm, learning and implementing lessons learned on the move. Severe winter conditions will be incorporated into MDA contingency planning.
- The operation required a massive mobilization of volunteers. This requires logistics preparedness in terms of transportation of the volunteers and providing them with adequate winter clothing.
- Extremely high volume of non-life-threatening calls responded as there were no other response mechanisms. Issue to be explored further with the authorities.
- Very good cooperation with other volunteer organizations to maximize utilization of resources and maximize response.
- A very good coordination with IFRC Europe Zone DM department enabled MDA to handle the DREF

allocation in a timely manner to improve response.

### Lessons learned:

At the end of the operation, a short debriefing was held in March 2014 to exchange opinions, share good practices and lessons learned, and to update the National Society plan and further improve its disaster management capacity.

## Contact information

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

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### Click here

1. Click [here](#) for the DREF operation final financial report
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

## 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 Disaster 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

**Disaster Response Financial Report**

MDRIL001 - Israel - Extreme Winter Condition

Timeframe: 16 Dec 13 to 16 Jan 14

Appeal Launch Date: 16 Dec 13

Final Report

**Selected Parameters**

Reporting Timeframe	2013/12-2014/03	Programme	MDRIL001
Budget Timeframe	2013/12-2014/01	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Funding**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>		75,336				75,336	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		113,005				113,005	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>		113,005				113,005	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>		113,005				113,005	
<b>D. Total Funding = B +C</b>		113,005				113,005	

\* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>							
<b>C. Income</b>		113,005				113,005	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-112,937				-112,937	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		68				68	

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### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			<b>75,336</b>			<b>75,336</b>		
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	2,534						2,534	
Clothing & Textiles	2,490		38,151			38,151	-35,661	
Food	3,689		5,909			5,909	-2,220	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Sup</b>	<b>8,713</b>		<b>44,060</b>			<b>44,060</b>	<b>-35,347</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	58,983		57,039			57,039	1,944	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>58,983</b>		<b>57,039</b>			<b>57,039</b>	<b>1,944</b>	
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>								
Professional Fees	1,043		1,599			1,599	-557	
<b>Total Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>1,043</b>		<b>1,599</b>			<b>1,599</b>	<b>-557</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training			409			409	-409	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>			<b>409</b>			<b>409</b>	<b>-409</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	2,000		2,885			2,885	-885	
Financial Charges			51			51	-51	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>2,936</b>			<b>2,936</b>	<b>-936</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recover	4,598		6,893			6,893	-2,295	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>4,598</b>		<b>6,893</b>			<b>6,893</b>	<b>-2,295</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>75,336</b>		<b>112,937</b>			<b>112,937</b>	<b>-37,601</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>-37,601</b>			<b>-37,601</b>		

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**IV. Breakdown by subsector**

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
<b>BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people</b>							
Disaster response	75,336		113,005	113,005	112,937	68	
Subtotal BL2	75,336		113,005	113,005	112,937	68	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>75,336</b>		<b>113,005</b>	<b>113,005</b>	<b>112,937</b>	<b>68</b>	