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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) occupied Palestinian territory: Complex Emergency

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRPS009</b>	<b>Glide n° CE-2014-000091-PSE</b>
<b>For DREF; Date of issue: 15 July 2014</b>	<b>Expected timeframe: 3 months</b>
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 228,474</b>	
<b>Total number of people affected: 2,850,000</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 10,500 (3,500 patients per month)</b>
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) 37 branches, 7,000 active volunteers and some 5,000 more as reserve volunteers, 1,600 employees.</b>	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC and ICRC for coordination</b>	

### A. Situation analysis

#### Description of the disaster

Since the suspension of Israel-Palestine peace talks and the geopolitical changes related to the internal political dynamics and share of power in the occupied Palestinian territories in April 2014, the political situation experienced an increasing deterioration in both, West Bank and Gaza strip. This came to burden the already fragile situation of Gaza strip, under blockade since 2007 and economic sanctions. The situation worsened after the closure of Rafah border, thus having a negative impact in terms of humanitarian and economic situation of the population with poverty and unemployment continuing to grow.



Clashes in oPt erupted in mid-June 2014 after three Israeli teenagers were abducted on June 13, in West Bank (near Hebron) and their bodies were found on the evening of June 30, 2014.

This was coupled with increased tension between Israeli settlers and Palestinian community, after the abduction and killing of a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem on July 2. Protest and violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces are since ongoing through East Jerusalem, Hebron, and other areas in West Bank and Palestinian communities in Israel.

The escalation of the crisis as witnessed by the surge in military operations, resulted in an increase in tensions between both sides. .

As of July 7 there has been a significant escalation of hostilities in The Gaza Strip and southern Israel as a result of the gradual collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached in November 2012. Israeli media reports indicate that the military operation will be gradually scaled up, and may include ground operations. This has been described to be the worst unrest since an eight-day war in 2012.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health and the municipality of Gaza City have declared an emergency situation.

Since the beginning of the emergency, mid-June, 208 people have been killed and more than 2800 wounded between West Bank and Gaza, according to figures from Palestinian Ministry of Health.

According to OCHA, the humanitarian emergency in Gaza involves 5,600 Palestinian people displaced due to damage to their homes and 17,000 additional Palestinian taking shelter in UNRWA schools, while the number might dramatically increase in the coming days; 54% of disposables are currently out of stock in Gaza's central drug store; 6 health facilities and 72 schools have been damaged and 1,255 homes have been destroyed or are partially damaged.

PRCS staff and volunteers are working across the hour to respond to the needs of the Palestinian communities, under a high risk conditions. The EMS station in Gaza, Jabalya branch, was hit two times. Five ambulances were damaged and a number of staff injured. Another volunteer was injured yesterday when evacuating casualties following an airstrike. Medical status of PRCS injured volunteer and staff is stable now.

### **Summary of the current response**

#### **Overview of Host National Society**

PRCS, founded in 1968, is mandated by the Palestinian Authority to provide National Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency Services in oPt and Health Services in the Diaspora. The PRCS is a full member of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and is adhering to its Fundamental Principles.

- Since the beginning of the crisis, on 13 June, PRCS activated the Central emergency operation room at Headquarters in Ramallah and as well as the one in Hebron. One week later the operation room was also activated in Gaza strip.
- Disaster Management Unit, emergency medical services (EMS), volunteers, logistics as well as media support are working together to respond to the emergency and ready to be mobilized at any moment according to needs and situation.
- The first priority was to make sure that EMS is ready to respond to the emergency with ambulances and volunteer teams trained in first aid to support the service.
- The second priority was to make sure that hospitals and Primary Health centers (PHC) are ready and equipped with enough stocks of medicines, disposables, surgical instruments and a buffer (emergency stock) in case of number of injuries increased during the period.
- The third priority was to mobilize the DM volunteers under the NDRT for needs assessment, distributions of relief items, etc.
- PRCS already provided the EMS services to more than 1000 injured people (653 in West Bank and 402 in Gaza strip)
- PRCS transported 70 dead bodies and 447 injured (50% of the casualties) since the beginning of the operation
- EMS vehicles (122 ambulances), technicians (350) and EMS volunteers (300) were mobilized.
- Shelter and non-food items for 4 families in West Bank were distributed.
- In Gaza strip, PRCS will provide relief assistance to 15 families whose homes were either destroyed or damaged following the bombardments.
- Primary Health Centers in South of West Bank were activated for emergency situation 24 hours.



**PRCS volunteers help evacuate families in Khan Younis after the destruction of their houses due to air strikes. Photo: PRCS**

- PRCS hospitals in Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza, provided attention to injured people
- Volunteer teams in most of West Bank and Gaza areas activated and provided first aid services to injured people
- Headquarters distributed medicines and disposables to PHC and EMS centres to replenish the normal stock. But in case of emergency, it will be enough for only three months in a normal situation.
- Relief non-food items were distributed to main branches, where sub-warehouses are located (5000 families for each).
- PRCS staff and volunteers are working around the clock to respond to needs of the affected population, under a high risk conditions. The EMS station in Gaza, Gebalaya branch, was hit, leading to the injury of three of its staff.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

ICRC intervention in oPt focuses on emergency health and care through supporting PRCS EMS on annual basis and MoH hospitals 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 all fighting parties and conducting visits to detainees, as well as water and sanitation activities.

