

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: EARTHQUAKE

9 March 2004

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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal (Preliminary) no. 06/04; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 1-8 March 2004; Appeal coverage: over 100% (note: the attached list of contributions reflects a coverage of 55%, this is however being updated as pledge management notes are signed and recorded); [Click here to go directly to the attached list of contributions \(also available on the Federation's website\).](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on a provisional basis on 24 February 2004 for CHF 2,832,000 (USD 2,282,852 or EUR 1,799,553) for 6 months to assist 30,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 75,000.
- With Operations Update no. 2, this is now considered a full (and final) Appeal.

Outstanding needs: none; this appeal is fully covered.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2004 Annual Appeal for North Africa (no. 01.88/2004)

Operational Summary: Despite the fact that the intensity and frequency of tremors or aftershocks have decreased (the last powerful one struck the northern Moroccan province of Al Hoceima in the evening of 03 March), almost the entire population of approximately half a million people continues to live and sleep outdoors. Demand for tents therefore remains high, with each household hoping to receive at least one tent. The Red Crescent Society of Morocco (MRCS), supported by the Federation, has distributed a total of 5,552 tents to direct beneficiaries in the seven most affected rural communes and the urban commune of Imzouren city.

Distributions of other relief items such as blankets, jerry cans, used cloths; plastic sheeting and kitchen sets that were received in response to both the current Appeal, and/or bilaterally, started on 05, March. Small-scale commercial activities have been restored, but the normal life of the population in the affected regions remains largely disrupted.

HRM the King Mohammed VI of Morocco visited the MRSC/Federation compound on Wednesday, 03 March during which he expressed his appreciation of the work carried out by the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The MRCS's targeted response to remote communities, supported by the Federation Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) and logistics ERU, has considerably raised the profile of the national society among the affected population, the civil society, and the authorities. As a result, various donors are increasingly approaching the MRCS with requests to use its distribution channels. Given the logistical constraints in reaching many of the affected rural communities and available resources, the MRCS has been obliged to decline many of these offers while concentrating efforts on carrying out its planned distributions. A plan of action was developed in order to structure the next phase of the current emergency operation with a view to shifting to longer-term capacity building plans as per the regional annual appeal planning.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

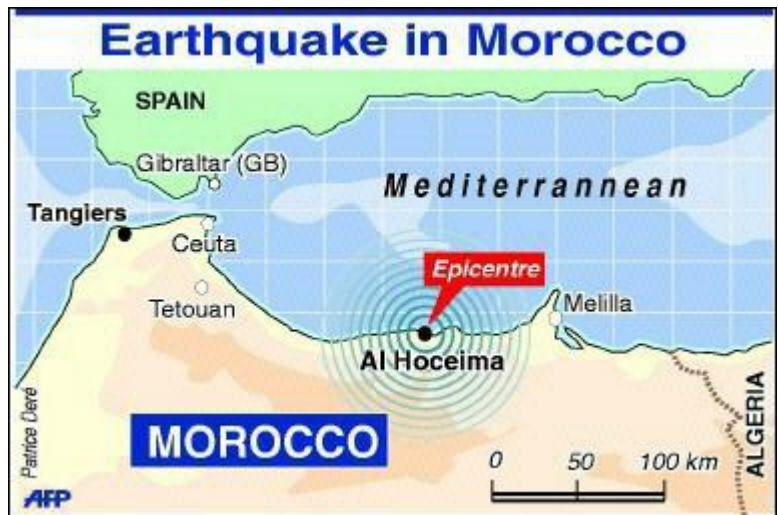
- Moroccan Red Crescent; email: crm@iam.net.ma
- Regional Office (Tunis): Anne Leclerc, Head of Regional Office for North Africa; e-mail: ifrctu01@ifrc.org; phone: + 216 71 86 24 85; fax: + 216 71 86 29 71
- In Geneva: Pieter De Rijke, Regional Officer, MENA Department, email: pieter.derijke@ifrc.org; phone: + 41 22 730 4204; fax: +41 22 733 0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

Background

At approximately 02:30 am on Tuesday, 24 February 2004, an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit northeastern Morocco. The epicenter was located in the Strait of Gibraltar, approximately 15 kilometers west of the Mediterranean port city of Al Hoceima (185 miles or 295 km east-northeast of the capital Rabat) capital of the Al Hoceima willaya¹. The hinterland of the willaya is a mountainous area populated with scattered rural communities.

