

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East & North Africa: Civil Unrest

Emergency appeal n° MDR82001
GLIDE n° OT-2011-000025-TUN/LBY/EGY
Operations update n° 2
10 March 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 3-9 March 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 4,458,090; **Appeal coverage:** 43% (Note: this is an early provisional figure; contributions are being recorded. The cash support made for this operation is limited and donors are encouraged to increase cash contributions).

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 1 March 2011 for CHF 4.4m for 6 months to assist some 100,000 potential beneficiaries (this remains a provisional figure and will be adjusted based on more detailed assessments and operational developments).
- The total of CHF 403,046 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.
- 27-person Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has deployed to provide support to the IFRC's MENA Zone, the IFRC's Regional Representation in North Africa, and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society (TRCS). FACT members are providing expertise in logistics, relief, health, water and sanitation, base camp set up, IT/telecommunications, and information management and reporting.
- According to recent reports, some 224,661 people have now crossed into the neighbouring countries. However the pace of the exodus has slowed, particularly along the Libya-Tunisian border, where it has dropped from a height of 15,000 people per day to an average of 2,000 people per day since March 2. According to the news, people inside Libya are moving from affected areas to the east. The continued fear is that a protracted situation could lead to an overwhelming surge of people seeking protection, assistance, and shelter across borders and in neighboring countries.



"Egyptian Red Crescent assisting migrants crossing the Egypt-Libyan border at Salloum.
Photo credit: Egyptian Red Crescent"

Summary and key messages:

- The general situation in western Libya, where the government retains control, reportedly remains tense and at a relative stalemate. Several cities, including Tripoli, continue to experience confrontations between government and opposition forces. Fierce battles are continuing in Ras Lanuf and pro Gadaffiforces are now closing in on the town of Az Zawiyah.
- The IFRC team, directly in support of the TRCS, is actively working in the most relevant border region – near the Ras Adjir border crossing – to assess needs, increase service delivery and build contingency plans that will enable the Movement to dramatically scale up operations should the needs arise.
- In addition to continuing to provide basic health services and relief items, the IFRC and TRCS are focused on the following: establishing a transit camp for up to 10,000 people; constructing local pit latrines to improve sanitation; mobilizing additional relief supplies, food and water; and establishing a base camp to house 100 international delegates and TRCS volunteers.
- In addition to the FACT, the following teams have deployed or en route: a Logistics ERU from France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; a Base Camp ERU from Denmark, with the support of Finland, and

Germany; and Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs) from Morocco Syria and Palestine. Members of the UAE Red Crescent have also been critical in supporting operations on the ground.

- An initial plan of action is in process and will articulate the evolving strategy of the operation together with a mobilization table that will be made available shortly reflecting specific needs, target locations, and the overall pipeline of goods upon which effective and timely decisions on donor contributions can be made.
- While the IFRC is appreciative of the support provided to this operation to date partners are urged to avoid uncoordinated bilateral action and emphasise the need to work with the appeal operational objectives.

In light of the current unrest in other Middle East and North African countries the MENA Zone is continuously updating the contingency planning regionally based on several possible scenarios. A main part of the overall contingency planning process is to integrate country level contingency plans into an overall regional contingency plan and to mobilise resources as well as preposition necessary stocks.

The situation

Based on the most recent information available from the IFRC's assessment teams located at the Libya and Tunisia border crossings, assessments indicate a critical need to continue to provide relief assistance and scale up solutions to meet sanitation needs, while improving the organization of relief systems and building a base camp that will enable the Movement to dramatically scale up operations should the needs arise.

Since 22 February, more than 112,169 people have crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia, with the length of stay at the transition camp averaging 4 days. At this point, most Egyptian nationals have received transport home, and efforts are now focused on securing flights for remaining migrants from countries such as Bangladesh. There are almost no women and children, and the few that have arrived are being separated from the crowd to receive separate care.

Although population flows to Tunisia have slowed since March 2, an average of 2,000 people per day continue to cross the border, and continued conflict within Libya creates the potential for a significant increase in migrant and refugees flows.

