

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

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, LEBANON: REFUGEES IN NAHR AL- BARED CAMP

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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: 30 May- 11 July 2007.

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

- CHF 67,597 allocated from the Federations DREF on 29 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 for 3 months, and will be completed by the end of August 2007; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 November 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

On 20 May 2007, clashes erupted between the Lebanese armed forces and an armed group inside the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr Al-Bared in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. Around 40,000 Palestinian refugees were caught in the middle of the fighting, and for days were not able to move out of the conflict area. There were a lot of casualties and wounded people, among them a number of civilians. The vast majority of the refugees were able to move out of the camp in the days that followed to search for refuge inside Beddawi camp, the nearby Palestinian refugee camp outside Tripoli. With reference to the internal understanding within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Palestine Red Crescent Society structure in Lebanon (PRCS/L) is in charge of providing humanitarian services, in particular secondary health care, to the Palestinian refugees in the country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Palestine Red Crescent Society activities

From the very first day of this operation around 70 PRCS/L volunteers in the Tripoli area, and some from other parts of the country, have been actively involved with different humanitarian activities to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian refugees in Nahr Al-Bared camp and those being evacuated to Beddawi camp. At central level in Beirut, an operations room was set up to keep in touch and to respond quickly to the situation and the workload at any time on providing health, humanitarian aid and relief services based on the current situation.

Among the most urgent needs to be covered by PRCS/L have been to provide health care to the wounded and sick people inside the camp, and help those who decide to leave the area by providing escort to the entrance gate, where the Lebanese Red Cross takes over. Food and clothes, and other non-food items have been distributed to families. Elderly and handicapped people and children have received hygiene kits. To the extent possible, the PRCS/L has helped in finding temporary shelter for families, and students have been provided with rooms for studying.

At the management level there has been close coordination and good cooperation throughout the crisis with local and central authorities as well as with other stakeholders. The PRCS/L secretary general in Lebanon has been invited by the Prime Minister to all coordination meetings arranged, and confidence towards the society has improved.



An elderly woman from Nahr Al-Bared camp is helped by PRCS/L volunteers while being transferred to Beddawi camp.

In Nahr Al-Bared camp

The newly established health clinic in the basement of the mosque in the Nahr Al-Bared camp is being run by PRCS/L health personnel from the same camp. Light injuries are treated while more serious cases are referred to Safad Hospital in Beddawi refugee camp. PRCS/L ambulances personnel are providing first aid services and transportation out of the camp for people in need of health services or simply being evacuated out of the conflict area. By using the ambulances the PRCS/L is also able to distribute necessary medicine and supplies to the health facility in Nahr Al-Bared camp.

In Beddawi camp

A tent has been put up by PRCS/L in the Beddawi camp for meetings and assigning volunteers to their tasks. There is also a tent for first aid close to the schools where new refugees have been provided temporary shelter. Due to the huge need for health care services, PRCS/L opened four new clinics, two in UNRWA (United Nations Relief and

Works Agency) schools inside the Beddawi camp, and two in public schools outside the camp provided by the Lebanese authorities as temporary shelter for hundreds of people. PRCS/L is working inside schools and kindergartens, providing necessary help to elderly and sick people in these overcrowded areas. Patients are being transported to clinics and the PRCS/L Safad Hospital, where volunteers are supporting the medical personnel with casual work. New refugees to the Beddawi camp are receiving urgently needed medication. PRCS/L volunteers are in close coordination with the Lebanese Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) escorting people out of Nahr Al-Bared camp and to Beddawi where PRCS/L directs them to their temporary shelter.

In the camp PRCS/L is carrying out health education, with particular focus on the importance of good personal hygiene, terminating contagious factors (lice, chicken pox, tuberculosis), and the specific health problems associated with smoking. PRCS volunteers are together with UNRWA and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) distributing food and water, mattresses and bed sheets, as well as aid and sweets for the children. Some support is also given in coordination with other organizations provided to help Brevet and Baccalaureate students.

PRCS/L started an awareness campaign with UNICEF on lactation management and the importance of breast feeding. Mothers and babies are especially vulnerable in such traumatic situations, so the campaign works with mothers who had stopped breast feeding in favour of bottle feeding, due either to their milk production being affected by psychological distress and an unbalanced diet or because of lack of privacy.

In the middle of this crisis, with the Beddawi totally overcrowded there is an urgent need for youth and children to be encouraged and motivated to start some positive activities. Therefore PRCS/L is preparing to open some summer camps, within the Beddawi camp grounds, in the near future. PRCS/L has established a mobile health care clinic providing health services to Palestinian refugees who were displaced to Al-Mina'.

Safad Hospital:

Due to the overwhelming needs for secondary health care services the capacity at Safad Hospital has been increased by five beds, from 28 to 33. ICRC has donated medicines and medical materials to the hospital and also to Al Shifa clinic. As a result of the needs and the shortage of qualified staff under the current situation, all the hospital staff has for the last weeks been following a 12 hours roster.

A field hospital was set up inside Beddawi camp in collaboration between PRCS/L and Qatari Red Crescent Society, based on the agreement that PRCS/L will provide health personnel (doctor and nurses) and Qatari Red Crescent Society will provide a dermatologist, a psychology therapist and a paediatrician to decrease the pressure on the Safad Hospital, which is receiving urgent and emergency cases.

Activities of Safad Hospital since the Nahr Al-Bared crisis started on 20 May till 10 July.

