

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MOROCCO : FLASH FLOODS

27 January 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 32/02

Launched on 28 November 2002 for CHF 580,000 for 3 months for 20,000 beneficiaries.

Budget revised for 10,000 beneficiaries for 3 months (global total remains the same)

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 40,000

Operations Update No. 02 ;

Period covered: 28/11 - 31/12

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 56.7%

Outstanding needs: CHF 251,221

Summary: The Moroccan Red Crescent responded promptly to the emergency phase of the flash floods disaster. Subsequent International Red Cross Red Crescent support has enabled the Moroccan Red Crescent and the International Federation to continue effective support to the affected population. However, stronger donor engagement is needed for impact to be maintained.

Operational Developments w

- The heavy rains reported in Morocco on 17 November killed 89 people in 24 hours. Some 100 Moroccan Red Crescent volunteers were immediately mobilised to help evacuate families and begin cleaning thick mud out of homes. According to the authorities, 100,000 people may be affected by the floods. Most victims died when their houses, built in the river beds, were swept away. The heaviest casualties were in the 4 regions (wilaya) of Settat, Skhirat-Temara, Mohammedia and Kenitra; where flash floods caused rivers to burst destroying villages (douar), damaging houses and schools, killing hundreds of cattle and causing extensive damage to crops and infrastructure.
- A Federation Delegate arrived in Morocco on 28 November to assist the Moroccan Red Crescent to organise an assessment and identify emergency needs. The Federation's Secretariat has been monitoring

the situation and maintaining daily contacts with the Moroccan Red Crescent. According to the information received from the Moroccan Red Crescent, the National Society planned to provide emergency relief, food and non-food, to 20,000 beneficiaries of the most affected population. Subsequently the International Federation launched the Emergency Appeal no. 32/02. It looked for CHF 580,000 to be used for meeting the most acute needs of the most vulnerable, including children.

- Local authorities were in charge of collecting data on the affected population and provision of the official figures. Therefore, the Moroccan Red Crescent have had to wait for official figures before distributing food parcels.

Coordination w

Field visits were organised by the Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) to the affected wilayat. Representatives of the National Society and the Federation met with the walis (Préfets) and the Governors to better assess the humanitarian needs and to co-ordinate the relief operation.

In the wilayat of Settata and Kenitra, respectively the Governor and the Wali expressed interest in Disaster Preparedness programs and have shown an interest in participating in the vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) process that will start with the MRC end of January 2003. Visits and interviews of the Federation Delegate have been reported on the National TV News.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

More than 100 volunteers including 50 trained first aiders, were mobilised from the first hour of the disaster and are still at the forefront of the relief efforts. From day one, the MRC volunteers helped to evacuate families and to clean thick mud out of homes. They were involved in distributing food parcels and relief items such as blankets and tents which were available from the MRC own small emergency preparedness stock.

The International Federation immediately allocated CHF 40.000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) which allowed the Moroccan Red Crescent to meet the most acute emergency needs of the affected population.

From the flood’s onset, the Moroccan Red Crescent has been receiving support from a number of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies of Denmark, Finland, Japan, Libya, Norway and Sweden as well as the Secretariat of Arab Red Crescent Societies announced cash contributions worth approximately CHF 160.000. Sizeable donations in kind, including tents, blankets, carpets, winter clothes, etc. were dispatched to Morocco by the National Societies of Denmark, France, Iran and Sweden.

The Federation Secretariat has been also informed of the humanitarian consignment offered to Morocco by the Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Societies.

Objectives, activities and results w

The planned post-emergency relief operation aims to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable. During the first phase, and for an estimated three months, basic relief items will be distributed to 2,000 families in the most affected regions of Settata, Mohammedia, Skhirat-Temara and Kenitra.. These 2,000 families represent the most affected ones that will be assisted by the MRC; they are part of a global estimate number of 5,000 affected families reported by the government, as mentioned in the Appeal no. 32/02

The following are the numbers of defined beneficiaries and their location in the affected wilayats (15/12/2002)

Wilayat	Families	Persons approx
Settata	876	5'600
Skhirat-Temara	200	800

Mohammedia	736	3'000
Kenitra	100	600
Total	1'912	10'000

Health and care

Objective 1

To provide basic health care to the affected population through the establishment and maintenance of the health posts. While the authorities take care of the general health situation, the MRC intends to open health posts for basic care, counselling and psychological support in the areas of temporary shelter. This activity is part of the National Society's co-operation with the Ministry of Health and is co-ordinated by the health commission of the Moroccan Red Crescent. 41 cartons of medicine from the French Red-Cross have been handed over to the health authorities in Settata and Mohammedia for assistance to the needy.

Objective 2

To run awareness programs on basic hygiene and health care. In urban areas, Red Crescent volunteers have started to carry out an awareness campaign among the affected population. The volunteers have been working in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health.

Two teams of doctors, generalists and paediatrics, nurses and 2 MRC first aid volunteers are visiting the victims in temporary settlements set up near affected villages and affected urban areas, in Mohammedia and Settata.

Although the situation does not indicate signs of epidemic, the health authorities are on alert.

Water and sanitation w

Objective 1

To provide drinking water and clean flooded areas and homes. The MRC local branch volunteers have from day one started cleaning operations to help the people remove destroyed belongings. Some tools such as shovel, picks, wheel barrel, gloves will be purchased. The MRC will provide safe water to 5,000 families by distributing locally purchased buckets and water purification tablets.

Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items w

Objective 1

The MRC will provide food to the most vulnerable of the affected population.

The MRC has started to purchase and distribute basic food items. The Disaster Emergency Fund amount of CHF 40,000 released by the Secretariat has allowed to support local procurement and distribution of food parcels. It was crucial to ensure that all families had enough food.

Food parcel

Item	Qty for Family 1 to 3 members	Qty for Family 4 to +
Wheat Flour	25 kg	50 kg
Oil	5 L	10 L
Sugar	5 kg	10 kg
Tea	½ kg	1 kg
Lentils	3 kg	5 kg
Soap	1 kg	2 kg
Candle	1 packet	2 packets

First distributions took place on the 04/12 in Settat for 859 families, in Kenitra for 100 families, in Skhirat for 180 families. In Mohammedia, the distribution originally planned to take place on the 10/12 was postponed to the 21st for an increased number of 736 families.

Objective 2

The MRC will provide children with items for school. After assessment conducted by the MRC, some items will be purchased and distributed to children who have had their books, pencils and other items lost or damaged in the schools affected by the flood in the wilayat of Mohammedia and Settat.

Shelter w

Objective 1

To provide temporary shelter for the homeless. The MRC is expecting tents and tarpaulins to provide most vulnerable with more decent shelters. 127 tents from the Belgian Red-Cross were distributed in the wilayat of Mohammedia/40, Settat/30, Skhirat/27, Kenitra/30.

The “Foundation Mohamed V for solidarity” together with the civil protection provided the affected population with tents. Still there is an urgent need for tents for a larger number of beneficiaries who are sharing the available shelter in difficult conditions.

Objective 2

To provide clothing to those who are most in need. Blankets and warm clothing, especially for children, are among the most acute needs. The harsh weather conditions as well as the absence of alternative to staying in tents and other temporary shelter require urgent attention.

Blankets from the French Red-Cross already arrived. An other consignment of 9,900 blankets from the Danish Red Cross was expected in Morocco by the end of December.

National Society Capacity Building w

The National Society reacted immediately to the disaster and began an assessment of the most urgent needs in all affected areas. Volunteers of Red Crescent branches worked continuously. However, there is a need to upgrade the local capacities as regards stocks and training of volunteers. These needs will be outlined in more details in the further updates.

Federation Delegation w

It has been agreed with the National Society that a Federation delegate will be assigned to the affected areas to monitor the distributions, ensure co-ordination and reporting on the operation and assessment of further needs. The level of the National Society capacity to respond to sudden emergencies is also planned to be evaluated.

The above tasks will be implemented by the Federation’s Programme Co-ordinator who is permanently assigned to the Algerian Red Crescent. The Co-ordinator’s first mission to Morocco was completed on 5 December 2002. The follow-up mission took place on 10 December until 15 December 2002. During this second mission the Federation’s Delegate was to assist the Moroccan Red Crescent in the establishment of the detailed plan of action to support the most vulnerable within the available resources. The latest mission to Morocco started on 31 December 2002.

The Federation’s Programme Co-ordinator is and will be supported during his temporary assignment in Morocco by the Federation’s technical infrastructure available through the MENA Regional Delegation (Amman, Jordan) and Sub-regional office for North Africa (Tunis). The RFU in Amman will send its Delegate for a short mission to assist the MRC finance department.

Advocacy/Public Information w

Two interviews of the Secretary General of the MRC and two interviews of the Federation delegate were broadcast on national television.

Outstanding needs w

300 tents

4,000 tarpaulins

Warm clothes and shoes

554 mattresses on local procurement.

Jerry cans will be replaced by buckets locally purchased.

500 school items will be purchased on the local market

One vehicle for transportation of volunteers is needed. At the end of the operation, the vehicle will be handed over to Mohammedia branch.

For further details please contact: Mr. Evgeni Parfenov, Senior Desk Officer, MENA Department, Phone : 41 22 730 43 25 Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Morocco - floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 32/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				15.01.2003
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				580'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 56.7%
ARAB GENERAL SECRETARIAT		5'000	USD	7'311	07.12.2002	
DENMARK RC		92'500	DKK	18'260	05.12.2002	
DENMARK GVT		1'658	USD	2'424	10.12.2002	
FINNISH - RC		30'000	EUR	43'992	02.12.2002	
IRANIAN - RC		2'703	USD	3'952	22.12.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
JAPAN RC		12'900	USD	18'862	16.12.2002	
LIBYAN - RC				5'000	04.12.2002	
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	20'047	29.11.2002	
SWEDEN - GOVT		300'000	SEK	48'420	17.12.2002	
SWEDEN - GOVT		6'250	SEK	1'009	17.12.2002	PSR
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				169'277	CHF	29.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK GVT	BLANKETS	9'900	UNITS	48'494	10.12.2002	
IRANIAN - RC		54'063	USD	79'051	22.12.2002	200 RELIEF TENTS, 2000 BLANKETS, 20 MOQUETTES, SUGAR, TRANSPORT/ INSURANCE
SWEDEN - GOVT	CLOTHES			31'957	17.12.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				159'502	CHF	27.5%