



## EGYPT: FIRE IN ZEINHOM AREA

**DREF Bulletin  
no. MDREG004  
28 March 2007**

*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

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 70,000 (USD 57,377 or EUR 43,478) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will be completed by the end of April, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by the end of July, 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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

- *In Egypt: Prof. Dr. Mamdouh GABR, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent; email: [erc@brainy1.ie-eg.com](mailto:erc@brainy1.ie-eg.com); phone: ++(20) (2) 6703979/81/83; fax: ++(20) (2) 6703967*
- *In Tunis: Anne Elisabeth Leclerc, Head of Office, Regional Office for North Africa; email: [ae.leclerc@ifrc.org](mailto:ae.leclerc@ifrc.org); phone: 00 216 71 862 485; fax: 00 216 71 862 971*
- *In Geneva: Evgeni Parfenov, Regional Officer, MENA Regional Department; email: [evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org](mailto:evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org); phone 41 22 7304325; fax 41 22 7330395*

*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



**A man pulls a fire hose as fires burn out of control (Reuters)**

On the afternoon of 20 March 2007, a fire occurred in one of the largest squatter areas of Cairo, Zeinhom, which was planned to be rebuilt during the next phase of the Egyptian Red Crescent Zeinhom Development Project. The area amounts to 50 feddans (acres) and is inhabited by more than 4,000 families (20,000 people).

As the houses of Zeinhom are mainly wooden huts, the fire spread rapidly and as a consequence 270 families (approximately 2,000 persons) became homeless.

The affected area is adjacent to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) building in this zone that hosts the Cairo branch, a youth club and a warehouse affiliated to the headquarters. This allowed the rapid deployment of relief items and team of RC volunteers on the site.

The ERCS headquarters is running a cultural and health service centre established in Zeinhom on a total area of 1,200 m<sup>2</sup>. The centre provides health and educational services as well as literacy promotion activities. It has a nursery that hosts 100 children, as well as training centres for computer and income-generating activities. The purpose is to serve the inhabitants of Zeinhom and the neighbouring areas.

Since 1999 the ERCS is involved in the implementation of the relocation project of Zeinhom slums area, carried out in full collaboration with Cairo Governorate and a group of philanthropists (institutions, businessmen and citizens). The next phase of the relocation of people from the slums is planned in July 2007. The current disaster has affected part of the families selected to be relocated in July. Funds are available for the evacuation and the resettlement of these families in new apartments. After discussion with the authorities, ERCS offered the temporary relocation to be in El Nahda City where the National Society is running one of its other successful urban development projects (<http://www.egyptianrc.org/English/Social1.htm>).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



**A lady cries as she watches her house burn during the fire in her neighbourhood**

The Egyptian Red Crescent staff, volunteers and youth were immediately present in the area and began to cooperate with the local authorities in assisting victims and providing urgent support using its own reserves. A large caravan and tents were erected as temporary shelters in the affected area. In addition, food and drinks were distributed.

The team consisted of 20 ERCS staff and youth volunteers. Thanks to the efforts of the fire workers and civil defence there were no deaths; only 3 slightly injured people who were discharged within 24 hours.

Cairo governorate, following consultation with the ERCS, decided to transfer 300 affected families to El Nahda city. They were accommodated in apartments available in El Nahda where water and sanitation were secured by the Cairo governorate. The National Society established a temporary office in the area where the

## Egypt: Fire in Zeinhom Area; DREF Bulletin

transferred families will live. The team in El Nahda was composed of 20 coordinators from the community, 10 ERCS volunteers and 20 youth volunteers working under the supervision of the ERCS lady volunteers in El Nahda.

The families were transferred progressively. Data for each family was registered in special cards and information sheets. The National Society immediately provided available urgent relief materials from its three disaster preparedness stocks in Cairo. The ERCS logistic department purchased the remaining needs. Basic materials (mattresses, blankets, pillows, ground mats, water containers, kitchen utensils, tables and chairs) and dried food were distributed by the National Society during the first two days. In addition, a refrigerator and oven to each family were provided through the assistance of Cairo governorate.



**A woman and her child cry as they watch their house burn (Reuters)**

An ERCS team of youth experienced in psychological support joined the Nahda office to provide basic psychological support to the affected families. In the meantime, the National Society is organizing the transfer of the children to be enrolled in the schools of El Nahda.

So far, 251 families have been settled in 251 apartments at El Nahda city. The ERCS staff is waiting to settle the remaining families (approximately 50 additional families). The National Society anticipates that both disaster management teams will continue their work on site in Zeinhom and El Nahda city for one to two weeks.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society provided assistance to the victims using its own reserves which have to be renewed in order to continue the assistance and be ready for any other emergency situation.

### **Budget**

Please see annex.

**[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**

## Budget Summary - MDREG004

Item	Total Costs (CHF)
<b>Supplies</b>	
1000 Mattresses	15,183
1000 pillows	2,711
1000 Bed sheets	5,423
1000 Blankets	8,676
300 Plastic tables	1,952
300 Kitchen kits	13,014
500 Ground Mat	2,169
Dried Food	6,507
<b>sub total</b>	<b>55,635</b>
<b>Transport</b>	
Transportation for Victims, Disaster Mngmt Team	2,603
<b>sub total</b>	<b>2,603</b>
<b>Personell</b>	
Perdiem and Indemnities (overtime volunteers and staff Headquarters and Field)	4,859
<b>sub total</b>	<b>4,859</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>	
Support North Africa RC Office to the ERCs NS	1,702
Communication	651
<b>sub total</b>	<b>2,353</b>
<b>Program Management Support (6.5%)</b>	<b>4,550</b>
<b>Total CHF</b>	<b>70,000</b>