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Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) operation update

Greece: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRGR001	GLIDE n° OT-2015-00050-GRC
Operation update n° 1	Date of issue: 24 July 2015
Operation start date: 22 May 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 22 May - 22 June 2015
Overall operation budget: CHF 296,549	Operation timeframe: 4 months; from 22 May to 22 September 2015
N° of people affected: 96,550	N° of people being assisted: 10,000
Host National Society involvement: Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) with 660 volunteers and 20 staff from its HQ and branches.	
Partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Hellenic Ministry of Internal Affairs and other Greek authorities; ICRC; IOM; UNHCR, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Médecins du Monde (MDM)	

A. Summary

This operation update is being compiled to provide a short, timely reflection on the situation in Greece and the response to the migrant crisis, which is affecting a number of the island communities. There is no major change to the operation at this point, and the update provides information on the current situation and details available at this point in time. The DREF operation has been launched as planned, and it is being implemented in line with the Emergency Plan of Action. The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), with the support of the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is working to deliver assistance to the migrants and the affected communities supported with a DREF allocation of CHF 296,549 released on 22 May 2015. The IFRC has mobilized two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members to support HRC in this response, and the team has carried out assessments and provided initial assistance to vulnerable migrants on two of the six targeted islands (Kos and Lesbos). They are also involved in procuring non-food items for distribution to the vulnerable groups, although this has been delayed by the recent socio-economic upheaval in the country, and the second round of the tender has just been completed, with the distribution to the main islands planned for the end of July 2015.



Hellenic Red Cross volunteers distributing non-food relief items to migrants staying at a temporary accommodation on Kos, Greece. There are over 300 people residing in this abandoned hotel at present.

Photo: Stephen Ryan / IFRC

B. Situation analysis

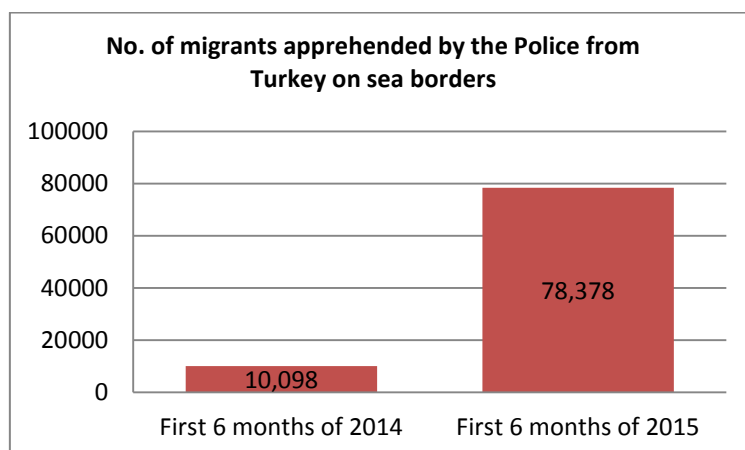
Update on the disaster

As outlined in the original DREF bulletin, Greece has experienced a dramatic increase in migrant arrivals at sea in 2015, with numbers of arrivals surpassing those of Italy in recent weeks. The main groups of migrants are arriving via Greece's sea borders with Turkey, with six islands most seriously impacted by this increase – Chios, Crete, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes, and Samos. The authorities have reported a three-fold increase of arrivals for the same period in

2014, and the numbers in the past weeks continue to increase dramatically. According to IOM 79,469 people have entered Greece via the sea borders with Turkey as of 14 July 2015. According to the available data, more than 90 per cent are coming from countries experiencing war and conflict, principally Syria (over 60 per cent of arrivals this year), as well as Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia.

Table 1: Number of people registered by the Greek authorities in total and on the sea borders with Turkey¹

Dates	No. of people registered by Greek authorities (total)	No. of people registered by Greek authorities on the sea borders with Turkey
31/03/2015	19,488	12,643
30/04/2015	36,172	26,496
30/06/2015	96,550	78,378



Over the longer term, the 25 June decision of the European Council to relocate tens of thousands of migrants from Greece to other EU countries will hopefully ease the burden on Greece. In the short term, however, challenges are likely to continue for the duration of this operation. The Greek population has responded to the call by the National Society very positively, with donations in-kind, chiefly with second hand clothes for the migrants, particularly at local level.