The International Federation 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.

Building on the experiences of the past and taking into account the need to work jointly to face this complex emergency, PRCS, ICRC and IFRC have agreed to work together to consolidate their various methods for assistance and to avoid overlapping. The present DREF constitutes immediate support to PRCS to strengthen its operational capacity to enable the NS to continue responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

There are presently ten Partner National Societies with presence in oPt and cooperating with the PRCS in a series of programs: Danish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Qatari, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Emirates RCRC National Societies.

In terms of coordination PRCS organizes partner meetings with currently present National Societies, IFRC and ICRC for updating on the situation and coordinate efforts.

The PRCS had also bilateral meetings with all of its partners and establishes coordination mechanisms among headquarters and branches for need assessment and response.

Egyptian Red Crescent is on high alert and activated its emergency cell. ERCS has deployed its Disaster response team to Northern Sinia branch; A cargo of six tons of medical supplies, blankets and tents, were dispatched by ERC and entered the Gaza Strip on Sunday morning 07.13.2014 through the Rafah crossing in order to help ease the humanitarian suffering of affected Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian Red Crescent, through its branch in northern Sinai continues to facilitate the passage of relief convoys and receive the injured through the Rafah crossing in coordination with the concerned authorities and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and other various humanitarian agencies, The IFRC is on continues communication with ERCs; monitoring the situation offering team deployment or any other type of support

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

The PRCS together with IFRC and ICRC is coordinating efforts and sharing operational information with inter-agency partners including UN OCHA.

PRCS held several meetings with WHO and Ministry of Health related to support to area C on health, nutrition, Psychosocial programme support and resilience. The coordination is focused on the intervention with mobile clinics and also relief support in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote division of tasks.

PRCS works also in coordination with UNRWA for transport of fuel for Emergency Medical Services.

PRCS is working with the Ministry of Health at national and local level with hospitals for coordination in terms of sharing information on capacity of hospitals and the injured transported by PRCS ambulances.

In Gaza local emergency coordination mechanisms of the Palestine Civil Defense (PCD) and the PRCS were assigned and alerted to provide first response.



Chief of first aid in Rafah provides emergency medical service to an injured child in Rafah. Photo: PRCS

### **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health are calling on local and international donors to support the Ministry in coping with the current, difficult situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the Gaza strip, that is affecting the health and welfare of Palestinians. In addition of human casualties, since the attacks on the Gaza Strip a hospital, three clinics and water desalination centre in refugee camp have also been damaged. The Palestinian Ministry of Health has reported that they are unable to maintain adequate medicine stocks and WHO appeals for urgent funds to prevent the collapse of health services in the oPt

As a response to this situation, since the beginning of the crises first in West Bank and later on in Gaza, the PRCS undertook a consultation with branches to assess their needs in terms of relief in order to ensure readiness and response for at least 3 months at all levels (disposals, equipment, relief items, materials, etc.). The target branches are those located in hotspots (Hebron, Tulkarm, in West Bank and Khan Younis and Gaza city in Gaza strip).

Also the need assessment was conducted for PHC clinics and Hospitals and the Emergency Medical Service (EMS), in terms of non-food items (including relief and shelter), disposables, medicines and emergency equipment, stock of fuel for ambulances and generators and Disaster Management (logistics, vehicles and food and transportation of volunteers who will be participating in DM and EMS interventions).

As a result of to the consultation with PRCS hospital, primary health centers and branches, the PRCS estimates that according to the escalation of the emergency there is an expectation of 3,500 people per month to be assisted in the target areas by the Medical and Emergency services (Hospital, PHC and EMS) in the next three months.

In addition, there is an expectation of 7000 in need of EMS services per month, and 5000 people to be assisted through Disaster management intervention (such as relief items and shelters).

Regarding health assistance PRCS detected that some of the Primary health centers are in need of medical equipment to be prepared to treat injured people with similar cases to some hospitals.

	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Expected patients</b>
Hospitals		
Hebron	600000	500
Jerusalem	350000	250
Alquds (Gaza)	850000	550
Alamal (Gaza)	250000	350
Primary Health Centres		
Halhol (Hebron)	250000	200
Ithna (Hebron)	20000	250
Bani Noaim (Hebron)	22000	250
Attil (Tulkarm)	8000	150
Gaza 5 centres	500000	1000

The initial assessment of needs for each of the medical facilities is as follows:

	Drugs and disposables	fuel	Running cost	O <sub>2</sub> cylinders	stethoscope	sphygmomanometer	Emergency beds	Dc shock	ventilator	Dressing trolley	Dressing set	Minor surgical set
Hospitals												
-Hebron	2500		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Jerusalem	5000		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Alquds (Gaza)	7500	10000	2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Alamal (Gaza)	2500	10000	2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
Primary Health Centres												
-Halhal	2500		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Ithna	2500		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Bani Noaim	2500		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Attil	2500		2000	1000	150	200	750	3500	3500	1000	750	1000
-Gaza 5 centres	10000	10000	20000	5000	750	1000	3750	15000	15000	5000	3750	5000

### Risk Assessment

There is the risk that the escalation of the hostilities affects the security and leads to restrictions to road for ambulances, staff and volunteers with closure between main city and villages in each governorate, in terms of fragmentation of the territory.