The region affected by the earthquake covers a perimeter of 78 km, with Imzouren and seven rural communes at its center and the villages of Sidi Daoud in the west (towards Tangiers) and of M'noud in the east (towards Nador) at the periphery. In the urban commune of Imzouren (population 25,547) 110 houses were completely destroyed. In addition to Imzouren seven rural communes were particularly affected.



Rural Commune	Ait Kamara	Louta	Bni Bou Ayach	Tamassint	Bni Abdellah	Nekor	Tifrouine
No.of habitants	7,615	5,501	13,125	12,051	9,400	11,859	7,436

Operational developments

According to the latest official statistics, the earthquake caused 640 deaths and some 547 injured and made tens of thousand vulnerable in the North east Moroccan willaya of Al Hoceima. Official statistics on damages and plans for reconstruction and rehabilitation were not made public yet. Even though the schools have been officially reopened, the students have not been able to resume regained their classrooms. Small scale commercial activities have resumed in Al-Hoceima and Imzouren but the supply chain is still interrupted especially in the rural areas.

The MRCS, through its Al Hoceima branch, was among to respond to the disaster, together with the civil defense, local communities and authorities, the army and national NGOs. The prompt arrival of responsible staff from the National Society's headquarters and wide mobilization of resources across the country marked the second phase of the operation. The MRCS disaster management center was established in the yard of a damaged secondary school in Imzouren. Besides the operational function, the compound was used for accommodation of staff and volunteers from both the National Society and the International Federation as well as for the reception and stocking of incoming relief items. At the outskirts of the compound, the MRCS organized a camp for the affected population. The capacity of the camp has been gradually expanded with 1,500 people currently sheltered in some 200 tents.

In line with its mandate and capacities, the MRCS is planning the exit strategy with the hand over of the camp to responsible authorities. Also the national society has been increasingly under the pressure of various donors willing to use its pipeline and distribute quantities of unsolicited goods often dispatched in bulk. Consequently, it was decided to redirect all medical items and equipments as well as food to competent health and social authorities.

¹ Al-Hoseima is a willaya of a Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate region.

Morocco: Earthquake; Appeal no. 06/2004 (preliminary); Operations Update no. 3

In that context and given the wide recognition the MRCS gained from both the affected population and HRM the King as a highest authority in the country, a structured dialogue with other players on the national response scene was initiated. Having completed their mission, all members of the International Federation FACT team will leave Morocco by 11, March. The combined Spanish/French RC Logistics ERU will stay for an additional two weeks with staff replacement now underway.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

General

Since the beginning of the operation and up to 7 March, the MRCS has mobilized and deployed:

- 525 relief and health workers-volunteers of which 61 are members of the recently established national intervention team.
- 26 staff members.
- 9 doctors.
- 9 nurses.
- 2 pharmacists.
- 9 drivers.
- 9 ambulances.
- 2 four wheel drive vehicles.
- Several private cars from volunteers.



In addition, the Melilla branch of the Spanish Red

Cross is also providing a valuable contribution to the operation through a deployment of teams of 5-6 volunteers working in two days shifts and the logistical support. Currently, the number of MRCS volunteers involved in the operation is slightly decreasing but this has not affected adversely the implementation of the tasks. In two weeks time the operation will be entering in the post emergency phase. A plan of action has been drafted in order to reflect objectives and activities of this phase.

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Shelter

Distribution of tents to the affected people in eight most affected communes was completed on 7 March. Tents were identified as a priority relief item for distribution, particularly in the rural areas and their remote communities which had not benefited from tented camps as those in the urban zones. The need for tents was far beyond the initial target of 1,500 family tents planned in the appeal, but several additional donations (USAID, UAE Red Crescent Society, the Qatar Government, and several associations) covered the remaining needs.

In order to respond to the immediate need for tents, the MRCS/Federation teams have identified, through initial assessments, the priority areas to be covered. In cooperation with local authorities and representatives (mukadems) of the local communities (duars), household lists in each “duar” were established, and the number of tents per “duar” allocated. The targeting was therefore carried out on the basis of individual family needs. From a chosen distribution point in the centre of the commune, further distributions to direct beneficiaries were carried out by various means of transportation: tractors, donkeys, etc. Each representative of the family who received a tent submitted the ID card and signed the beneficiary list.