Table 2: Number of people registered by the Greek authorities at six island entry points²

Islands	Samos	Lesbos	Chios	Dodecanese A	Dodecanese B	Crete
Number of people who arrived in the first six months of 2015	7,491	35,462	12,859	3,990	17,234	1,658

Disaster impact, vulnerabilities and needs assessment and analysis

To date the RDRT member currently in-country has supported HRC staff and volunteers to assess the situation on two of the six priority islands (Kos and Lesbos), and there are plans to continue assessments on the other main islands. Based on the information to date, it is clear that the authorities, namely Police, Coast Guard, etc., are addressing the situation in the first hours of arrival and that registration of the migrants is under way. However, there are clearly needs to support the vulnerable migrants once they are on the islands in terms of accommodation, food, water, sanitation and potential health needs.

There is also awareness that the situation in the country itself has become more fragile over the recent weeks with the negotiations of the financial situation with the European Union and the international banking system and that this has had an impact on the operation in terms of slowing down the finance and procurement processes. It is hoped that this will stabilize in the coming weeks. However, there needs to be an awareness of the situation and the problems affecting the host communities.

¹Figures are cumulative. Source: Hellenic Ministry of Internal Affairs

²Hellenic Police. Available at: http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2015/statistics15/allodapwn/6_statistics_all_2015_methorio.JPG

C. Summary of the operation

Overall objective

There is no change to the overall objective of the operation.

The immediate needs of the 10,000 migrants arriving on the islands of **Rhodes, Kos, Chios, Lesbos, Samos** and **Crete** are met in addition to providing complementary services inside and outside the registration/reception premises through the provision of basic food and non-food items, search and rescue services, medical and psychosocial support as well as a Restoring Family Links (RFL) service.

Progress of the current response

HRC has moved forward with the DREF-funded operation as best possible, given the recent socio-economic situation in the country. HRC volunteers visited the main islands affected and carried out initial assessments of the situation and provided basic assistance and support, such as First Aid, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and psychosocial support (PSS). In addition, pallet loads of second hand clothes donated by the Greek people have been transported to the main reception centre on Samos and are being distributed to migrants in response to requests from the authorities and from the migrants themselves. The additional logistics costs of this distribution will have to be included in the budget to cover the costs of transporting, disinfecting, storing and distributing the clothes in an appropriate manner.

An information brochure has been compiled in several languages by the Nursing Department of the Hellenic Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC, about basic hygiene rules such as proper hand-washing, to be distributed together with the relief items.

At the beginning of June 2015 an RDRT member (Logistics) was deployed to Greece, to support the DREF-funded response. The RDRT worked closely with the HRC to support the tender process to procure food and non-food items and materials, such as first aid materials included in the DREF budget. Due to the socio-economic situation in the country and the control of funds, there was no response from most of the suppliers to the initial tender, which meant a delay in the procurement process and thus the implementation of the DREF operation. Since then, despite the ongoing socio-economic situation and controls on the banking sector, the RDRT has been able to support a second round of invitations, and this time more suppliers were able to respond, with one being selected by mid-July. The delivery of the goods to the HRC central warehouse and onward transportation to the islands for distribution is planned for the end of July. Unfortunately, at the same time, changes in the VAT Law in Greece have raised the tax on goods from 13 per cent to 23 per cent, which has caused challenges to the planned budget and programme, and this may lead to eventual increases in the costs of the procurement process whereby a revision of the budget might become necessary.

A second RDRT member was deployed on a rotation scheme in the country in early July to support the progress of the operation and the HRC's activities, particularly the follow-up, with more detailed assessments on the islands of Kos and Lesbos. The planned assessment and training mission to Kos and Lesbos took place between 12–16 July 2015. The RDRT joined two HRC facilitators to provide training for HRC branch volunteers on both islands and conducted initial assessments. A series of meetings also took place with local stakeholders (e.g. mayors, police, coastguards and health officials), as well as meetings with the local HRC branch leadership and volunteers.

The team also visited the First Reception Centres on the islands to assess the situation. All centres except for one, in Moria (Lesbos), are considered unofficial and there are limited or no relevant local services provided. This is a concern for the situation of the migrants, particularly the lack of basic water and sanitation provision. However, there are also concerns for security around working at the informal sites. There is encouragement from the authorities to concentrate Red Cross support on the officially recognized sites.