Distribution / speciality

| Emergency Department | Surgical Department | Medical Consultations | Internal Medicines | Pediatric Department | OBS/GYNA clinic | Delivery department | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 8,178 | 229 | 7,733 | 149 | 151 | 599 | 118 | |
| Intensive Care unit | No. of Operations | Clinics in schools | Mobile clinic/AL Minieh | Ambulance missions/Naher Albarid camp | With trucks relief items missions | Evacuated persons | No of Corps |
| 17 | 191 | 10,581 | 620 | 460 | 144 | 1,161 | 11 |

Distribution/sex/age

| | Medical consultations | Normal Delivery | Miscarriage | Hospital admissions | Surgical operations | Out patient consultations |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Male | 2,342 | | | 216 | 91 | 4,884 |
| Female | 2,359 | 88 | 18 | 221 | 55 | 6,283 |
| Children | 3,631 | | | 213 | 45 | 8,212 |
| TOTAL | 8,332 | 88 | 18 | 650 | 191 | 19,379 |

PRCS/L wanted to be able to respond effectively and quickly to the needs of the refugees from Nahr Al-Bared camp to Beddawi and other neighbouring or remote areas, and also to the population who remained inside Nahr Al-Bared. Different possible scenarios, approaches and measures were explored that could be adopted to initiate quick communication with partners and potential donors to bridge the needs for resources.

Several partners from within, as well as many from outside, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement responded to the crisis and urgent needs of the refugees and the PRCS/L with cash and/or in kind donations. In particular the DREF contribution from the Federation came at a critical time of the operation before other partners were able to respond to the mounting needs. This quick and generous support from so many old and new partners has been very important, not only because it was desperately needed, but also because it is the first time in many years that Palestinian refugees and PRCS/L in Lebanon experienced such a huge flow of people in need of direct attention in all aspects of life; housing, food, clothes, hygiene items, emergency services and medical care, including psychological support.

Approximate number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the Nahr Al-Bared crisis:

| Category / area | Beirut | Saida | Tyre | Bekaa | North | TOTAL |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Families | 420 | 223 | 185 | 99 | 5,146 | 6,073 |
| Persons | 2,211 | 1,039 | 938 | 465 | 26,872 | 31,525 |
| Children | 206 | 105 | 64 | 90 | 2,971 | 3,436 |
| Disabled | 29 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 64 | 115 |

Items to be purchased and procurement processes:

Portable X-ray machine

Safad Hospital X-ray machine is old and regularly requires major maintenance work, constantly adding financial burden to the hospital budget, and for long periods not working. With this portable X-ray machine the hospital staff will be able to continue serving the population in this crisis as well at regular times, minimizing the X-rays performed on the old machine. The new machine will be used as an alternative at certain positions and during down times until a new main X-ray machine replaces the old one. The portable machine will also continue to be used for very basic X-rays, in particular during surgery in the operating theatre, and for patients of the hospital who cannot be moved to the X-ray department. Procurement process has started by asking for tenders.

Chest bottles and tubes

During military activity, thoracic injuries are expected, and chest tubing procedures are urgent life saving measures. Some patients will need more than one tube/bottle to be used as quickly as possible, some times even on the spot or in the clinic before being transported to the hospital.

Spectrophotometer

Since there are families from Nahr Al-Bares refugee camp displaced in cities outside Tripoli area (see table) a spectrophotometer is needed at Hamshari Hospital in Saida. Being the PRCS/L referral hospital, it has to be able to respond to its needs, but also whenever patients from other areas are transferred to the hospital for further treatment.

Chronic disease medications

When people left their houses under extreme circumstances and heavy bombardment, they also left behind most of their belongings. Many were not able to bring with them their important medication. Since PRCS/L cannot respond to the huge and important need to minimize health problems for those on chronic disease medications, and in order not to jeopardize their medical conditions, the list has been updated after considering what donations have been received. The new list reflects unavailable items, not forgetting to also take care of replenishment.

Hygiene kits

More than 30,000 IDPs were living in overcrowded conditions in schools, with insufficient bathrooms and showers. This has resulted in deteriorating personal hygiene and spread of skin diseases, such as scabies. Many organizations have responded by providing hygiene kits and cleaning materials, although this support has not been enough to

cover the needs. The very bad economic conditions of the IDPs means it is also important to help with more than only one time support. Therefore the 500 hygiene kits under this budget are an important contribution to avoid health problems, and other donations will add to this amount.

Procurement procedures

Procurement procedures followed by PRCS/L are generally similar to those of the Federation, with not less than three offers required and a committee opening the envelopes and deciding on the supplier based on quality, price and time taken to deliver.

Impact

Impact of the DREF donation is obvious in terms of PRCS/L being able to provide medical services to the refugees from its present stock knowing that they have received funds for replenishment. However, when the procurement process has been completed and items received, we will see the real impact in terms of better services and number of patients treated.

Coordination



The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement team in Tripoli, with representatives from PRCS/L, Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC, and the Federation.

The coordination and collaboration between PRCS/L, the Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC, and the Federation in this operation was of high quality and to the benefit of all parties, showing dedication to applying the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and with the goals of the Global Agenda as guiding tools. The agreement has been that the ambulances of PRCS/L would work inside the Palestinian refugee camps, the Naher Al-Bared and Beddawi, while the Lebanese Red Cross and the ICRC are the cooperating partners outside.

PRCS/L is working within the boundaries of the camps, providing salvage/rescue teams and ambulance services, medical equipment and first aid as well as relief teams. PRCS/L has been evacuating injured patients, civilians and special needed individuals

to the entrance of the camp.

Lebanese Red Cross and the ICRC are coordinating with the Lebanese Authorities concerned regarding safe passage for aid and relief teams. They are also taking care of the coordination of donations coming through the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement from other partners.

All the Movement partners operating in the area regularly arrange internal meetings. On a regular basis meetings are held to share information, experience, plans and ideas with National and International organizations and NGOs operating in the area to meet the humanitarian needs following this crisis.

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