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DREF operations update

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Complex Emergency



Emergency appeal n° MDRPS009		GLIDE n° CE-2014-000091-PSE
Operations update n° 1		Timeframe covered by this update: 3 months
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 15 July, 2014		Timeframe: 3 months (plus 3 months extension until January 15)
Appeal budget:	Appeal coverage:	Total estimated Red Cross and Red Crescent response to date:
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 228,474		
N° of people being assisted: 10,500 (3,500 patients per month)		
Host National Societies presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Established in 1968, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has a network of 44 branches covering Palestinian territories (including branches in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt) , 20,000 members, 5,000 active volunteers and youth and 4,000 employees		
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, PRCS and ICRC for coordination		
Wider scope		
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: OCHA		

Summary

Since the suspension of peace talks Israel-Palestine 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.

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 2nd. 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.

As of July 7 there significant escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip was experienced between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups

Long lasting ceasefire agreement for Gaza was reached on 26 August, 2014. After 51 days of military operations, the extreme violence left on the ground a severe humanitarian situation; 2,133 people were killed during the crisis and 11,100 injured, approximately 70% of them civilians. One third of Gaza population¹ was displaced during the emergency. After the ceasefire still around 100,000 people remained displaced, hosted in UNRWA shelters and schools, government schools and families. 18,000 homes were destroyed and severely damaged and an estimate 100,000 people will not be able to return to their homes in the near future.

In West Bank and East Jerusalem, the number of Palestinian casualties, according to OCHA is 45 while the number of injuries 4,562.

PRCS deployed more than 400 volunteers, including 350 EMS volunteers and 170 well trained psychologist to provide Psychosocial Support, and 1000 plus staff, to be involved in response to the immediate needs of the affected people in close coordination with ICRC. A number of 122 ambulances were activated both in Gaza and West Bank.

The present DREF intended to provide immediate emergency response to ensure that people injured by military attacks in Gaza Strip received medical treatment. At the same time the DREF is serving to equip the most needs PRCS hospitals and primary health centres in the most affected/at risk areas in Gaza and West Bank in order to

¹ Between 500,000 and 650,000 depending on the weeks,

be ready to respond to medical needs of the affected population if the deterioration of the situation had led to a higher fragmentation of the territory.

As per the DREF document the Hospitals of Hebron, Jerusalem (in West Bank) and Alquds and Alamal (in Gaza Strip) together with three Primary Health Centres in Heron, one in Tulkaram and 5 in Gaza Strip have been target.

A non-cost three month extension of the DREF is being requested in order to meet the foreseen results. The unexpected dimension of the conflict has negatively affected the procedures for procurement of medicines and medical supplies, as further detailed below in "Operational Implementation" section.

Coordination and partnerships

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been at the forefront of operations since the beginning of the crises, increasing its readiness to respond to the needs of affected people in the occupied Palestinian Territory. In close coordination with ICRC, the National Society's volunteers, disaster management unit, emergency medical services, logistics services, as well as media support worked together to respond to the emergency and to be mobilized according to needs and situation.

A total number of 122 ambulances, 350 EMT practitioners and 400 volunteers have been mobilized as a whole. A lack of respect on IHL from the parties resulted in inadequate protection of health facilities and personnel and difficulties on emergency assistance, as a consequence two PRCS EMT volunteers resulted killed and 46 volunteers and staff injured, four medical facilities were damaged, as well as 32 ambulances –seven of them being out of service-.

In the Gaza Strip the Red Crescent teams have provided first aid and transport services to more than 5,000 injured people and evacuated some 4,900 civilians. Around 9,984 were treated in the PRCS hospitals since the start of conflict in Gaza Strip, while PRCS provided emergency medical services to more than 3,800 injured in the West Bank.

During the conflict PRCS provided relief assistance to more than 28,000 displaced families. Additional 25,000 families are being provided with relief non-food items in close cooperation with ICRC. In the other hand, PRCS in Gaza has identified additional 12,000 families that would need further support.

The Red Crescent psychosocial support team has provided psychosocial support during the emergency to more than 32,000 beneficiaries.

The Red Crescent hospitals in Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza have been providing medical care to injured people. Primary health centres in the south of the West Bank were activated and in stand by 24/ to handle the emergency situation.

In parallel to the present DREF, the PRCS launched a preliminary emergency appeal on 14 July for the amount of USD 14,570,915 to respond to the immediate and medium term needs of the affected population, including health care, relief, shelter and psychosocial support. Several RCRC and non-RCRC partners contributed to the appeal. IFRC contributed through OPEC donation. PRCS conducted in September a rapid need assessment to revise the humanitarian needs in the context of Gaza crises in terms of health, disaster management, rehabilitation and ability development and psychosocial support.

The ICRC launched a preliminary appeal on 25 July to scale up its response to humanitarian needs arising from the hostilities for an amount of CHF 15,000,000 and activated its rapid mechanism and started to mobilize additional staff to support its emergency response.

During the crises three coordination meeting took place among PRCS and RCRC partners in Ramallah and two RCRC Movement Conference calls were organized by ICRC.

