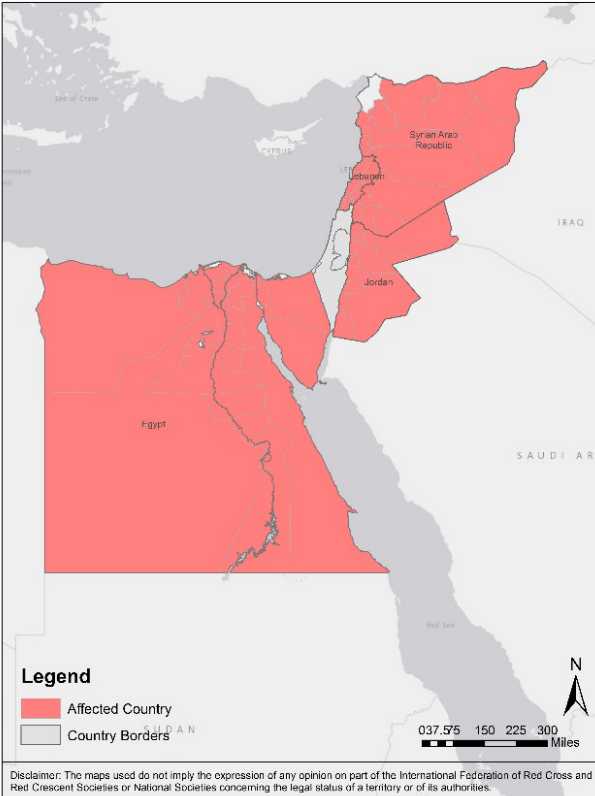




This Emergency Appeal complements the Palestine Red Crescent Society's response efforts in the oPt and their appeal to support those affected by the ongoing hostilities.

Appeal No: MDRS5002	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 20 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 30 million¹	
Glide No: CE-2023-000186-PSE	People [affected/at risk]: 15,000,000 (TBD) people	People to be assisted: 500,000 (TBD) people
DREF allocation: CHF 0.5 million	Appeal launched: 18/10/2023	Appeal ends: 31/12/2024

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Operating National Societies in response to the emergency. It includes the operating National Societies' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 10 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 20 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



with 9,600 injured since the start of the latest escalation on 7 October through to 16 October.

As of 9 October, tensions have risen beyond the borders as neighbouring countries have witnessed escalations. Rafah's border crossing point, Southern Gaza, was hit on 9-10 October. The northern borders with Lebanon have been witnessing continuous conflicts since 9 October resulting in infrastructure damage and over 10 casualties as well as the displacement of almost 10,000 people both in the south and elsewhere within the country. Locals are concerned that a potential escalation of hostilities could result in a more catastrophic outcome in the present day compared to the 2006 war. It is worth noting that Lebanon continues to suffer from an ongoing economic crisis.

Syria is already facing more than 12 years of protracted crisis including impacts from climate change and the February 2023 earthquake, and these events have exhausted the coping capacities of communities. Since October, airstrikes have been witnessed in Syria, mainly in rural Damascus and Aleppo including civil airports. At the same time, rhetoric from some armed groups and tribes is hardening and there has been an increase in armed clashes and hostilities in various parts of Syria. Sporadic shelling and artillery were also reported over the past few days in the southeast border areas.

Local escalations, demonstrations and civil unrest in different countries across the MENA region have increased which may result in further humanitarian needs and suffering including displacement and migration whilst the situation remains volatile.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 7 October 2023, an escalation of hostilities occurred across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The number of displaced people, injuries and fatalities is expected to rise as the escalation continues. The humanitarian needs are immense, and conditions are expected to deteriorate with the increasing numbers of casualties, damaged vital infrastructure, restricted access, and anticipated mass internal displacement with limited or no safe evacuation passages or humanitarian corridors.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza and UN OCHA, 2,670 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza

TARGETING

In view of the scale of likely needs and in order to complement the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)'s response efforts outlined in their appeal, the IFRC will enhance the capacities to respond through this IFRC Emergency Appeal by coordinating the response in neighbouring countries to the occupied Palestine Territories (oPt). The IFRC will be supporting – in close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - the response of its membership, as significant humanitarian actors in their own geographies, and strengthen their organizational capacities.

The total number of people affected in this context is still unfolding, due to the ongoing development of the situation, however, based on initial assessments, **this Emergency Appeal will assist an estimated 500,000 people**, reflecting the fact that in all countries, the National Societies are uniquely positioned in their response as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The initial numbers of men, women, girls and boys to be targeted fall into **two categories**:

- 1)** Displaced people from Gaza and the West Bank reaching neighbouring countries or territories, and host communities when appropriate.
- 2)** People from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria affected by the ongoing tensions and possible conflict spillover in areas that the respective National Society can reach, including internally displaced people and host communities.