Summary table of tent distributions (28 February-07 March):

Morocco: Earthquake; Appeal no. 06/2004 (preliminary); Operations Update no. 3

Rural communes&Imzouren	Ait Kamara	Louta	Bni Bou Ayach	Tamassint	Bni Abdellah	Nekor	Tifrouine	Imzouren	Total
No. of habitants	7,615	5,501	13,125	12,051	9,400	11,859	7,436	25,000	91,987
No. of distributed tents	350	615	286	2,134	1,174	180	117	696	5,552

Details of tent distributions:

FAMILY TENTS DISTRIBUTED PER COMMUNE		
Commune	QUANTITY	DONOR
Tamassint	2,134	
	284	Norway RC
	31	Egyptian RC
	29	German RC
	29	Belgium RC
	1380	USAID
	381	QATAR Gov
Bni Abdellah	1,174	
	40	French RC
	131	USAID
	262	QATAR Gov
	701	United Arab Emirates
	40	ITALIAN GVT
Ait Kamara	350	
	78	German RC
	272	USAID
Lota	615	
	11	Norway RC
	9	French RC
	7	German RC
	48	USAID
	349	QATAR Gov
	191	United Arab Emirates
Bni Bouaiach	286	
	286	German RC
Inzuren center	696	
	559	QATAR Gov
	137	United Arab Emirates
Nekor/Tefrouine	297	
	253	QATAR Gov
	44	PRIVATE
Total outside RC camp	5,552	
Total RC camp / civil protection camp		
	109	
	109	French RC
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	5,661	

Other relief items

Since many of the affected families managed to recuperate basic household items from their collapsed or damaged houses, distributions of other relief items mobilized and received were considered as a secondary priority. Systematic distributions started therefore on 5 March in the Bni Bou Ayach rural commune and are currently underway in all targeted areas. Given the quantities of these items available it was decided to allocate to each commune a percentage of items corresponding to the number of tents distributed. This number is indicative for the level of destruction/damage, and does not necessarily correspond to the number of inhabitants.

Distribution plan

PLANNING DISTR / STOCK	BLANKETS	PLASTIC SHEETING	KITC HEN	JERRYCANS	CLOTHES
---------------------------	----------	---------------------	-------------	-----------	---------

			SETS			
WHERE	30280	3382	1832	15000	700	
Tamassint	11,639	1,300	704	5,765	100	38%
Bni Abdellah	6,403	715	387	3,172	100	21%
Ait Kamara	1,909	213	115	946	100	6%
Lota	3,354	375	203	1,662	100	11%
Bni Bouayach	1,560	174	94	773	100	5%
Inzuren center	3,796	424	230	1,880	100	13%
Nekor/Tefrouine	1,620	181	98	802	100	5%
	30,280	3,382	1,832	15,000	700	
TOTAL						100%

N.B Please note that for details on the relief pipeline mobilised through the current Appeal please refer to the mobilization table available on DMIS.

Health

The MRCS continues to operate an advanced medical post at the entrance of the camp for the affected people in Imzouren. Medical reports from this post do not indicate cases of diarrhea nor acute respiratory tract infections. Another advanced medical post operated by a team of eight and supported by an ambulance is still active in the center of Al Hoceima. The third MRCS health team was affiliated to the referral hospital in Al-Hoceima. Parallel to daily, small scale activities in the field of psychological support provided to the residents of the MRCS camp in Imzouren, the International Federation and the MRCS will shortly develop a plan for a more adequate response in terms of the psychological support to the people affected by the earthquake. A combined international/national team of three will start on 15 March a two-week mission in Morocco with the twofold objective:

- to develop a plan for addressing immediate and longer term needs for psychological support of the affected population;
- to plan the strengthening of the MRCS PSP capacities and network.

Twenty boy scouts from the National Scout Association have joined the MRCS volunteers and are carrying out well appreciated recreational activities for children in the tented camp in Imzouren.

Water/Sanitation

A water sanitation specialist from the Spanish Red Cross arrived in Imzouren on 06 March for a seven day mission. The main objectives of the mission are to assess the situation in the MRCS camp in relation to water and sanitation issues, and to make adjustments accordingly.