On 5 August MENA National Societies met in Amman to discuss intervention and recommendations, organized by PRCS and IFRC and hosted by Jordan RC.

On 26 and 27 August, the IFRC Vice-President and IFRC Under Secretary General, visited the Gaza Strip and joined PRCS President in visiting the affected areas and displaced people.

On 17 September PRCS organized an RCRC Movement meeting in Gaza to further discuss strengthened response.

Mid October ARCO (Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization) conducted a technical visit to Gaza in order to support need assessment on current situation of health issues and other humanitarian issues.

During the period, IFRC provided technical support for the organization of cooperation activities and supported, as well, regular update on the emergency through the preparation of different materials -Info bulletin (two), Facts and Figures (three), Infographic (three) and talking points (two)-. A number of communication and dissemination materials have also been produced, such as web stories, interviews and videos. More information can be found at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/where-we-work/middle-east-and-north-africa/palestine-red-crescent/>
<http://www.palestinercs.org/en/>

Operational implementation

Overview

Revision of need assessment and situation analysis was conducted by PRCS headquarters with the involved branches in Hebron, Jerusalem, Tulkarem and Gaza and the Plan of Action was set mainly regarding the procurement and transport of the foreseen medical equipment and drugs.

PRCS followed internal procedures for procurement, consisting on: preparation of specifications from medical department to be sent to logistics, approval by finance department and management, announcement of tender on newspapers, presentation of supplier to PRCS where conditions are provided, 15 days to prepare bid and submit to logistics, appointment of Central Committee for the opening of tenders and check their eligibility, appointment of Technical Committee to assess specifications of tender, final decision and set of orders.

Once items are delivered by selected suppliers they are kept at headquarters warehouse to be checked against the specifications, prior to be dispatched to health centres. As a final step companies should provide technical training and install the equipment.

Normal procedures would take three months between tender, delivery and dispatch but to the conflict in Gaza and closure of Ashdod port suppliers have been reluctant to offer normal delivery conditions and set longer delays in order to meet difficulties of access through Israeli borders in current situation combined with need for supplementary security check up for advanced medical equipment. For drugs, during the conflict, companies have been run out of raw materials and production has been in stand by imports arrived.

The procedure was started two weeks after the starting date of the DREF and the first equipment arrived on 11 November, 2014 In the coming weeks a gathering with practitioners from health centres will be organized in Ramallah for technical indications from the company. Realistic expectations are that all material will be received and in place in the next eight weeks. Therefore a request for extension until 15 January has been submitted.

Regular bilateral meetings for the follow up of the implementation have been conducted between PRCS and IFRC country representation as well as visits to the hospitals in Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza. Weekly Monitoring and Evaluation tracking table is provided.

During the last three months PRCS has ensured normal functioning of their services at Hospitals and PHC from existing materials and drugs, with an increased activity in Gaza due to the toll of casualties. Running cost has been provided through the DREF.

Planned interventions	Implementation (%) note: consider presenting this visually as pie or bar charts
Health and care	
Outcome 1. To contribute to secure the continuation of PRCS Hospital and PHC Centres in West Bank and Gaza for population victims of conflict and clashes	
Output 1. Medical, surgical and disposable supplies are delivered on time in sufficient quantities to Hospital and PHC in target areas	50%
Output 2. Services at PRCS health facilities in the target areas are not interrupted	100%
Quality programming	
Outcome 1: A situation and need assessment is undertaken in target areas	
Output 1.1 Detailed assessment is finalized	100%
Outcome 2 Monitoring and evaluation is provided	
Output 2.1 Effective monitoring of the activity	80%

Contact information

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 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.

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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.

DREF operation

15/07/2014

occupied Palestinian territory : Complex Emergency				
Budget Group		Budget CHF	Exp. CHF	Remaining CHF
500	Shelter - Relief	0		0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0		0
502	Construction - Housing	0		0
503	Construction - Facilities	0		0
505	Construction - Materials	0		0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0		0
520	Food	0		0
523	Seeds & Plants	0		0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0		0
540	Medical & First Aid	169,505		169,505
550	Teaching Materials	0		0
560	Utensils & Tools	0		0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0		0
571	Emergency Response Units	0		0
578	Cash Disbursements	0		0
	Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	169,505	0	169,505
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		
	Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0		
592	Dsitribution & Monitoring	0		
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	26,821	28,000	-1,179
594	Logistics Services	0		
	Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	26,821	28,000	-1,179
600	International Staff	0		
661	National Staff	0		
662	National Society Staff	2,006	2,006	0
667	Volunteers	0		
	Total PERSONNEL	2,006	2,006	0
670	Consultants	0		
750	Professional Fees	0		
	Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0
680	Workshops & Training	0		
	Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0	0	0
700	Travel			0
710	Information & Public Relations	0		0
730	Office Costs	12,522	12510	12
740	Communications	2,006	2,006	0
760	Financial Charges	669	700	-31
790	Other General Expenses	0		
799	Shared Support Services	0		
	Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	15,197	15,216	-19
	TOTAL BUDGET	213,530	45,222	168,308