The impact can be mitigated by distributing enough stock in each branch in order to the centers to be operationally autonomous for at least 3 months. At the same time the network of local volunteers is activated (volunteer committees, disaster risk reduction committees and community based health first aid committees) for community self support.

Drugs and medical equipment will be procured locally, what is not available in Gaza will be purchased from West Bank. Transport is done in cooperation with the ICRC.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### **Overall objective**

The population in affected areas is able to receive medical assistance in emergencies and health care facilities for a total estimated of 3500 persons per month in the hotspots of West Bank and Gaza strip.

Immediate assistance will be provided in the case of Gaza strip where the escalation of hostilities is leading to a large and increased number of casualties. In West Bank the operation will ensure that PRCS is further ready before additional deterioration of the situation to provide health care through hospitals and primary health centers in the case of fragmentation of the territory.

### **Proposed strategy**

The DREF operation will serve to provide immediate emergency response to ensure that people injured by military attacks in Gaza strip are receiving medical treatment. At the same time the DREF will serve to equip the most needed PRCS hospitals and primary health centres in the most affected/at risk areas in order to be ready to respond to the medical needs of the affected population if the situation deteriorates for the proposed three months.

The key activities planned as part of this operation are:

- Revision of initial need assessment in target areas according with updated situation
- Procurement of supplies
- Delivery of the supplies to PRCS responding health facilities and branches.
- Health assistance and care
- Ongoing assessment of needs according to the evolving situation
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

### **Operational support services**

#### **Human resources**

The PRCS has deployed 2,500 volunteers that will be running the operation together with technical staff from Disaster Management, Logistic and Health.

The volunteers mobilized for the operation are being included in the standard IFRC volunteers' insurance scheme

The project will cover the cost of one additional PRCS staff (part time) in order to support the administrative and financial management of the operation.

IFRC country representation will support the follow up and reporting of the operation.

#### **Logistics and supply chain**

Logistic support to the intervention will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items and medicines and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery to the hospitals and primary health centres. IFRC in the country and MENA Zone will support PRCS when needed.

Coordination is taking place with Egyptian Red Crescent in regards of in-kind donation of medical supplies, food items and non-food items coming through the Rafah border.

#### **Information technologies (IT)**

The cost of communications is included in the running cost of the operation.

**Communications**

Information on the operation will be done 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. IFRC in the country and MENA Zone will provide support to PRCS when needed.

Once a revision of need assessment and plan of action is done a communication strategy with key messages to be shared will be set up.

**Security**

In order to undertake the planned activities the PRCS will coordinate with ICRC and evaluate evolving security situation. The EMS station in Gaza, Gebalaya branch, was hit, leading to the injury of three of its staff. Another volunteer was injured yesterday when evacuating casualties following an airstrike. Medical status of PRCS injured volunteer and staff is stable now.

**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. In this regards monitoring is required regularly by the PRCS to track the effects and impact of response actions, track progress of activities and the delivery of outputs.

DREF EPoA updates will be published in due course of the operation. A final report will be published 3 months after the end of the operation (i.e. 15 January 2015).

**Administration and Finance**

The PRCS will be responsible for managing the funds in the oPt in accordance with standards practices for IFRC on operational transfers, based on the requirements and justifications specified in the letter of agreement to be signed between the National Society and IFRC for the implementation of the project. It is planned to cover the cost of a temporary administration and finance officer at PRCS during the duration of the operation to support on the financial recording and reporting.

The IFRC through country representation and finance department in MENA Zone will provide necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.





## Contact information

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

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**DREF operation**

15/07/2014

occupied Palestinian territory : Complex Emergency

**Budget Group****Budget CHF**

500	Shelter - Relief	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0
502	Construction - Housing	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0
505	Construction - Materials	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0
520	Food	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
540	Medical & First Aid	169,505
550	Teaching Materials	0
560	Utensils & Tools	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>		<b>169,505</b>
580	Land & Buildings	0
581	Vehicles Purchase	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
587	Medical Equipment	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	26,821
594	Logistics Services	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>		<b>26,821</b>
600	International Staff	0
661	National Staff	0
662	National Society Staff	2,006
667	Volunteers	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>2,006</b>
670	Consultants	0
750	Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>		<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>0</b>
700	Travel	1,000
710	Information & Public Relations	0
730	Office Costs	12,522
740	Communications	2,006
760	Financial Charges	669
790	Other General Expenses	0
799	Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>16,197</b>
599	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	13,944
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>		<b>13,944</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>228,474</b>