Currently, the National Society is planning to move forward with the distribution of assistance to the targeted islands towards the end of July and into early August. The first islands to be targeted will be Lesbos, Kos and Samos, with further support (distribution of survival kits and other materials) targeted at Crete, Rhodes and Chios subsequently. Training for PSS support aimed at children is also being carried out on Lesbos, and a mobile clinic is being planned for the island of Samos for the end of July.

Table 3: Planned procurements

Item	Planned	Lesbos	Kos	Samos	Rhodes	Crete	Warehouse
Food parcels	5,000	3,800	1,000	200	-	-	-
Women's kits	1,500	1,150	300	50	-	-	-
Baby kits	800	60	150	50	-	-	500
Survival kits	5,000			1,000	2,000	2,000	
Medical kits	12*						
First Aid kits	100	-	-	10	-	-	90
Sleeping bags	1,500	750	200	150	-	-	600
RC vests	250	30	80	20			120

* To be allocated according to needs

** Chios Branch / Island will receive the support of a mobile clinic in the first instance

The operational management team in HRC headquarters has been working on the operation and trying to ensure support to the branches and volunteers on the islands. The HRC Management also participated in a telephone conference call with partner National Societies on 9th July to provide an update on the situation and to answer any questions relating to the operation and the assistance required. A number of partners have expressed interest in supporting the operation with bilateral assistance, such as non-food items (NFIs) and technical social welfare support, including psychosocial support (PSS). The IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office is working with the HRC to help coordinate this support. The partner National Societies from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey and UK have proactively approached the IFRC Europe Zone Office and/or the HRC for briefings and inquiries about the most needed forms of support as needed. The list of partners is only indicative and cannot be regarded complete, as there are discussions and negotiations with potential donors on a daily basis.

In terms of engagement with other actors, the HRC / IFRC team have met with the relevant authorities regularly and attended coordination meetings with other international organizations present in the Moria centre on Lesbos. The coordination meetings comprised representatives of UNHCR, Médecins du Monde (MDM), and an NGO called METAction. Discussions took place around the needs and coordination that is informing the planned response. It has been agreed between the HRC and other actors that the focus now is on water and sanitation, providing basic living conditions for the newly arrived migrants / refugees and ensuring information sharing between the actors. HRC will aim to work further for an on-going coordination with those actors. The local Red Cross volunteers are already working at a reception centre on the island distributing clothes and NFIs, mostly from local / national donations, and providing RFL where necessary. The RDRT has also met with a visiting ICRC delegate and discussed issues around Red Cross support to the detention centres and various aspects of protection.

D. Operational support services

Human resources

To date the HRC has mobilized a total number of 660 volunteers to support activities on the respective islands and has around 20 staff working on the operation.

In addition, the IFRC Secretariat has mobilised two RDRTs to support the logistics tendering and the assessment / planning processes for the response on two of the priority islands. The IFRC Europe Zone Office is on stand-by to support HRC with further technical or management assistance as required, and they are in contact with several partner National Societies who are looking to provide support to the HRC in the current situation.

Logistics and supply chain

After the first tender process failed to provide a range of quotes in the middle of the 3-week bank closure period, a second tender process was launched and is being completed in July to select a supplier to provide the following items: food kits; women's kits; baby kits; survival kits; first aid kits; medical kits; portable beds; sleeping bags and RC vests.

The selection committee from HRC has made a great effort to finalize the procedure with the support of the IFRC Secretariat, although there have been a lot of challenges in the situation on the ground, for instance the change in the VAT policy/law, which caused a significant increase in the market prices. The logistics department is currently analysing the offers made and will select the final company as soon as possible.

In addition, temporary rental warehouse facilities on Kos and Lesbos have been identified, and further work is being done to ensure due diligence on the final agreements for warehouse rental.

Information technologies (IT)

The costs of communications (telephone cards, phone bills coverage etc.) and laptops have been incorporated in the operational budget to support work on the islands where the operations will be conducted. There is a functioning IT department within the structure of the HRC covering both the headquarters and the regional branches.

Communication and Media

While media attention on the situation in Greece and that of the migrants has been variable throughout the recent weeks, HRC is regularly contacted by media organizations enquiring about the general situation as well as its operation in response. In addition, a number of National Societies of other countries have been receiving media requests related to the situation on the islands. At this time, a limited amount of audio visual material illustrating Red Cross action in response to the emergency is available. However the IFRC Europe Zone Office has agreed to continue to provide support in communication, and in particular, gather photographs, b-roll and interview footage once distribution of relief materials is possible on the islands. An emergency communication representative from the IFRC Europe Zone Office has visited Greece twice during the DREF operation in support of the HRC, and communication materials such as Facts and Figures, Key Messages and Q&A have been prepared and made available for all Movement components to use.

