



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

Appeal No: <b>MDRS5002</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: <b>CHF 86 million</b> Federation-wide Funding requirements: <b>CHF 100 million<sup>1</sup></b>	
Glide No: <b>CE-2023-000186-PSE</b>	People [affected/at risk]: <b>15,000,000 (TBD) people</b>	People to be assisted: <b>500,000 (TBD) people</b>
DREF allocation: <b>CHF 3 million</b>	Appeal launched: <b>18/10/2023</b>	Appeal ends: <b>31/12/2024</b>
<b>Appeal Revision:</b>	Revision # 1	Date: <b>13/12/2023</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 14 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 86 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 7 October 2023, an escalation of hostilities occurred across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. As the escalation continues, the overall humanitarian situation in Gaza is rapidly plunging into desperation. The violence has led to more than 15,523 people killed, 41,316 injured<sup>2</sup>, while 2.23 million<sup>3</sup> (the estimated population of Gaza Strip) are affected and an estimated 1.78 million people are internally displaced. Significant damage to critical infrastructure and essential services, including hospitals, are resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe.

Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has experienced an electricity blackout, and the current fuel shortage has led to the closure of many hospitals, putting pressure on the remaining medical facilities, and resulting in an increase in medical evacuees to neighbouring countries.

Supplies of food and water are practically non-existent in Gaza and only a fraction of what is needed is arriving through the border with Egypt. Aid into Gaza remains insufficient, with multiple challenges, including a lack of fuel to receive aid on the Gazan side, several communications shutdown, and stringent restrictions – safe and unimpeded passage for humanitarian actors to bring lifesaving support into Gaza is critical.

The hostilities have led to large scale internal displacement of populations in Gaza with many people being forced to seek refuge in the South of Gaza close to the Egyptian border. As the only organisation with access to North Sinai, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) coordinates and manages all incoming humanitarian aid to Gaza. With support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) ERCS is setting up logistics hubs in strategic locations, including near the Rafah Crossing, to offer logistical and administrative support for the reception of all international shipments via Egypt to

the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in Gaza. The ERCS is also providing humanitarian assistance to medical evacuees and those accompanying them.

The recent escalations in hostilities have precipitated a notable increase in tensions along Lebanon's southern border and led to rising humanitarian needs. Since October 9, the escalation has led to infrastructure damage, 92 casualties, 387 people wounded, and the displacement of more than 58,835 from south Lebanon due to the ongoing hostilities.<sup>4</sup> The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) continues to its preparedness efforts and support to people affected in Lebanon.

Syria is already facing more than 12 years of protracted crisis, including the impacts from climate change and the February 2023 earthquake. These events are exhausting the coping capacities of communities. Since October 22nd, hostilities have been increasing in Syria, mainly in rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs, including at civil airports. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) continues their preparedness efforts to be able scale-up their support to the affected populations.

While the security situation in Jordan remains relatively stable, the situation in the West Bank has been deteriorating, and becoming increasingly volatile. This poses challenges in terms of access to basic services and humanitarian aid. Jordan has also started receiving medical evacuees from Gaza seeking specialised medical treatment in Jordan's healthcare facilities. As such, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) is strengthening its preparedness and readiness capacity to provide support to possible medical evacuees and their families from the West Bank and Gaza.

As the situation continues to develop across the region, IFRC continues its preparedness and response scale up in neighbouring countries in complementarity with the PRCS response.

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<sup>2</sup> Palestine Ministry of Health

<sup>3</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

<sup>4</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/lebanon>

## EMERGENCY APPEAL REVISION

On 18 October, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal – ensuring complementarity with the PRCS Operation and Appeal – to support the coordination and scale-up of its response readiness in the neighbouring countries in addition to supporting the scale-up of humanitarian assistance to the occupied Palestine Territories (oPt).

In light of the continued escalation and worsening humanitarian crisis, **this Federation-wide Emergency Appeal has been increased to a total funding ask of CHF 100 million**, from CHF 30 million, primarily focused on the **scale-up of IFRC support to the ERCS logistics operation in Egypt**, given the key role it plays in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected populations in Gaza. Notably, the importance of this pipeline is not limited to the current emergency phase. It is highly likely to play a critical role in the future recovery and rehabilitation programming in Gaza, subject to the evolution of the situation and in coordination with the PRCS.

As of December 8, the ERCS has received 251 aircraft from 35 countries and dispatched 2,967 trucks and 4 ships carrying a total of 45,201 tons of food, household items, and medical supplies to Gaza. The ERCS has also scaled-up its operations centres at its headquarters, North Sinai, and Ismailia branches, in addition to setting up a 24-hour operations centre in Al-Arish. As the only organisation able to receive cargo flights through Al-Arish Military airport, and as the only local organisation with access in North Sinai, ERCS-trained staff and volunteers are providing humanitarian aid, assistance, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid at the Rafah border crossing into Gaza. Simultaneously, the ERCS is increasing its warehousing and logistics capacity to meet the operational needs. On a daily basis, the ERCS and PRCS leadership exchange information and updates on the urgent needs of the Gazan population.

