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## Information bulletin Israel: Complex emergency

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Magen David Adom in Israel will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



MDA teams using personal protective equipment, providing care for the casualties. Photo: MDA

### The situation

Since 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012, a major escalation in the security situation surrounding Gaza strip has happened and is still going on. The situation is currently deteriorating.

Rockets and missiles are being fired constantly on Israeli towns in the area surrounding Gaza strip, up to 40km from Gaza Area. Rockets have been also fired to the range of up to 80km – targeting Jerusalem and the larger Tel Aviv Area.

A state of emergency has been declared by the government in the area – 40km from the Gaza strip. All public gatherings are suspended, schools and universities are closed. Non-essential working places are also closed.

The situation is still worsening as rocket attacks continue and the number of injured and affected people is increasing.

The crisis affected the population in the following areas:

- In the 7 km range: the total number of people affected is 110,000 – the population has been ordered to stay in shelters and not leave their homes (they have been in shelters since November 14<sup>th</sup>).
- In the range of 7-40 km: 880,000 people are ordered to stay in the distance of 15 seconds from the shelter.
- In the range of 40-80 km: 3,500,000 inhabitants: no restrictions were introduced on daily activities, but the population is advised to maintain a high level of alert, and to be ready to take shelter in case of a missile attack.

The military has called more than 20,000 reservists into active duty. The Home Front Command (Civil Protection) is mobilized to conduct search and rescue activities (together with the Fire and Rescue Services) and to provide care for the population (supporting the local authorities). Police is in-charge of the operational response.

Psychosocial support is provided to the public by the healthcare system and the local authorities.

The public all over Israel is mobilized on spontaneous basis offering to host families from the affected area.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As of 14<sup>th</sup> November, Magen David Adom (MDA) Director General, ordered to activate the NS's contingency plan. This includes setting Red Alert for MDA regions from Tel-Aviv to the South and Jerusalem. The rest of MDA regions (five regions in the North of Israel) are on Orange alert.

MDA teams (staff and volunteers) are responding to the casualties of the attacks providing first aid and emergency medical care as well as psychosocial support. Those who need this type of support are evacuated to the appropriate care facilities. So far MDA personnel responded to the following casualties were (as of November 20<sup>th</sup> 15:00):

- 3 deceased
- 2 critically injured
- 4 with moderate injuries
- 93 with minor injuries
- 150 with stress related conditions

Operations centres are working from the Bomb Shelters, and all ambulances are running 24/7 basis. A total of 500 ambulances are providing support in the affected areas.



MDA teams providing emergency first aid to injured person in Ashdod situated in the protected area. Photo: MDA

MDA national blood services have moved to the shelter. The processing and storage of blood units is done in the shelters. MDA blood services have launched a campaign to increase the national blood stockpile.

MDA is offering first aid training to the public in the 40km range area, to enhance the resilience of the communities.

As MDA stations are manned with 3 times more staff and volunteers than the usual, special arrangements were made to support the supporting teams (especially volunteers). Staff and volunteers living in the South of Israel were offered with the possibility to send their direct family members to calmer areas in the country, to give them the peace of mind necessary to keep on focusing on the needs of the population we serve.

800 MDA volunteers are involved in the response to the rocket attacks in the South of Israel; another 400 volunteers are involved in the high alert zone in the larger Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem areas. 20 volunteers from abroad (trained by MDA) have arrived to Israel to support MDA and provide services to the affected population. Due to the situation all youth volunteers' activities in the South of Israel MDA stations are suspended.

Information is updated regularly, and shared on a daily basis through MDA operational updates.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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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.

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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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