

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Egypt: Bomb Blasts

DREF operation n° 05ME044  
2 January 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Summary:** CHF 75,000 (USD 57,677 or EUR 48,066) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 July 2005 to support the national society in delivering assistance to beneficiaries.

This DREF operation aimed to assist the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RCS) in its efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of the victims of the bomb explosions in Sharm El Sheikh. The assistance included on-site disaster response, provision of basic food and non-food relief items, and psychological support.

The DREF allocation has also allowed the Egyptian RCS to improve its capacity, both in headquarters and local branches level, in order to run and implement similar emergency relief operations in the future.



Location of Sharm El Sheikh

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

A series of terror attacks on 23 July 2005 targeted the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El Sheikh, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. 88 people were killed (the majority of them being Egyptians) and over 200 were wounded by the blasts, making the attack the deadliest terrorist action in the country's history.

The bombings coincided with Egypt's Revolution Day, which commemorates Nasser's overthrow of King Farouk. They were intended to hurt one of Egypt's most important vacation spots, a tourism capital that had billions of dollars invested in it, and achieved that goal as it was registered that many tourists vacated and there were numerous cancellations.

As a response, there were many arrests, especially of the Bedouin in the Sinai who were alleged for aiding the attack, and Egypt started erecting a separation barrier around the city, cutting it off from possible attacks and the nearby Bedouin community.

A series of attacks and bombings hit Egypt in the recent years, starting with the Luxor massacre in November 1997 which killed 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians. This was followed by a series of bomb attacks in Taba in October 2004 killing 34 people and a two days terrorist violence in April 2005 in Cairo where three foreign tourists lost their lives.

## Coordination

Within two hours of the explosion, teams from the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RCS) were mobilized. 30 youth volunteers and five staff members, headed by the Chairman of the Board of the National Society's South Sinai branch, participated in the relief activities in close collaboration with the national authorities in order to remove the debris, help survivors, and provide them with psychological support. An emergency task force was established at the headquarters of the Egyptian RCS and at the branch level to regulate relief efforts.

The Secretary General of the National Society flew immediately to the site, visited the victims and met with the Governors and various governmental authorities to discuss the plan of action for this emergency and rehabilitation phase. The Egyptian RCS was congratulated officially by the authorities for its quick response and effective participation in relief and rehabilitation.

A joint governmental and Red Crescent team was organized to better assess the situation of the families and identify the needs for assistance. The International Federation's North Africa regional office immediately offered its assistance to the Egyptian RCS and kept regular contact with the National Society's Secretary General and its team as well as with the Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), based in Cairo.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



The teams from the Egyptian Red Crescent Society participated in on-site disaster response

One of the main difficulties encountered by the Egyptian RCS was the lack of transport facilities at the South Sinai branch, which slowed down the mobilization of volunteers. Although Sharm El Sheikh is the largest city in South Sinai, there was no Egyptian RCS sub-branch there (the South Sinai headquarters is located in El Tor which is 100 km away from Sharm El Sheikh). A sub-branch was immediately created and needs were highlighted. The newly created branch was equipped with the necessary relief materials (medicaments, water and juices, meals) and immediate support (medical first aid assistance, financial aid) was provided to those in need.

Priority was given to handicapped which had been injured during the attacks or to those who lost their business due to the explosion. Cash remittance was distributed (approximately CHF 5,000) within the first days to the most affected

people as well as some in kind donation (basic food and non-food items). The distributed cash has been used to cover the expenses for rehabilitation as well as to recover from the loss of income during the period of handicap.

In the meantime, the National Society conducted surveys for families of the dead and has carefully identified those with low socio-economic state. Due to the tourist season, many of these workers were originated from different regions of Egypt, which has complicated the needs assessment and survey. This National Society survey was coordinated with other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as to avoid duplication and mismanagement of the humanitarian aid. The collected data indicated that 50% of the families affected lost their bread winner. The government, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and the local governorates, has also offered about USD 1,500 to each family who lost a relative.

Learning from this experience and taking into consideration the previous bomb attacks, the Egyptian RCS planned to reinforce the newly established branch in Sharm El Sheikh by renovating the building, procuring office equipment and basic relief supplies, and a minibus to transport volunteers and goods. The branch aimed to be active in this highly visited region, help to disseminate key Red Cross/Red Crescent messages, promote the humanitarian values and fundamental principles, as well as to better prepare the local population to respond to risk and vulnerability, and support the vulnerable communities identified in the region in a more effective way.

The Egyptian RCS board decided to expand training courses for their youth and volunteers in disaster management, community based first aid and psychological support in other Egyptian RCS branches, even the ones based in non-disaster prone areas, due to the risk that terrorism may strike anywhere. A plan of action was developed and support was requested from the North Africa regional office to integrate it in the 2006-2007 disaster management planning.

## Conclusion

Despite the ongoing constraints, the Egyptian RCS was able to support the victims. Furthermore, the role of the National Society was enhanced and its efforts were widely recognised by the local community, promoting a positive image.

This operation has improved the capacity of the National Society to run and implement similar emergency relief operations, in addition to its logistics and operational capacity. It has proved the good network and cooperation that the Egyptian RCS has established between its headquarters and local branches. Indeed, it has been present on the scene within a few hours after the bomb attacks and has efficiently been an important actor throughout the operation.

In the end of the operation, an amount of CHF 1,340 was allocated from the DREF in addition to the initial CHF 75,000.

## How we work

*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.*

The International Federation's activities 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.

## Contact information

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05ME044 - Egypt: Sharm-El-Sheikh

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/07-2005/12
Budget Timeframe	2005/07-2005/10
Appeal	M05ME044
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		0				0
B. Opening Balance		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF		76,340				76,340
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		76,340				76,340
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		76,340				76,340
D. Total Funding = B + C		76,340				76,340

### II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		76,340				76,340
E. Expenditure		-76,340				-76,340
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			0				0	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles			15,990				15,990	-15,990
Medical & First Aid			4,053				4,053	-4,053
Other Supplies & Services			13,832				13,832	-13,832
<b>Total Supplies</b>			33,875				33,875	-33,875
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Vehicles			37,206				37,206	-37,206
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>			37,206				37,206	-37,206
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Financial Charges			296				296	-296
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>			296				296	-296
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support			4,962				4,962	-4,962
<b>Total Programme Support</b>			4,962				4,962	-4,962
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>			76,340				76,340	-76,340
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			-76,340				-76,340	