**The revision also aims to support the PRCS hospital in Cairo** to deal with longer-term treatment and medical rehabilitation as needed for the injured and sick from the Gaza Strip in close coordination with the ERCS.

The revised Emergency Appeal will continue to support response interventions alongside preparedness and readiness actions of the ERCS, LRC, JNRCS, and SARC to address the immediate and anticipated needs on the ground of an estimated 500,000 people.

To ensure the relevant technical support and effective coordination of this operation, this appeal will also contribute to boosting the IFRC Secretariat's capacity at both the country and regional level to support the timely scale-up of operations based on the evolving humanitarian needs.

## TARGETING

In view of the continued escalation of hostilities and increasing humanitarian needs, this Emergency Appeal aims to support the response of its membership, as the major local humanitarian actors in their context to increase their organisational capacities and scale-up their response and readiness to the crisis. In addition to preparedness activities and ERCS' logistics operation, this response directly targets people who have been medically evacuated from Gaza and the West Bank to neighbouring countries and those that are accompanying them. Moreover, host communities, when appropriate, and internally displaced people in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan affected by the conflict spillover at the borders will be also targeted.

While the total number of people affected in this context continues to evolve due to the ongoing developments within the oPt and in neighbouring geographies, this revised Emergency Appeal aims to provide direct assistance to an estimated 500,000 people. Critically, the appeal is sharply focused on providing indirect assistance to the affected populations in Gaza by strengthening the logistics capacity of the ERCS to facilitate the supply chain, including the warehousing and transportation of humanitarian goods to Gaza to support the PRCS's response efforts in the oPt (further details about the PRCS response can be found [here](#)).

## The people targeted by this Emergency Appeal fall into three categories:

- 1) Direct support to medically evacuated persons and those accompanying them from Gaza and the West Bank.
- 2) Direct support to people from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria affected by the ongoing tensions and conflict spillover, including internally displaced people and host communities.
- 3) Indirect support to the affected populations in Gaza through the continued scale-up of the ERCS logistics operation.

Among all these groups, a special focus will be on vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied minors, female-headed households with children, the elderly, injured, and people with disabilities.

Due to the nature of the situation and the developing crisis, the number of countries included in this Emergency Appeal might evolve to include additional affected populations in the region. The Operational Strategy, which will also be revised, will detail country-level actions and overall geographical coverage.

## PLANNED OPERATIONS

The main objective of the scale-up and increased funding ask for the ERCS is focused on strengthening its logistics capacity to be able to offer logistical and administrative support for the reception and delivery of international shipments via Egypt (or sourced in Egypt). The aim is to ensure the orderly, efficient and standardised delivery of these shipments to Gaza. This not only involves scaling-up the current pipeline, but also considers the future recovery and rehabilitation needs in Gaza, on which ERCS can play a significant logistical role in this regard. Based on the current context, the strategic priorities of the ERCS include:

Areas of intervention	Priority Actions
<b>Supply chain</b>	Strengthen the overall flow of the ERCS's supply chain and systems to ensure continued capacities to respond to this – and future emergencies. Support the enhancement of supply chain processes and procedures. Process mapping and enhancement of the ERCS supply chain.
<b>Warehousing</b>	Enhance and upscale at least four ERCS warehouses, including the rehabilitation of facilities. Utilise ready-to-use warehouses to support the operations through leasing or outsourcing services provided by a third party.
<b>Transportation and fleet management</b>	Enable a contractual modality for up to 500 trucks to cross per day. Support the capacities of the ERCS's fleet management system, including equipment, human resources, and relevant systems.
<b>National Society and branch logistics capacities</b>	Strengthen HQ and branch capacities relating to infrastructure (repair and maintenance, assets, systems and a strategic fuel reserve for hospitals and EMS centres), in addition to IT and HR/Telecom.
<b>Capacity building</b>	Build the capacities of ERCS in logistics, supply chain, warehousing, communications, information management, monitoring, reporting and management.
<b>Information sharing and communications</b>	Support the ERCS's Emergency Information Centre to collect, sort, verify, and report on all logistics data.

	<p>Strengthen IT infrastructure to support supply chain data collection, end-to-end visibility and reporting. (Proprietary software)</p> <p>Create a platform that shares information and data in real time with donor entities.</p>
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In addition to the focus on the ERCS's logistics operation, and in light of the continued escalation in hostilities, this Revised Emergency Appeal will continue to focus on the scale-up of the ongoing response activities and response readiness efforts of neighbouring National Societies (Lebanese Red Cross, Egyptian Red Crescent, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, and Jordan National Red Crescent) to provide assistance to the affected populations across the four countries covered in this appeal along the following four main pillars:

- 1) Health & care, and water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH)
- 2) Integrated assistance support (that includes shelter, livelihoods, and multi-purpose cash and in-kind assistance)
- 3) Protection and prevention
- 4) Boosting the Secretariat's capacity to support the timely scale-up of operations.

The proposed increase to the EA also includes support to the PRCS hospital in Cairo to provide medical care for those from the Gaza strip who might require extensive medical care.