Among all of these groups, a special focus will be placed on vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied minors, female-headed households with children, the elderly, injured, and people with disabilities. The needs are informed by ongoing access to information from the oPt, and activities from neighbouring National Societies supporting people on the move with various services. For people on the borders and on the move, the general immediate life-saving needs are clear, while longer-term needs and activities will be amended depending on the evolution of the situation in the different countries.

Due to the nature of the situation and the developing crisis, the number of geographies included in this Emergency Appeal might evolve to include additional affected populations in the region. The Operational Strategy, soon to be released will be regularly updated to inform on country-level actions and overall geographical coverage.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region's National Societies (Lebanese Red Cross, Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Jordanian Red Crescent) in preparing and strengthening their response readiness to the potential escalation of hostilities in the region and subsequent humanitarian needs.

The IFRC Secretariat, with its member National Societies, has launched a Federation-wide response plan for **30 million Swiss francs**, which aims to assist up to **500,000 people** over the course of **one year** along three main pillars:

- **Health & care, Water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH)**
- **Integrated assistance support (which includes Shelter, Livelihoods, and multi-purpose cash and in-kind assistance)**
- **Protection and prevention**

While the Emergency Appeal is designed in the very initial phase of the potential escalation, the main focus of the Appeal will be on the preparedness efforts of the National Societies and their response readiness, aligned with the respective National Societies' preparedness and response plans. The Emergency Appeal will also cover the response of the respective National Societies to the escalations that have already taken place in their countries.

With every day that passes, the vulnerabilities of the affected population increase. Access to medical supplies, food, water, utilities, and other vital goods and services deteriorates, which pushes people to seek refuge to meet their basic needs. Externally and internally displaced people are likely to be without social and family networks and are struggling to find accommodation. Given the nature of this crisis, the people affected will face long-term mental health needs that existing resources may not be able to support.

In order to provide support to the affected population in Gaza, logistics and supply chain support in Egypt with the ERC is a key priority under this Emergency Appeal. While the borders remain closed for the time being, a

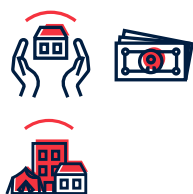
pipeline into Gaza is being prepared for when borders are reopened to provide much-needed humanitarian support. The pipeline will be set up in coordination with the ERC and PRCS.

Every National Society has its own individual profile, historical background, development, structure, systems, activities, and capacity. The IFRC will support and contextualize the individual responses in each geography to the status and development plan of every National Society. The strategies of the National Societies and ongoing programmes developed before the beginning of the crisis will be reviewed to ensure the sustainability of activities.

Implementation of the Operational Strategy should occur in parallel with the ongoing activities at the local level following the localization agenda. The IFRC will ensure a coordinated approach of all Movement components to the development initiatives of National Societies aiming for sustainable development and the growth of each organization involved. The choices and decisions made in the context of the Operational Strategy should consider the long-term impact on National Societies through a holistic, sustainable approach beyond the term of the Operational Strategy.

The strategy of the IFRC's response readiness will be to provide direct support to each National Society in their efforts to ensure immediate quality, inclusive, and scaled-up life-saving interventions to the most affected populations, and will focus on the following areas:

**Integrated assistance
(Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)**



This Emergency Appeal will ensure the continued provision of those affected, including displaced people and host communities, with shelter, transitional shelter and essential assistance through cash assistance and/or the distribution of in-kind relief items such as food, household essentials, and shelter support. IDPs and host communities will receive appropriate shelter assistance as determined by needs assessments in each area. Thus, in order to prepare for these interventions, the National Societies will be preparing to provide the needed services with the support of the Emergency Appeal. Some of these activities will include pre-positioning, and if required, distribution, technical support and training.



**Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)**



This will include readiness in addressing the urgent health needs of the affected communities by providing essential healthcare services including emergency medical services (EMS), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), first aid, as well as other health-related services. Ensuring mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to the affected population is a key priority.

Providing comprehensive WASH services, including targeted efforts, can ensure access to clean and safe water, the provision of sanitation facilities, and the restoration of infrastructure where necessary. This also includes hygiene promotion services and distribution of essential hygiene-related materials, with special consideration given to culturally appropriate feminine hygiene products for women and girls.

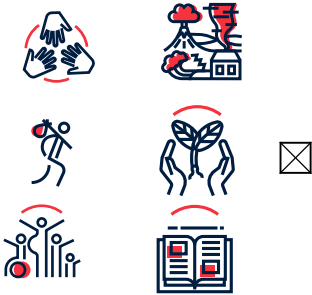
To enhance the preparedness and readiness to deliver these interventions, specific actions will be implemented, such as the development of health and hygiene promotion messages/education information and communication

materials, procurement and pre-positioning of kits and protective gear for staff and volunteers, as well as training of volunteers and staff.

Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)

Services to provide restoring family links (RFL) will help people contact or reunite with their loved ones, together with basic health care and psychosocial support, the provision of information, safe referral services mechanisms, including legal and protection needs, and other services depending on the needs assessment. The specific vulnerabilities linked to displacement will be given due attention, including through setting up Humanitarian Service Points at the borders to ensure access to essential services for people on the move. National Societies will be supported in employing a people-centred approach, in line with the IFRC’s practice and commitments. Community engagement and accountability (CEA) will be a critical component of the operation, to ensure that support is based on people’s diverse needs. This will also be crucial to keep people safe and away from harm, leave no one out or behind, and neglect no protection risk. It is essential to assess the risks, needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities related to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and make sure that robust and trustworthy safeguarding mechanisms are in place to avoid exploitation, abuse, and violence.



All preparedness, readiness and response interventions under this Emergency Appeal will be guided by best practices and principles. Due to the concerns and uncertainties in regard to the situation, the IFRC will focus on scenarios and risk analysis to inform preparedness and response interventions of the National Societies.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships



- There will be a comprehensive, Federation-wide resource mobilization strategy for the response covering fundraising initiatives, reporting, grant management, and technical support.
- Collaboration and synergies within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will be synchronized, as there will be collaboration with external stakeholders, including the private sector, foundations, governments, international financial institutions, and United Nations agencies.

IFRC Secretariat Services



- The IFRC and National Societies will work together to coordinate international support for operations and an enhanced regional response capacity.
- Operations will promote collaborations on humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy efforts, as well as joint activities in support of the National Society’s operations.
- Coordination will be enhanced at different levels, from local to global, and facilitated by the IFRC.

- The IFRC will ensure that available personnel are in place to provide efficient and effective appeal and pledge management (through surge capacity, etc.) as required and in collaboration with the National Society.
- Regional surge and response capacity will be scaled up to address worst-case scenarios and for future emergencies.
- Enhancing security management capacity in support of the Membership to enable the scale-up of operations.

National Society Strengthening

- Provide support to volunteers and volunteer management.
- Provide support for fleet and logistics in the affected areas.
- Provide support to systems development and enhancement.
- Provide support to enhance the readiness of the responding National Societies.



The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy in coordination with each included National Society and movement partners. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

The Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRCS), the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are officially recognized independent National Societies.

National Society	Jordanian RC Established in 1950	Syrian Arab RC Established in 1942	Lebanese RC Established in 1945	Egyptian RC Established in 1911
Staff	52	6,077	456	363
Volunteers	312	9,309	15,000	30,000

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC has established methods for coordinating membership to facilitate the exchange of timely information. This is done through meetings and briefings aimed at providing updates on the situation.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Given the nature of the current context, strong and constant coordination with the ICRC is also ensured at all levels to maximize the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in this multi-country crisis. This Emergency Appeal is part of a Movement-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the relevant National Societies and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to the response, and the ICRC.

The Emergency Appeal will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the Federation in the countries and ensure that any work carried out is complementary with the ICRC to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.

On 18 October, the IFRC approved the release of 0.5 million Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Lebanese Red Cross in scaling-up its readiness to address potential urgent life-saving needs should the situation continue to deteriorate.

Movement Partners – Operating National Societies, the ICRC, IFRC and several Participating National Societies have a longstanding partnership, reflecting a complementarity approach. The IFRC also supports all National Societies in the MENA region through its regional office based in Beirut on a wide range of institutional, policy and programmatic issues.

In addition to country-level coordination, overall strategic guidance to the Movement's collective response is ensured through convening regional and global coordination fora. The collective response of the Movement to the people affected by the escalation of hostilities on 7 October will build on pre-existing Movement coordination mechanisms. These will be scaled-up and adapted to address and respond to the evolving context and rapidly increasing humanitarian needs.

Strategic-level exchanges and meetings will continue to ensure timely and relevant strategic guidance to operations. The primary responsibility of the convening role is to facilitate a coordinated and inclusive approach, bringing to the table all Movement components that wish to contribute to the collective response to the overall crisis as per their available resources and know-how. In addition, strategic coordination between the two international components remains a priority at all levels of operational implementation, at the country, regional and headquarters levels.

External coordination

In partnership with the operating National Society and ICRC, the IFRC has engaged in inter-agency coordination through the Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) which includes all relevant UN agencies and international non-governmental agencies since the start of the situation. The IFRC is also engaged at the global leadership level under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) structure.

The National Societies provide humanitarian services in close cooperation with external stakeholders in the respective geographies, including the relevant national agencies, national and international humanitarian aid organizations and local as well as central departments of the relevant ministries.

This Emergency Appeal will also help the IFRC in supporting the National Societies to further enhance their auxiliary role and ensure strong partnerships with key external organizations that also help build the capacity of the National Societies.

The IFRC welcomes further and ongoing cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, government donors, the United Nations system, the European Union, multilateral development banks and other intergovernmental partners, and the private sector on resourcing this preliminary Emergency Appeal.

After 31 December 2024, response activities to this emergency will continue under the IFRC Network Country Plans for Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria for 2025. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Contact information

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

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For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit, MENA Regional Office:** Goran Boljanovic, Regional Manager, email: Goran.BOLJANOVIC@ifrc.org

Reference



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