

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Egypt: Fire in Zeinhom Area

DREF operation n° MDREG004
2 January 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 70,000 (USD 57,377 or EUR 43,478) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 28 March 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some beneficiaries.

This DREF operation aimed to assist the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RCS) in its efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of the victims of the fire in Zeinhom.

The assistance included provision of basic food and non-food relief items and psychological support to the affected people. Temporary sheltering, followed by transferring hundreds of affected families to El Nahda city and re-settling them, was another main objective of this operation.



The fire in Zeinhom left hundreds of families homeless

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

On the afternoon of 20 March 2007, a fire occurred in Zeinhom, one of the largest squatter areas of Cairo, which was planned to be rebuilt during the phase III of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RCS) Zeinhom Development Project. The 50 feddans (acres) of area was inhabited by more than 4,000 families (20,000 people)¹. As the houses of Zeinhom were mainly wooden huts, the fire spread rapidly and as a consequence hundred of families (approximately 2,000 persons) became homeless.

¹ Since 1999, the Egyptian RCS is involved in the implementation of the relocation project of Zeinhom slums area, carried out in full collaboration with Cairo governorate and a group of philanthropists (institutions, businessmen and citizens). This disaster has affected part of the families selected to be relocated in July.

The fire caused by a stove blowing up was fuelled by strong winds and the flames quickly spread through the wooden kiosks, each packed with families. Within hours, 148 shelters had been damaged, most of them burned to the ground. Unable to circulate within the slum, the first responders such as fire-fighters and civil defence forces faced serious difficulties to get their engines to the affected places and reach the people. Nevertheless, thanks to their efforts, there were no deaths and only three people slightly got injured.

The affected area was adjacent to the Egyptian RCS Cairo branch, hosting a youth club and a warehouse affiliated to the headquarters. This vicinity has allowed a rapid deployment of relief items and team of Red Crescent volunteers on the site.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

An initial team of 20 people including Egyptian RCS staff, volunteers and youth were immediately present in the area and began to cooperate with the local authorities in assisting victims and providing urgent support using their own reserves. A large caravan and tents were erected as temporary shelters. In addition, food and drinks were distributed.

Following its consultation with the Egyptian RCS, the Cairo governorate decided to transfer 300 affected families to El Nahda city. These families, transferred progressively, were accommodated in apartments available in the city where water and sanitation was secured by the Cairo governorate. In the meantime, the National Society established a temporary office in the area. The team in El Nahda composed of 20 coordinators from the community, 10 Egyptian RCS volunteers, and 20 youth volunteers working under the supervision of the National Society's lady volunteers.

Data for each family was registered in special cards and information sheets. The National Society immediately provided available urgent relief materials from its three disaster preparedness stocks in Cairo and the logistics department of the Egyptian RCS purchased the remaining needs. Basic materials (mattresses, blankets, pillows, ground mats, water containers, kitchen utensils, tables and chairs) and dried food were distributed by the National Society during the first two days. In addition, a refrigerator and oven to each family were provided through the assistance of the Cairo governorate.



Egyptian Red Crescent Society volunteers distributed relief items to the affected families

An Egyptian RCS team of youth experienced in psychological support joined the Nahda office to provide basic psychological support to the affected families. In the meantime, the National Society organized the transfer of the children to be enrolled in the schools of El Nahda.

During this operation, a total of 70 volunteers from the local branch of the National Society were involved in the distribution of the relief items, which were purchased with the DREF allocation. These included:

- 1,000 mattresses
- 2,000 pillows
- 1,400 blankets
- 500 bed sheets
- Food items including 10 tons of sugar, 20 tons of flour and 10 tons of rice

Conclusion

Throughout this DREF operation, a total of 301 families have been settled in apartments in El Nahda city. In addition, an important quantity of relief items was distributed to the affected families during and after the emergency phase.

An effective communication and cooperation between the headquarters/branch, the regional office of the International Federation, plus several actors involved in the operation lead to an effective and quick response.

This operation has also proved the importance to the Egyptian RCS to keep a minimum of relief items in its stocks in order to provide a quick response and assistance to the victims during emergency situations. A first response was possible thanks to the reserves of National Society which have to be renewed in order to be ready for any future emergency situation.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDREG004 - Egypt - Fire Zeinohm Area

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/03-2007/07
Budget Timeframe	2007/03-2007/07
Appeal	MDREG004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		70,000				70,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		70,000				70,000
C6. Other Income		70,000				70,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		70,000				70,000
D. Total Funding = B + C		70,000				70,000

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		70,000				70,000
E. Expenditure		-70,000				-70,000
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		70,000					70,000	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	31,993		40,522			40,522	-8,529	
Food	6,507		17,289			17,289	-10,782	
Utensils & Tools	17,135		1,733			1,733	15,402	
Total Supplies	55,635		59,544			59,544	-3,909	
Personnel								
National Staff			1,778			1,778	-1,778	
National Society Staff	4,859		3,830			3,830	1,029	
Total Personnel	4,859		5,608			5,608	-749	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,603						2,603	
Office Costs	1,702						1,702	
Communications	651						651	
Financial Charges			298			298	-298	
Total General Expenditure	4,956		298			298	4,658	
Programme Support								
Program Support	4,550		4,550			4,550	0	
Total Programme Support	4,550		4,550			4,550	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	70,000		70,000			70,000	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		