This revised regional Emergency Appeal complements the PRCS appeal, especially through the logistics and pipeline operation in Egypt. Close links and coordination between the various National Societies will be maintained to build a strong, collective, and strategic response. Close coordination efforts between the PRCS and the wider community, and especially with the ERCS on logistics, are also being strengthened through the establishment of the ECHO-IFRC partnership to channel support from EU member states and entities to Gaza via Egypt.

The IFRC will ensure the Movement takes a coordinated and proactive approach to supporting NS initiatives aimed at sustainable development and growth. While implementing the Operational Strategy, a holistic, sustainable approach will be taken that ensures a long-term impact on National Societies, going beyond the strategy's terms and timeframe.

Support will be provided to each National Society to scale-up 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 EA will ensure the continued provision of essential assistance to medical evacuees and those accompanying them, IDPs, and host communities through cash assistance and/or the distribution of in-kind relief items, such as food, household essentials and shelter support as determined by needs assessments in each area.



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

This will include the National Society's response and readiness to address the urgent health needs of the affected communities by providing essential healthcare services, including emergency medical services (EMS), blood

transfusion services (BTS), 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, as is the provision of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care through designated clinics and hospitals, and by deploying mobile medical units.

Comprehensive WASH services will be provided, including targeted efforts to 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 the distribution of essential hygiene-related materials, with special consideration given to culturally appropriate feminine hygiene products for women and girls.

Specific actions will be implemented to enhance the readiness to deliver on these interventions, including 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 for volunteers and staff.

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

Restoring Family Links (RFL) services will be provided to help people contact or reunite with their loved ones, in addition to information on how to receive basic health care and psychosocial support, safe referral service 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 provide access to essential services for people on the move. National Societies will be supported in employing a people-centred approach, in line with IFRC practice and commitments. Community engagement and accountability (CEA) will be a critical component of the operation, to make sure that the support provided is based on people’s diverse needs. It will also be crucial to keep people safe and away from harm, leave no one 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 ensure robust and trustworthy safeguarding mechanisms to avoid exploitation, abuse, and violence. Part of this will involve the establishment of child-friendly spaces.

All preparedness, readiness, and response interventions under this Emergency Appeal will be guided by best practices and principles. Due to the concerns and uncertainties around 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, synchronised Federation-wide resource strategy for the response covering fundraising initiatives, reporting, grant management, and technical support.
- Collaborations and synergies within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will be coordinated, as will be collaborations 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 the operations and reach an enhanced regional response capacity.
- The operations will promote collaboration on humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy efforts, and joint activities in support of the National Society.
- Coordination will be enhanced at different levels, from local to global, and facilitated by the IFRC, including through the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) -IFRC Coordination Cell bridging the gap of priority needs in Gaza with the contributions of EU member states.
- The IFRC will ensure that personnel are available to provide efficient and effective appeal and pledge management (through surge, etc.) as required and in collaboration with the National Society.
- Scale-up of regional surge and response capacity.
- Enhance the security management capacity in support of the membership to enable the scaling-up of operations.
- Implement a strong risk management approach to identify and address risks.
- Ensure that a robust data management and monitoring framework is in place.



### National Society Strengthening

- Provide support to volunteers and volunteer management.
- Provide support for the 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, including training of staff and volunteers engaged in the operation.
- Strengthen information management systems for stronger data collection and reporting.
- Support the National Society to strengthen in-country coordination mechanisms.
- Support the National Society with humanitarian diplomacy and communications efforts.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal revision. Details of the operation will be updated through the revised 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 National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are officially recognised independent National Societies.

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

## IFRC Membership coordination

Federation-wide coordination structures are well-established in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. These existing structures will facilitate the contributions of the Participating National Societies to the overall National Society plans for this complex emergency. At the regional level, the IFRC has set up a coordination architecture and actively engages with the membership to work together to support a collective and strategic response.

Effective coordination is essential to respond to the growing humanitarian needs in Gaza, particularly between the ERCS and PRCS. The ERCS, mandated by the Egyptian authorities, is the main consignee of all humanitarian goods destined for Gaza, while the PRCS is the main actor receiving goods in Gaza. Thus, close communication and coordination has been established between the two National Societies. Furthermore, the coordination of support from EU member states, is ensured through the EHRC-IFRC Coordination Cell, which matches the needs outlined by the PRCS with the potential contributions of EU member states.

Within Egypt, the IFRC is supporting the ERCS in their coordination efforts with the wider humanitarian community, especially through participation in the Global Logistics Cluster.

## Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Given the nature of the current context, strong and constant coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also ensured at all levels to maximise 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 facilitate 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, ensuring complementary work with the ICRC to maximise 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 potentially urgent life-saving needs should the situation continue to deteriorate.

Additional DREF support was allocated as loans to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Egyptian Red Crescent, and Jordan National Red Crescent, for a total of 2.25 million Swiss francs and 0.25 million for regional coordination support.

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 the convening of regional and global coordination forums. 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 the operations. The primary responsibility of the convening role is to facilitate a coordinated and inclusive approach, bringing around 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 the 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 this crisis. 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 organisations, and local as well as central departments of 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 organisations 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, other intergovernmental partners, and the private sector on resourcing this Emergency Appeal.

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*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.*

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## Contact information

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

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### Reference



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