

# DREF Bulletin 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

## TUNISIA FLOODS 2007

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*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

Period covered by this update: 2 May to 25 May, 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 45,000 allocated from the Federations DREF on 1 May, 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will be completed by 30 June, 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 September, 2007).

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

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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.

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Background and current situation



Torrential rains have affected several governorates in southern Tunisia since 24 April. Hfor El Tine, situated in the city of Tozeur, 400 km from the capital Tunis, was one location badly affected (a video of the disaster is available at the Regional Office upon request).

The city is built in a valley and can often be muddy. Following the heavy rains, more than 300 families had to be evacuated from their flooded homes. Most of them were accommodated with relatives, but mosques, youth houses and schools also provided refuge.

Hfor El Tine is a poor district, many of the houses are very old and its geographic situation is deemed problematic. The drainage basin of the purification centre (National Sanitation Utility Centre) which is situated in the middle of Hfor el Tine has overflowed into the houses.

The floods happened during the night while habitants were sleeping; therefore they did not have time to react and were forced to leave their houses immediately. Indeed, this sudden situation has caused several material and financial damages to the families who most of them are from the poor social class. The heavy rains have also destructed several houses and killed some backyard animals (poultry).

The Tunisian army, the Civilian Protection and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society have been present on the scene since the very beginning, delivering emergency assistance to the affected population. Families have been evacuated and the Tunisian Red Crescent complemented this by providing food items and distributing clothes to the most affected people.

After these sudden heavy rains, the temperatures went back to the normal of the season and most of the families have been able to return to their houses.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Branch of Tozeur immediately deployed a team of volunteers. An alert was sent to the Headquarters on 25 April and on the basis of the first assessment made by the volunteers, on 27 April, the Tunisian Red Crescent Headquarters sent two trucks of relief items from their central warehouses to the field.

### *Items that have been purchased for the needs of the operation:*

- 100 Blankets
- 1 Ton of flour
- 1 Ton of Pasta

### *Items distributed from the Tunisian Red Crescent Central Warehouse:*

- 10 bales of clothes (in kind donation by the Finnish Red Cross)
- 4 Big Bags of new shoes
- 5 Big Bags of used Shoes

The donations were distributed during the emergency phase, complemented by a successful local resources mobilization as well as a contribution from the Tunisian Solidarity Fund (Fonds 2626). A second assessment of the situation was jointly conducted by the Red Crescent committee, the Social Affairs Services and the Family Planning Services, indicating a number of 372 families in need of support.



*Traki Abdelhafidh, the President of the Local Branch of the Tunisian Red Crescent in Tozeur, has joined the National Society in 1998.*

*Her work at the Family Planning Services as midwife nurse allowed her to contact with the most vulnerable people of her community. This experience served her branch during the assessment phase of the affected families after the heavy rains that occurred on 24-25 April, 2007.*

*“Lessons learnt from this relief operation are very valuable” she says “and will help our team to improve its response capacity”.*

Dr Cheniti, Secretary General of the Tunisian Red Crescent, alerted the North Africa Office and requested assistance for basic relief material. A DREF allocation of CHF 45,000 was requested and granted to cover the needs of affected families (blankets, mattresses and food parcels). The Regional Office deployed one of its staff in the field to support the President of the Red Crescent local branch and its team. The objective of the mission was to provide some assistance in the completion of the Plan of Action, and to brief the staff of the branch on International Federation emergency mechanisms and related procedures (DREF, Logistics, Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting, Finance). The International Federation staff also took the opportunity to inform the local branch about the quality standards for emergency relief items and advised them to include those criteria in the bids (indication of appropriate specifications).

On 11 May 2007 an exhaustive list of affected families were compiled by the Tunisian Red Crescent local volunteers. This list showed a number of 372 affected families. According to the final needs and good prices obtained from the suppliers, a revision of the budget lines was made possible, thus increasing the quantities to better address the needs of the affected families.

In line with the revision, the following items were planned to be distributed:

- **372 Food parcels:** Each family will receive one parcel.
- **744 Blankets:** Each family will receive 2 blankets.
- **695 Mattresses:** Some families will receive one blanket and a second mattress will be provided to the most in need.

Owing to its cooperation with the local authorities and as the local branch does not have its own office, the local National Centre for Blinds is used for the storage and distribution of the relief items. The items have already been delivered to Tozeur.

The families have received a distribution receipt indicating the date and the time they will have to be present at the centre in order to receive their relief items. The distribution is estimated to be finalised by 30 June, 2007. A team of nine volunteers is mobilized since the beginning of the operation and will be present until it is completed.

The Governor, the President and the Secretary General of the National Society, and the Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be present at least once during the distribution period. The local media and press have been informed and a national coverage of the event is expected.

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