For those who have entered Tunisia, the military and UNHCR have organized a camp approximately 9km from the border, with a current population of 16,000, although about 1,000 Bangladeshis are expected to leave each day over the coming week. The TRCS has been critical in supporting this camp, helping set up tents, as well as serve meals and provide other services. The TRCS has also worked with the ICRC to facilitate more than 12,000 calls between migrants and their families around the world.

The Tunisian population's response to the situation continues to be extremely generous. Local communities have provided blankets, bread, and other food items which are delivered by trucks on a daily basis and stored with the "Association de la Protection de la Révolution Tunisienne." The Red Cross/Red Crescent continues to build and improve upon these initial efforts.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC's Zone Office in Amman and the Regional Representative in North Africa have responded in a proactive and effective manner by organizing assessments, the timely deployment of IFRC assets, and participating in daily coordination meetings taking place with the TRCS and the ICRC (in Tunis), resulting in effective cooperation and relations to date.

In the border region, IFRC and TRCS staff are likewise actively participating in the humanitarian coordination mechanisms with agencies working in the border region. As there appears to be a steady increase in the number of humanitarian organizations responding to the situation, a major focus of this effort continues to be to encourage all Movement partners to take a collaborative approach to this operation and avoid the risk of uncoordinated action.

A number of national societies are now on the ground or en route to support the Movement operation. These include the Algerian Red Crescent, American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Moroccan Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Syrian Red Crescent, Palestinian Red Crescent and the United Arab Emirates.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

The Preliminary Emergency Appeal and informal reports since the launch emphasized that this operation remains in the early stages, with initial plans structured on the basis of limited assessment data, the analysis of pre-existing baseline data and secondary sources. This remains the case efforts to assess needs and plan appropriate responses are being scaled-up but the situation remains very fluid. However, it is expected that the current operation will change considerably depending on the development of events. The bulk of the operation remains aimed at providing support to the population leaving Libya through the borders with Egypt and Tunisia while other potential areas of operation are being considered.

In Tunisia, the IFRC is making significant efforts within the operational response to augment and build the capacity of the Tunisian Red Crescent so that it can meet its humanitarian service obligations. This capacity building includes rapidly increasing TRCS staffing for the following longer-term coordinator level positions: volunteer coordinator, operations coordinator, and communications coordinator. A major focus and priority function of the current FACT is to work closely with the NS Secretary General to facilitate, support, and complement this capacity building process and related discussions. This includes the need to support and advocate for the constructive use of NS volunteers by other agencies.

The tables below summarize action taken to date by sector.

Emergency health	
Outcome: The immediate health risks of the affected population are reduced through the provision of first aid and emergency medical services.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of medical and first aid supplies. • Training of staff and volunteers of national societies in first aid and referral services. • Mobilization of volunteers and establishment of first aid posts and EMS units. • Provision of first aid and referral services.
Target population and NS staff and volunteers are provided with psychosocial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of psychosocial support (PSP) to people affected by the emergency. • Provision of PSP to staff and volunteers of national societies engaged in emergency response. • Training of national society staff and volunteers on PSP programmes.
Progress to date: The TRCS continues to staff a small clinic and pharmacy directly at the border point at Raj Ajdir to provide first aid and basic medical services. Staffed with 2 doctors, several nurses, and several volunteers who are trained in first aid, the clinic supports the civil defence ambulances and the MoH clinic and provides consultations to patients. The MENA Zone office has provided technical assistance for psychosocial support by sending Arabic manuals to TRCS. Volunteers have supported more than 2,800 consultations to date.	
Operational gaps, challenges or constraints: Nothing to report	

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to the affected population.	
Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with safe water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment of needs and mapping of resources available. • Procurement of materials and supplies. • Distribution of water and hygiene items. • Erection of temporary latrines in transit camps in border areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic hygiene promotion
<p>Progress to date: Despite an average of 16,000 people staying at the main UNHCR/military camp, there are only 50 latrines available. The TRCS and the FACT are setting up a total of 300 latrines at the UNHCR/military camp. An additional 100 latrines will be set up at the Red Cross/Red Crescent transit camp.</p> <p>Latrine set up is a multi-step process. The Finish and British national societies have together sent 450 latrine plates. TRCS and the FACT have been working with a local digger to dig pits and line them with sand bags, using local procured flour sacks from bakeries. Local carpenters are preparing latrine frames. The first latrines are expected to be completed on March 9.</p> <p>A water treatment plant has arrived, and will soon be connected to the local water pipeline. To scale up assistance, three Regional Disaster Response Teams members are being deployed from Syria Morocco and Palestine to help deliver water and sanitation services.</p> <p>Operational gaps, challenges or constraints: There is minimal water at the border. Water, sanitation and hygiene cluster members are discussing developing a new pipeline. Cleaners for the latrines still need to be secured and this will be a high priority in the coming days.</p>	

