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Information bulletin

Egypt: Civil Unrest

 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. At this time, the Egyptian Red Crescent with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required at the moment, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors.

Summary:

Since the beginning of 2011, Egypt remains facing political instability. The former President stepped down in February 2011 after massive demonstrations. A new constitution was drafted and a new President was elected in June 2012. Continued economic disruption and civil unrest led to another change in command on July 3, 2013. On July 4, just after the Armed Forces assumed power, violence continued with over 100 people wounded and several deaths. The Armed Forces announced that they will respect and Preserves the right to peacefully protest. while other political parties insisted on their position and went out to streets rejecting the new transitional setup.

Several protests have taken place since then and many have been injured or dead as a result. ERC Emergency Action Teams (EATs) were deployed and are still on the ground providing vital first aid in a neutral and professional manner.

The situation

Despite all the warnings, all the calls for restraint, more than 150 persons have died during protests over the past month, not just in Cairo but in other cities as well such as Alexandria. Hundreds of people affected by the violence were in need for first aid assistance.

The on-going instability and uncertainty over the country future have led to political more protests and strikes. criminal activities have been on the rise in different locations taking the advantage of the situation (Sinai peninsula as an example).



Emergency Action Teams (EATs) providing first aid to the injured.
Photo: Egypt Red Crescent, July 2013.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) has responded to the humanitarian needs around mass demonstrations and has immediately deployed its emergency action teams to help those injured and wounded on the streets of Cairo and other provinces.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the moment, the Egypt Red Crescent has neither called upon external assistance at the moment and nor is seeking funding or other assistance from donors and the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

- ERC has deployed 30 emergency action teams on the ground:
 - 10 in Cairo and 20 in (Suaiz, Qalobiyah and Alexandria) each team consists of:
 - 5 people (1 Doctor and 4 First aiders) equipped with the essential equipment such as stretcher and FA kits.
- ERC provided services in a very neutral way serving both parties on the ground.

ERC deployed so far around **849** trained and equipped volunteers in 35 sites of demonstrations in **11** governorates that helped to:

- Provide medical assistance and appropriate treatment to **497** cases.
- Evacuate those in need of higher-level care **83** cases.
- Provide assistance to the injured in a neutral non-biased way.
- Provide urgent medical supplies to the field hospitals in sites of the demonstrations.
- Providing psychosocial support to the victims and their relatives.
- Restoring Family Links when needed.

The response differed in each governorates according to the needs. Some ERC branches provided other services and initiatives as a response to the situation in their governorates during the demonstrations that include:

- Raising the awareness about the role of the Egyptian Red Crescent, its activities, its humanitarian principles, and opportunities of volunteers (e.g. in **Aswan, and Alexandria**).
- Visiting the victims in the hospitals to provide them with psychosocial support and new clothes (e.g. in **Damietta**).
- Purchasing oxygen cylinders to provide the victims with oxygen when needed in the first aid post (e.g. in **Port Said**).
- Putting 23 posters in the main squares of the governorate that call the citizens to deal peacefully during the demonstrations (e.g. in **Sharkia**).
- Conducting blood donation campaigns (e.g. in **Dakahlia**).

IFRC maintain a close coordination with ICRC at different levels, information sharing and discussions are on-going closely with ERC since the onset of the violence last month to ensure delivering a coordinated support to ERC.

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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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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