Food

Various food items (e.g. canned fish, edible oil, sugar, tea, baby food, milk, flour, dates etc) that arrived in the MRCS crisis headquarters in Imzouren will be handed over to the local health and social institutions in need of this type of assistance via the local authorities. The regular, daily distributions of bread and milk (for children) have continued to be carried out in the tented camp operated by the MRCS.

Logistics

In the period from 26 February to 05 March (inclusive) a total of 750 tons of relief items that were dispatched on board 24 cargo planes and four trucks were handled by the Federation's logistics ERU and the MRCS team. An efficient pipeline was established enabling the reception, warehousing and transportation of relief items from Imzouren operational headquarters to all target communities and beneficiaries.

Federation coordination

With the departure of the UNDAC team on Saturday, 28 February the Federation assumed the role of co-chairing daily coordination meetings (with the UN). The number of agencies present on the ground has decreased to the point that these meetings were suspended on 4 March. Both the regional office in Tunis as well as various departments in Geneva assisted with the coordination of the response and will continue to do so as the operation progresses.

National Society Capacity Building

In addition to the need for the MRCS to have mounted a swift and effective response to assist those affected by this earthquake, the national society has also had an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge gained during an intensive disaster preparedness and response training programme (as well as the establishment of a DM structure at the headquarters level) that was implemented in 2003 with the support of the Federation's regional offices in Amman and Tunis. Donors are once more thanked for their generous contributions to the immediate emergency response, but also reminded of the need to commit to longer term training and planning as a means to enable a national society carrying out its vital work in times of emergencies. As mentioned in the 'In brief' section, the MRCS and the Federation are now looking at a Plan of Action concentrating on the next phase of the operation already underway. This Plan of Action will cover a number of areas, such as the increase and enhancement of the MRCS' organizational preparedness capacity. The regional office in Tunis will be instrumental in ensuring this ties in with a longer term regional planning (covering Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt), specifically focusing on disaster management. In addition, and on the specific request of the MRCS, attention will be given to increasing the psycho-social support response, both at branch and at HQ level. A team of specialists will visit the earthquake area as of March 15 to start a mapping exercise with the MRCS. Lastly, an important component of the Plan of Action will be volunteer management; that is the recruitment, mobilization, training, motivation and retention of vital members of the MRCS, making it possible to react in emergencies like this.

An evaluation of the current relief operation that is planned to take place tentatively in September 2004 will contribute to fine tuning further MRCS's response mechanisms and capacity.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

While the interest of the international media in the Morocco earthquake has decreased considerably, the Federation is publishing regular stories about the disaster on its web site www.ifrc.org in order to inform donors and the public at large on the latest developments. The national media continues to pay attention to the Red Cross and Red Crescent work with several titles appearing in various newspapers in both Arabic and French. The visit of HRM the King Mohammed VI to the Red Cross and Red Crescent camp was well covered by the national and international press.

[List of contributions below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Morocco - earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 06/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/03/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,832,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 55.0%
AUSTRIAN - RC		30,000	EUR	47,265	03.03.04	
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		2,373	EUR	3,739	01.03.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
BRITISH - RC		20,000	GBP	47,190	01.03.04	
FINNISH - RC		7,097	EUR	11,181	27.02.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
ICELANDIC - RC		750,000	ISK	13,650	24.02.04	DREF REIMBURSEMENT
IRISH - GOVT				315,000	01.03.04	
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT		200,000	EUR	315,100	27.02.04	
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC				30,000	24.02.04	
KUWAIT - RC		200,000	USD	253,300	01.03.04	
LIBYAN - RC				5,000	25.02.04	
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	31,510	01.03.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	80,000	25.02.04	
SWEDISH - RC		6,547	SEK	1,120	26.02.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
SWISS - RC				80,000	25.02.04	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS				100	03.03.04	
TURKISH - RC		30,000	USD	37,470	27.02.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,271,625	CHF	44.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - GOVT/RC		55,950	EUR	88,149	01.03.04	2200 BLANKETS, 10 DISPENSARY TENTS, 1000 PLASTIC SHEETING, 400 KITCHEN SETS, 50 FAMILY TENTS
FINNISH - RC		109,684	EUR	172,807	27.02.04	3 RUBBHALL, 27 MT CLOTHING
SWEDISH - RC		151,330	SEK	25,877	26.02.04	20'146 KGS USED CLOTHES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				286,833	CHF	10.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Morocco - earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 06/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/03/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	