Emergency shelter and basic household items

Outcome: The immediate sheltering needs of the target population are met.	
Output	Activities planned
Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment of needs and mapping of resources available. • Procurement of shelter materials and basic household items, including tents, blankets, and mats. • Erection of emergency shelter in transit camps in border areas. • Distribution of basic household items. • Further assessments for other shelter solutions in case of protracted sheltering needs.
<p>Progress to date: To date, 6,100 blankets have been locally procured and distributed. In coordination with the ICRC, the Federation is working with the TRCS to establish a transit camp to house up to 10,000 people. The initial goal is to meet the needs of 50,000 people in the short-term, with up to 10,000 people at a time being served. Thus the FACT and TRCS are working to coordinate both local donations and international stocks to ensure sufficient relief supplies are on hand, including hygiene items, shelter materials, sleeping mats, water containers and blankets.</p> <p>At the base camp, excavation and levelling continues. In the last 48 hours, both the Danish and Finnish Red Cross teams and materials have arrived. Teams are currently erecting the field warehouse and base camp. The second priority is the transit camp. As set up continues, the team is also looking for camp guards, kitchen staff and cleaning people.</p> <p>Operational challenges or constraints: The team is now focused on bolstering the relief systems of the TRCS, including streamlining warehouse organization, assessments, and distribution processes.</p>	

Food security and livelihoods

Outcome: Immediate food needs of the affected population are met.	
Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with appropriate food rations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of food supplies. • Distribution of meals ready to eat. • Assessment of feasibility of providing cash transfers for people in transit to meet immediate emergency needs.
<p>Progress to date: TRCS has signed an agreement with WFP to support the distribution of 80 tons of emergency biscuits and to purchase additional sandwiches and basic meals. TRCS volunteers continue to help the military provide meals to those staying at the transit camps, providing thousands of meals each day.</p>	

Operational challenges or constraints: Nothing to report

Contingency planning and preparedness

Outcome: By advancing the process of contingency planning capacity of the national societies in MENA zone to respond to civil unrest, through effective and appropriate interventions, is further strengthened.

Output	Activities planned
Contingency plans are developed and preparedness measures ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map existing resources and capacities of the National Societies, Federation and other key stakeholders in the region. • Conduct rapid trainings for staff and volunteers on how to develop a contingency plan. • Conduct one workshop with key stakeholders to develop the contingency plan. • Identify the overall essential preparedness gap. • Procure and implement the necessary preparedness activities.

Progress to date: Actions are underway on a daily basis to support national societies on short-term and long-term actions needed for response and preparedness. Several contingency plans have been collected by the MENA Zone office for integration in overall regional contingency plan. A contingency planner from RDRT is in expected to be deployed in the coming days to support the over all contingency planning process in national societies.

Operational challenges or constraints: Nothing to report

Logistics

Outcome: The supply chain from arrival of relief items, including clearance, storage and forwarding to distribution, as well as local procurement as required, is effectively managed.

Output	Activities planned
All programs receive professional logistics support and goods are procured and received for distribution as planned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up efficient logistics unit and identify best supply chain to support the operation. • Carry out coordinated reception of air and sea relief goods and arrange transportation to distributions points. • Training of National Society staff and volunteers in warehouse management and other logistics services. • Liaise and coordinate with other key actors to ensure best uses of all information. • Monitor activities and provide reporting.

Progress to date: The logistics team is focused on receiving, delivering and warehousing incoming equipment and supplies. To date, seven flights have arrived, with additional flights expected in the coming days.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A communications delegate has focused on getting visibility for the efforts of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society. Dozens of interviews have taken place with English, French and Arabic language networks, including BBC, CNN and Al-Jazeera.

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.

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.

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