Security

There is awareness in the management of this DREF operation that steps must be taken to ensure good communication (and possibly support) to the host communities on the islands to avoid any tensions around the support to the vulnerable migrants when other people in the Greek society may also be becoming increasingly vulnerable in the current socio-economic climate. This needs to be well managed in terms of wider communications within Greece to explain the focus of HRC's action on the needs of vulnerable migrants.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Once the operation is running, monitoring will be undertaken by the different divisions of the HRC HQ, in conjunction with the regional and local branches. Field visits will be undertaken to verify the operations. The operation is still expected to be implemented over four months and be completed by 22 September 2015. A final report will therefore be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 22 December 2015. Support / monitoring missions will be organized by the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office to support the National Society throughout the implementation process.

Administration and Finance

Due to the current status of affairs of the HRC, their financial indebtedness, and the possibility of intervention by the Greek revenue authorities, the risks associated with managing the operation directly by the Hellenic Red Cross have been considered as serious.

In order to meet the needs of the beneficiaries and ensure accountability in these difficult times, the following financial management methods have been or are being put in place:

- (i) The procurement of goods is being managed locally for the time being through the RDRT and an IFRC Secretariat finance staff deployed in country, while all transfers to suppliers are being made through the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office in Budapest.
- (ii) Certain expenses, which are incurred by the National Society directly, will still need to be settled locally and transferred to the HRC in tranches, ensuring a minimal level of risk. These expenses will be settled by the branches and divisions under the guidance of the HQ and in accordance with existing the internal financial management and administration systems of HRC to ensure the accountability of the whole National Society.

The management of the DREF operation in Greece will be supported by the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office and the IFRC's Geneva-based departments to ensure transparency and sound administration.

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 Humanitarian 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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRGR001 - Greece - Population Movement**

Timeframe: 22 May 15 to 22 Sep 15

Appeal Launch Date: 22 May 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/05-06	Programme	MDRGR001
Budget Timeframe	2015/05-09	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
A. Budget		296,549				296,549	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Other Income							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		296,549				296,549	
C4. Other Income		296,549				296,549	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		296,549				296,549	
D. Total Funding = B + C		296,549				296,549	

* 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. Opening Balance							
C. Income		296,549				296,549	
E. Expenditure		-31,239				-31,239	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		265,310				265,310	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRGR001 - Greece - Population Movement

Timeframe: 22 May 15 to 22 Sep 15

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Budget Timeframe	2015/05-09	Budget	Approved
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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	
BUDGET (C)						296,549		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Construction - Facilities	1,800						1,800	
Clothing & Textiles	26,500						26,500	
Food	70,000						70,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	26,200						26,200	
Medical & First Aid	17,120						17,120	
Other Supplies & Services	30,500						30,500	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	172,120						172,120	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	2,000						2,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	2,000						2,000	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,000						6,000	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,000						12,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	18,000						18,000	
Personnel								
International Staff	12,000						12,000	
National Society Staff	17,000						17,000	
Volunteers	5,200		1,191			1,191	4,009	
Total Personnel	34,200		1,191			1,191	33,009	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	11,000						11,000	
Total Workshops & Training	11,000						11,000	
General Expenditure								
Travel	22,300		3,085			3,085	19,215	
Information & Public Relations	11,000						11,000	
Communications	3,030						3,030	
Financial Charges			57			57	-57	
Other General Expenses	4,800						4,800	
Total General Expenditure	41,130		3,142			3,142	37,988	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			25,000			25,000	-25,000	
Total Contributions & Transfers			25,000			25,000	-25,000	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	18,099		1,907			1,907	16,193	
Total Indirect Costs	18,099		1,907			1,907	16,193	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	296,549		31,239			31,239	265,310	
VARIANCE (C - D)			265,310			265,310		

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRGR001 - Greece - Population Movement

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Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/05-06	Programme	MDRGR001
Budget Timeframe	2015/05-09	Budget	Approved
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	296,549		296,549	296,549	31,239	265,310	
Subtotal BL2	296,549		296,549	296,549	31,239	265,310	
GRAND TOTAL	296,549		296,549	296,549	31,239	265,310	